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ASBESTOS JOBS TIED TO CANCER OUTBREAK

WASHINGTON, March 14 (UPI)—The A.F.L.-C.I.O. said today that a rare type of cancer was afflicting an increasing number of asbestos plant workers and their families and that the situation might prove to be "the largest epidemic of occupational cancer ever recorded."

Dr. Maxwell Borow of Bound Brook, N. J., who appeared at a news conference called by the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, said the cancer, mesothelioma, was so rare that some medical books did not recognize its existence as recently as two years ago.

But he said that in the asbestos mining town of Manville, N. J., with a population of 15,000, there were now 52 cases of the disease, which attacks the chest and stomach walls and which always brings death within a year to a year and a half after the disease is contracted.

Spokesmen for the A.F.L.-C.I.O. charged that the government was ignoring the health problems faced by asbestos workers.

Dr. Borow said the outbreak of mesothelioma was likely to increase for at least 20 years even if adequate safety standards were enforced now because the disease has a gestation period of from 20 to 40 years.

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