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"ASBESTOS HAZARDS" PROTEST

Insulating engineers in the West of Scotland, on strike because, they say, they are not being given sufficient protection against asbestos dust and allied health hazards, claimed last night that the stoppage was spreading to Edinburgh, Dundee, and Aberdeen.

They estimated that all but 100 of the 700 men in Scotland had stopped work. A meeting of strikers in Glasgow yesterday agreed to continue the strike, and they are not expected to meet again until Friday. The leaders of the unofficial strike are considering holding a demonstration in Glasgow that day.

Mr James McKenna, insulating engineers' branch secretary for Scotland of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said the union wanted the men to return to work to allow negotiations to continue. "We feel, however, that negotiations have gone on too long," he said.

DOCTORS' REPORT

A report prepared recently by two Glasgow physicians about asbestosis — caused by inhaling asbestos dust — was read to those who attended yesterday's meeting. It stated that without a lung biopsy a diagnosis of asbestosis cannot be made.

"In view of the grave hazards to health which even very short periods of exposure to asbestos can eventually cause, the increased uses of asbestos must be viewed with disquiet."

The report says the incidence of asbestosis appears to be increasing, and it may come to assume great public health importance because of the increased importation and more widespread use of asbestos.

The strikers claim that in the past five years there have been 53 cases of asbestosis in Glasgow and 14 deaths.