

Mrs. Maple Ehrmann

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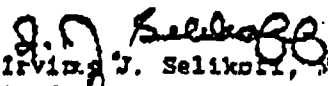
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In obtaining information on the question, advantage may be taken of another set of circumstances. Amosite and crocidolite, the other two major fibers used in commerce, are not mined in North America, and must be imported. Records of these imports have been kept by the Department of Commerce. We find that only trivial quantities of these fibers were imported until the 1940's and of these small amounts, crocidolite was not used in any insulation materials, although amosite was. Therefore, experience of asbestos insulation workers during the 1940's and 1950's (especially, the former) cannot be ascribed to other than the one asbestos fiber that was in regular use in insulation materials during the 1930's - chrysotile. Since lung cancer rates, as well as the occurrence of mesothelioma and deaths of asbestosis, were demonstrably increased among these men during the 1940's and 1950's, we may infer the chrysotile-associated risk among them(3-5).

Since the problem is an important one, I expect that more information will become available within the next several years.

Sincerely yours,


 Irving J. Selikoff, M.D.
 Professor

IJS:jlf

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