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CAMBRIDGE

To: R. W. Sterrett

Date: March 11, 1969

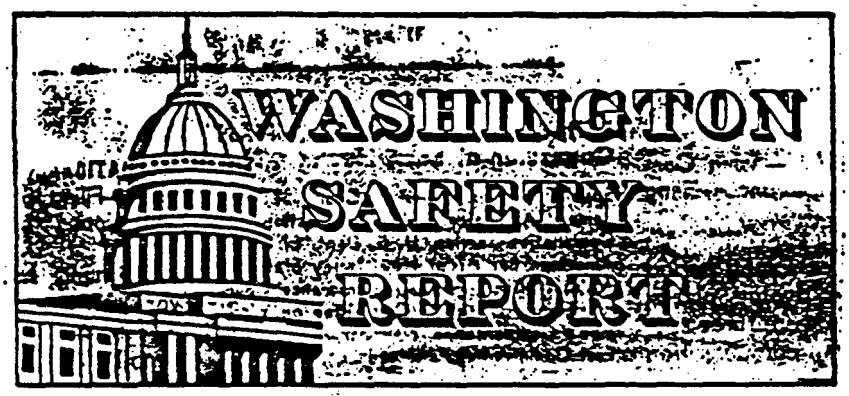
From: Peter Kostic

cc: R. M. Vining
C. F. Dugan
R. A. Kulberg

The following article which appeared in the March issue of Safety Engineering is for your information. I think it would be well at this time, with the advice of counsel, to consider applying a warning or precautionary label or statement on all containers of products containing vermiculite. This may aid our defense in cases of product liability claims. The attached extra copies are for distribution as you wish.

PK:vag

Peter Kostic
Peter Kostic



■ Congressman Edward J. Patten of New Jersey has introduced HR 2503, "a bill to promote the safety of workers engaged in making asbestos products for shipment in commerce, and for other purposes." It is substantially the same as the Asbestos Safety bill he introduced September 14, 1967.

Last year when hearings were conducted on the proposed occupational Health and Safety Act, Dr. Irving J. Selikoff of the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine testified in favor of the bill before the House Select Subcommittee on Labor. He is one of this country's greatest experts on asbestosis, his research covering not only workers in asbestos, but members of their families and persons living near asbestos plants, or facilities using asbestos products.

Dr. Selikoff told of studies he had made of some 632 members of two New York-New Jersey Asbestos Workers Union locals. According to medical yardsticks, over a 19-year period, 203 should have died. In fact, 255 did die. Of that number, 37 could have been expected to die of cancer. In fact, 95 died of cancer.

In addition, a disease which was considered so rare it was not separately coded in the International Classification of Causes of Death has been unmistakeably associated with asbestos and the number of cases has increased significantly. This is *mesothelioma*—a highly malignant tumor.

One disturbing factor in mesothelioma is the rather indirect exposure a number of its victims had. In some cases studied in London, 31 had worked with asbestos, but nine merely lived in the household of an asbestos worker! Eleven people lived within ½ mile of an asbestos factory!

Early in 1968, Dr. Maxwell Borow reported in the "Journal of the American Medical Association" on 17 mesothelioma cases in New Jersey. Fifteen were asbestos workers, two lived near an asbestos factory.

Dr. Selikoff's statement told of other studies in South Africa. There were additional remarks by these doctors regarding the possible exposure of all construction workers and of the bystander who unknowingly breathes in the poisonous dust.

The call of Congressman Patten against asbestosis has not gone unheeded. Johns-Manville, the U.S. Public Health Service, the International Association of Heat & Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers, and the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine have joined together in an effort to eliminate or at least measurably reduce the exposure of some 200,000 asbestos workers. This will certainly result in greater protection to the entire construction industry and the general public too.

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