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Professor at U.W. Meeting Notes Danger of Spraying Asbestos for Insulation

By AL DIEFFENBACH
Times Medical Editor

Careless spraying of asbestos insulating material is an air pollution problem that has become a serious health hazard, a Mount Sinai School of Medicine professor said here Friday.

Regulations should be stringent rapidly prepared and quickly enforced, Dr Irving J Selikoff New York, a professor of medicine and environmental medicine said

Here to speak at the eighth annual symposium on Respiratory Diseases Dr Selikoff said one out of every four or five asbestos workers dies of lung cancer. The very fine mineral fibers are found almost invariably in the lungs of persons autopsied in New York City he said

ONCE THE FIBERS get into the lungs, there is no way to remove them and they cannot be dissolved he said

Dust counts taken during asbestos spraying jobs show "on the order of 20 times the normal amount of dust in the air, he said

Dr Selikoff said entire buildings sometimes are contaminated for life" because asbestos fibers are left loose after pipes and beams are sprayed with the insulating material in the areas between floors and ceilings.

These areas of "dead space" often are used as return air ducts for a building's circulation system, he said "When asbestos fibers are being sucked from these areas into the circulation system of a building I think I would have to call this one of the most reprehensible habits we have found," he said

He said he has become increasingly concerned about the introduction of new materials and techniques before their effects have been accurately measured

The present controversy about possible harmful effects of birth-control pills is one instance, Dr Selikoff said Another is the use of enzymes in detergents he added

He said there have been a "very significant" number of asthma cases — some with serious illness and others with permanent ill-effects— among workers in detergent-packaging factories

THE ENZYMES form about 1 per cent of a detergent mixture About 10,000,000 pounds of the enzyme was used in 1969, Dr Selikoff said but about 10 times that much will be used this year

Workers now are protected from the hazards of inhaling the detergent dust and its very active, biologically enzyme cargo, he said, but asked "What happens to the 60,000,000 women exposed to a low level, intermittent dose of possible enzyme inhalation?"

He said there is little knowledge on the subject, except that the ill effects could be either allergic reaction to inhaling the substance or a direct effect on the linings of the bronchial tubes

Utilities Name Director For Nuclear Work



JAMES V. NEELY

James V Neely who has worked on the development of nuclear power plants in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, has been named director of nuclear projects for Seattle City Light and the Snohomish County Public Utility District

The utilities are partners in the development of a nuclear generating station on Kiket Island near Deception Pass, and may work jointly on a similar project at Samish Island, north of Mount Vernon

Neely will be responsible for the utilities' joint nuclear power activities

A graduate of the University of New Mexico, Neely worked on the Three Mile Island Nuclear Plant No 2 in southeastern Pennsylvania and on Oyster Creek Nuclear Plant No 2 in New Jersey He was an employe of General Public Utilities

Seminar Set For Aviation Mechanics

A general aviation maintenance seminar for mechanics will be Tuesday and Wednesday in the Winthrop Hotel of Tacoma

Hours both days will be from 8 a m to 4 30 p m The event is sponsored by the Washington State Aeronautics Commission in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration, Seattle area office and the F A A Academy in Oklahoma City

Reservations may be made with the Washington State Aeronautics Commission

Topics will include airmen authority and responsibility alteration air-worthiness requirements, aircraft electrical installation and introduction to general aviation for executive jets

Similar seminars have been given throughout the United States, but this will be the first in the Northwest

Appeals Court's Clerk to Move

The clerk's office of the state Court of Appeals will move into new quarters on the 10th floor of the Pacific Building Third Avenue and Columbia Street, tomorrow morning

The office for the Seattle division had been located temporarily in the I B M Building

Judges will continue to use rooms in the United States Courthouse for hearings until facilities are ready in the Pacific Building

St. Nicholas Exams March 14

Entrance examinations for the fall semester at St Nicholas School, 1501 10th Ave E, will be from 8 45 to noon March 14

The school is a nonsectarian college preparatory girl's school Parents should make reservations at the school office

Heart Specialist Elected

Dr Robin R Johnston, Bellevue, a member of the Mason Clinic staff has been elected a fellow of the American College of Cardiology, a 4,300-member organization of heart specialists

THE BON MARCHE

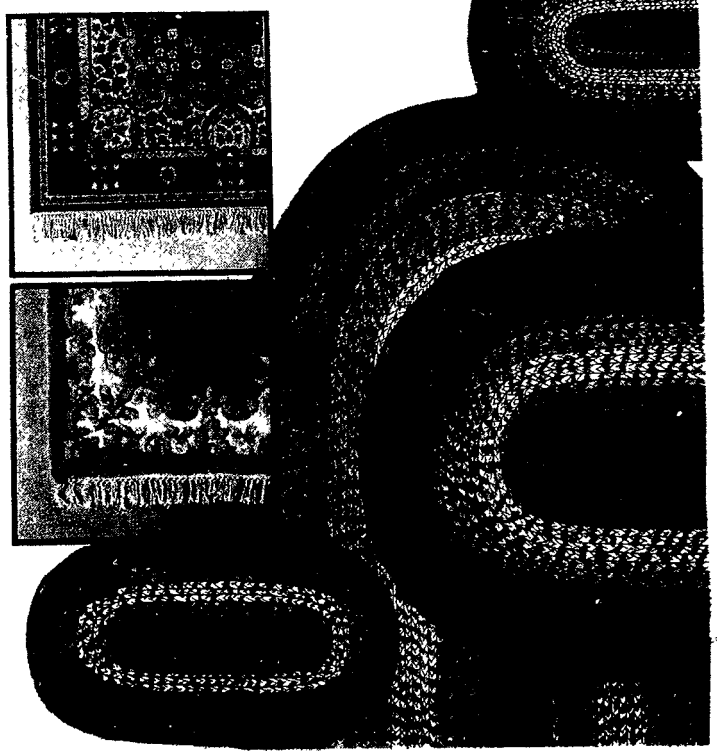


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