

Bob Klinger credits Marshall Smith with continuous effort, beginning in the early sixties, to educate the union members to the danger and to obtain action from the Manville Plant. In answer to a question, Bob Klinger said that he himself learned of the danger of asbestos dust about 1965 and even then treated the information with a certain amount of disbelief.

There was a strike in 1970 when the contract between JM and Local 800 ended. A hard-fought issue, although not the only one, was Union insistence on joint participation in the "elimination and control of objectionable environmental conditions at the Manville Plant."

The new labor agreement, dated January 21, 1971, established a Union/Management Environmental Control Committee. Both sides now feel this Committee brings about quick action on such environmental problems.

The way that Local 800 and the Manville Plant handle safety and health related activities has obviously built up a great deal of good will between the parties involved. Payment of wages by JM to hourly employees while they are engaged in safety and health activities passes without notice at Manville. This arrangement should not pass without notice at other companies.

Speaking from his own evaluation, but cognizant of his position as a Union official, Bob Klinger feels that conditions are well on the way to the point where he can say with confidence to a new employee that conditions at the Manville Plant are healthy as well as safe.

The Asbestos Information Association . . . it gives information and answers for an industry with a health hazard problem

Recognition of the problems that would be forthcoming from the passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 coincided with the formation in December 1970 of the Asbestos Information Association/North America.

Today the Association, comprised of nineteen Corporate Members, is an outstanding example of how an industry information association can function. AIA provides authoritative information on the effects of asbestos on health and how the health hazard can be controlled.

In general, the AIA has six areas of activity:

- Conducting seminars on problems of asbestos related to OSHA, in four geographical areas of the USA for customers of member companies.

- Publication of a booklet "What You Need to Know about Asbestos" for employees of companies using asbestos in manufacturing and construction to serve as an employee safety and health guide.

- Maintaining contact with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to discuss problems relating to asbestos and to obtain interpretation of standards.

- Assembling general information about the industry for members, government, and all industry.

The Executive Secretary of the Association is Matthew Swetonic, a man who can and does provide the facts and straightforward answers to questions about the health effects of asbestos.

The Asbestos Information Association is located at 22 East 40th Street, New York, N.Y. 10016.

Some generalized conclusions about the asbestos industry's experience 4 1/2 months after the permanent standards went into effect . . . The source is Matthew Swetonic, Executive Secretary, Asbestos Information Association . . .

- Most operations were not as far from the 5 fiber per cubic centimeter standard as was believed at first.

- The 5 fiber limit has been met by most operations without excessive economic drain.

- Based on the experience of a few plants, the 2 fiber limit is obtainable within the three years allowed, but it is still a problem and is expected to be costly.

- The loss of business through switch from asbestos to other materials is not yet significant.

- All manufacturers using asbestos in their products can handle asbestos in compliance with OSHA standards using known methods and technology.

OSHA . . . what's done and what's doing

A one-month (August 1972) OSHA inspection breakdown:

about half of the total inspections, 1,556, were made to the asbestos industry.

Let's go to follow up inspections to follow up on those for which employees had failed to wear previously cited violations, with proposed fines of \$12,630.

- 557 employee complaints were received by OSHA.

- 108 cases were contested to the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

Revised Part 1910 - Occupational Safety and Health Standards, which appeared in the October