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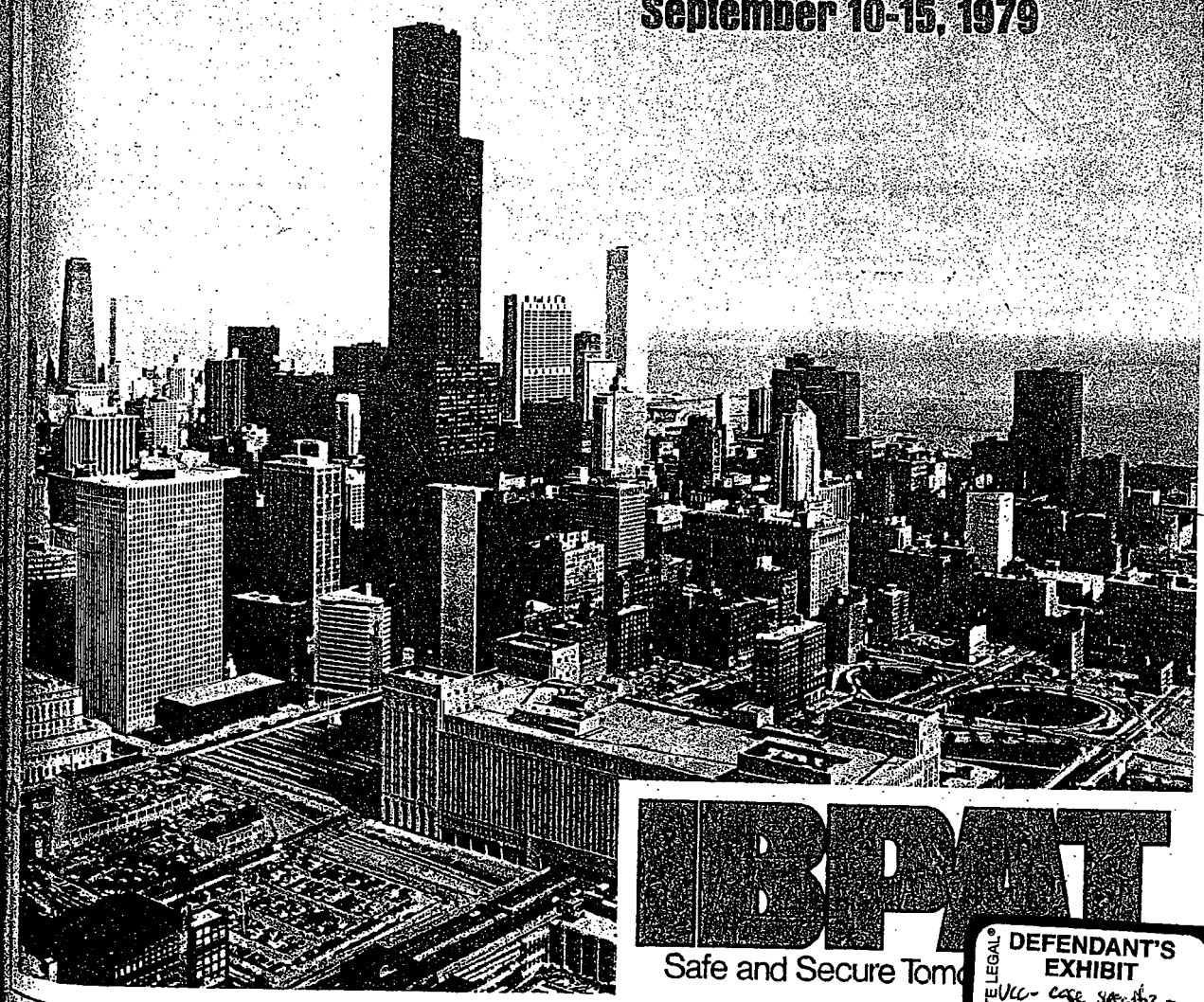
Painters & Allied Trades Journal

APRIL 1979

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Painters & Allied Trades Journal

On the Cover

Chicago: IBPAT goes to the city for its 24th General Convention.

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DEVOTED TO THE TRADE INTERESTS OF RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL • SIGN • PICTORIAL • COACH • AUTOMOBILE • AIRCRAFT • MACHINERY • RAILWAY EQUIPMENT • SHIP AND SCENIC PAINTING • DECORATING • PAPERHANGING WALL COVERING • DECORATIVE AND ARCHITECTURAL GLASS WORK • GLAZING • CARPET • LINOLEUM • SOFT TILE • PAINT AND VARNISH MAKING BRUSH MAKERS AND TO THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IN GENERAL

Any member or subordinate body publishing programs, souvenirs or other documents of any description must not designate them as "The Official Journal of the Brotherhood," or as "The Painters and Allied Trades Journal," either upon the publication itself on their advertising contract forms or stationery.

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S. FRANK RAFTERY
General President
1750 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

ROBERT J. PETERSDORF
General Secretary-Treasurer
1750 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

General Vice Presidents

BERNARD SNIEGOWSKI
1st District
1443 Westchester Boulevard
Westchester, Ill. 60153

A. L. MONROE, 2nd District
7909 Bayberry Drive
Alexandria, Va. 22306

JAMES WOLFORD, 3rd District
100 Devon Lane
Williamsville, N.Y. 14221

JACK T. COX, 4th District
2212 DuPont Drive
Irvine, Calif. 92664

GUY LEBER, 5th District
1930 Bishop Lane
Louisville, Ky. 40218

JAMES B. COX, 6th District
8800 Blue Ridge Ext. No. 10
Kansas City, Mo. 64138

WILLIAM A. DUVAL, 7th District
1750 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006



from the General President

► **In honoring Dr. Selikoff, we recognize that workers and scientists must make progress together.** ◄

► A couple of years ago, a young woman was testifying before Con
gress on behalf of an environmental group when she was asked
about her organization's allies in organized labor. "It's inevitable
that we are drawn together," she said, "because by the time the com
munity recognizes a threat to health from a plant or job site, the
workers at that site have already been sorely afflicted."

That's a perfect description of why it's so urgent that we clean up
the environment on the job. In our Brotherhood, our lives are at
stake, but what we can learn on the job has a direct impact on all
Americans.

That's why I have put so much of my time and effort into our
Brotherhood's Job Safety Program and have pledged to you that we
will never stop in the effort to win a safe workplace—for us, for our
children and for our grandchildren.

Consequently, it's with great pride that I can announce to you that
the labor movement has reserved its highest honor for one American
who truly understands that health on the job is indivisible from our
health as a nation. He's Dr. Irving J. Selikoff, who has done so much
for the health of every member of our Brotherhood in guiding our
Job Safety Program.

This fall, at the AFL-CIO convention, Dr. Selikoff will be co-recipi
ent of labor's highest honor, the Murray-Green award. I'm proud of
the role I played in nominating Dr. Selikoff, because for once a
prophet will receive due honor in his own time.

For Dr. Selikoff has surely been a prophet. His work with "white
lung" helped in the virtual eradication of TB and led directly to his
landmark work in related occupational diseases. In our Brotherhood,
Dr. Selikoff's work has crossed new horizons beyond pulmonary
medicine to show that the skin, nervous system, heart and intestinal
tract can also be assaulted by materials that you and I couldn't name
a few years ago.

Specifically, Dr. Selikoff can be credited with starting the move
ment that led to the virtual elimination of asbestos from drywall com
pounds and the federal government's Asbestos Alert. He has given
the same attention and concern to the silica dust chromates, other
pigments, solvents and epoxies you encounter everyday.

Those are some of the general areas of his work, but there's an
other dimension to Dr. Selikoff that is equally important. His clear
perspective on U.S. life has always given him an understanding that
beyond his laboratory walls.

In that sense, he has been totally unlike his forerunners who said
the scientists' job was to build the bomb, not be involved in the
"political" decision of how it was used. In contrast, Dr. Selikoff
always had a clear perception that his laboratory discovery could be
wasted in a social or political climate disposed to ignore it. This has
led him to pioneer in creation of health maintenance organizations
which gives a worker a chance at the same quality of health care
previously reserved to the very rich. In short, he symbolizes the co-
operation necessary for scientists and workers to advance together
—an alliance we must promote in our every waking moment.

Especially now. You know as well as I do what is written between
the lines of those clever newspaper ads in which the big corporations
seek "freedom" from the "inflationary pressure" of federal regula
tion. What they're saying is get OSHA off our backs, and we'll pro
vide a lower inflation rate and stronger economy while only having
to kill a few workers here and there.

In short, they would transport us back into those dark ages when
our Job Safety Program—and Dr. Selikoff—has helped pull us out
of. In honoring Dr. Selikoff we look not only backward at his lifetime
of achievement, but also forward to the complete removal of job
killers from our occupational environment. Perhaps that will come
only from another generation of scientists, but Dr. Selikoff and pro
grams like ours will have made that generation possible. ◄

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