ability to degrade asbestos fibers.

You would agree, generally speaking, would you not, that the body is more able to degrade chrysotile fibers than the amphibole fibers?

A Yes, sir. Amphibole fibers are not effectively degraded at all. I think I said that chrysotile fibers are generally degraded after a period of months or years.

In effect, people that are well-known to have been exposed to substantial amounts of chrysotile are not found to have chrysotile fibers, if they have not been exposed for a period of years prior to examination of their lungs by autopsy or whatever.

Q Now, on the other hand, once an amphibole fiber gets in, it stays; is that correct?

A Basically so. If it is not cleared out by some of the mechanisms we have talked about, it will basically stay in the lungs.

Q But with respect to amphibole fibers, there won't be a biochemical reaction to break the fiber down; is that right?