



INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

UC-4585

CHEMICALS AND PLASTICS

P. O. BOX K, KING CITY, CALIFORNIA 93930

To (Name) **Tom Frangos**
 Division
 Location **New York**

Date **July 19, 1968**

Originating Dept.

Answering letter date

Subject

Copy to

Dear Tom:

Enclosed are the several reports on Asbestos Toxicology you lent me. I have copied most of them, and would appreciate it if you could send me copies of any new ones which may be issued.

Yours very truly,

J.A. Riddle

JAR/cg
 Enc:

417932

Doctors Puzzled By Cancer Among Asbestos Workers

From the Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A fatal cancer of the chest and abdominal cavity is creeping up among the nation's asbestos workers, doctors are warning.

In three separate studies in the last three years, doctors in three states have found up to 10 cases of this cancer among asbestos workers. Only 11 of them appeared to have had no real exposure to asbestos. The other 29 could all be traced to asbestos contact, either because they worked with it, lived with people who did or lived in neighborhoods where the air was heavily laden with asbestos dust.

The first American study was made in 1945 by Dr. Irving J. Selikoff of New York's Mount Sinai Hospital, who began the study to see if there was any direct connection between the lives of men in the New York asbestos area and the cancer.

Tracing the lives of 425 members of the Asbestos Workers Union who were on the roster in 1945, Dr. Selikoff found that 255 of them had died by Jan. 1, 1952.

From the Washington Post

Some of what he found did not surprise him — that 12 of the 255 died of tuberculosis, a lung disease that decreases life expectancy (due to antibiotics) discovered by Selikoff. He also found that of the men who had died of lung cancer, a rate 1.5 times higher than that in the normal adult male population. Even more surprising, he found five deaths due to mesothelioma. "This is a disease of more than 1 per cent," said Dr. Selikoff, "which is generally considered to be extremely rare."

Dr. Selikoff also launched a study of 27 cases of mesothelioma among asbestos workers throughout the New York asbestos area. In the whole Northeast, he found 19 deaths due to mesothelioma.

About the same time, the Pennsylvania State Department of Health began a study to find how mesothelioma might be affecting the more than 5,000 asbestos workers scattered across the state.

To 25 hospitals in the southeast part of the state they sent a questionnaire, asking the hospitals to report all mesothelioma diagnosed between 1946 and 1951.

Back came 42 documented cases of the disease, only 11 of which could not be traced to asbestos exposure.

Ten victims of the disease turned out to be men who worked in asbestos plants near asbestos plants most of their lives. Three were members of families who had one or more asbestos workers.

In the past three years, no fewer than 19 cases of mesothelioma passed through Middletown General—only two of the 19 were not workers at the nearby asbestos plant, one a woman who apparently inhaled asbestos dust while her husband's work clothes, the second a spinner who lived one block from the plant.

A relatively "new" disease, mesothelioma is also one of the most difficult diseases to control with modern medicine.

It is almost impossible to treat. Middletown General's Dr. Maxwell Barrow says that even the most potent anti-cancer drugs have no effect on it. About all that radiation treatment does, he says, is remove some of the fluid that builds up in the lungs from the disease.

"The disease is 100 per cent fatal," Dr. Barrow states, "and usually takes less than a year after diagnosis to run its course."

Nobody knows why it attacks some asbestos workers and not others. The University of Michigan School of Medicine cites a case of a man who was exposed to asbestos for about a month while he hauled his house. Six years later, he was dead of mesothelioma.

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By Charles D. Pearce



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