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FOR JOHNS-MANVILLE CORPORATION

PROGRAM Martha Deane STATION WOR

DATE June 24, 1970 10:15 AM CITY New York

CITY TO PROPOSE OUTLAWING OF ASBESTOS SPRAYING

MARTHA DEANE: Now, Commissioner Rickle, when you were here in April you - now that, you know, as the meet - proper meetings were conducted, first we take care of the old business, well I didn't take care of new business - but you talked about trying to prevent new buildings from being sprayed with asbestos, get rid of the asbestos spraying. How's that coming along?

ROBERT RICKLES: I think very well. Since we were here, we held public hearings on the problem, really, which were much more shocking than I had thought the problem was. For instance, we had the Secretary of the Asbestos Workers Union present and he reported that 50% of the people in his union who had died, their mortality rate is much higher than the normal population - 50% of his people had died from some form of cancer, which is really very startling, and another 10% of asbestos, which is a fibrosis of the lungs. And the probability of an asbestos worker who smokes of dying is 92 times higher than that in the general populatiln.

As a result of these hearings, the new city code, which is

going to be published in the city record, either next week or the week after, they're going to the printers already, will outlaw - will propose the outlawing of the spraying of asbestos in the city of New York. The Mayor has already announced the abolition of spraying of asbestos on any city projects. So I think that, certainly by the fall, when the code will become effective, we will have stopped completely the spraying of asbestos now, and I think forever. In addition, we've initiated a project within the department to evaluate whether the demolition of buildings that contain asbestos is a threat to the public health, and if it is, then within the next year we would propose to outlaw the use of asbestos in construction, however it's applied - whether it's applied in sheet form or spray. Because we don't want to leave a time bomb around twenty or fifty years down the road, because however beautiful the building looks today, we know from New York's history of growth and regrowth, that the building's going to come down at some point in the future, and if we cannot find a method of demolishing a building without the asbestos getting into the air, then I think we're going to have to outlaw asbestos.

DIANE: And there are other kinds of fire prevention materials?

RICHLES: Yes, this is our understanding. At least two are being evaluated now by the Buildings Department for approval. People fireproofed buildings long before anybody sprayed asbestos.