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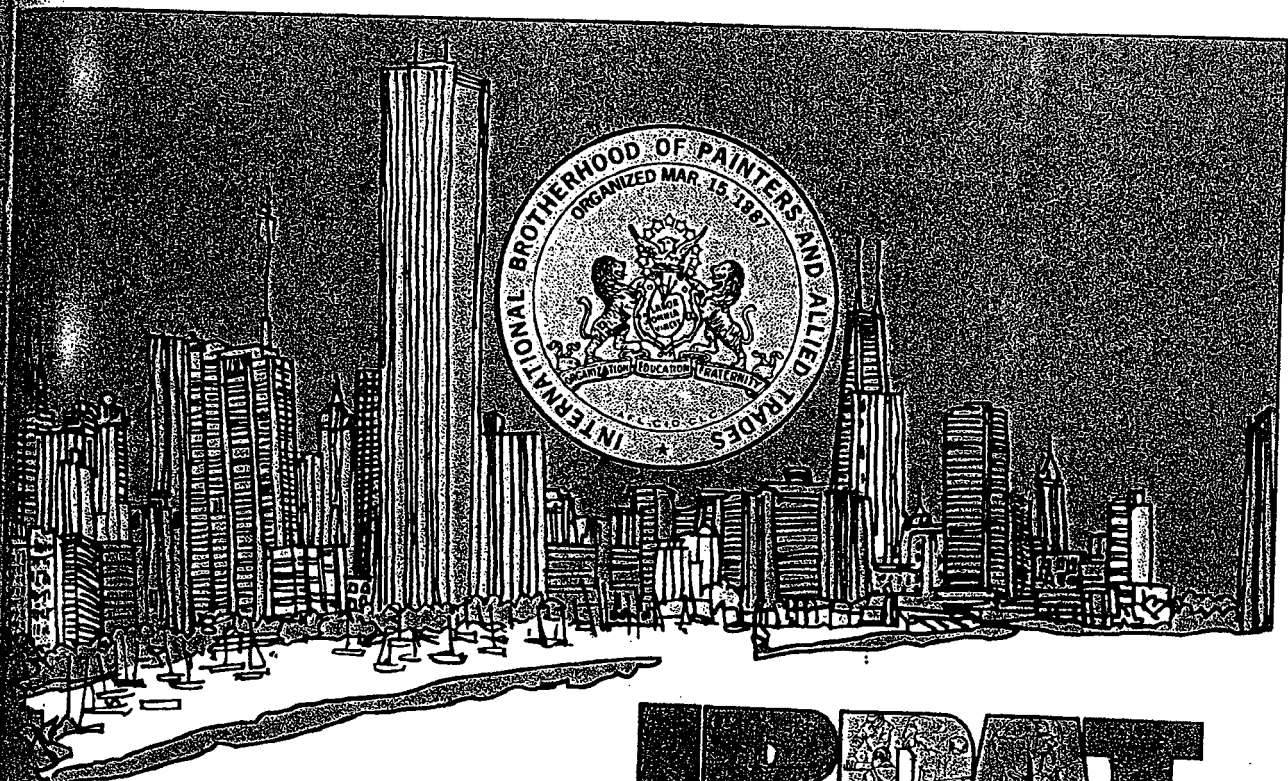
SEPTEMBER 1979

24th General Convention
of the
International Brotherhood of
Painters and Allied Trades



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Painters & Allied Trades Journal

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TILE • PAINT AND VARNISH MAKING
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UNION MOVEMENT IN GENERAL

Any member or subordinate body publishing programs, souvenirs or other documents of any description must not designate them as "The Official Journal of the Brotherhood," or as "The Painters and Allied Trades Journal," either upon the publication itself or their advertising contract forms or stationery.

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The Decade of Job Safety

At our Brotherhood's 23rd General Convention we promised you a decade of job safety and health for all our members. That Convention heard a presentation from Dr. Irving J. Selikoff of Mount Sinai School of Medicine (MSSM) who outlined the results of a preliminary study on the health hazards in the painting trades. Our General Executive Board and the delegates at the Convention were uniformly shocked by the abnormal effects the materials in our industry were having on our members' health.

Our first response was to conduct extensive health examinations at the 1974 Convention of those delegates and to follow-up with examinations of 2,000 of our members throughout the country. These examinations, which were sponsored through a grant of the National Institute of

Occupational Safety and Health, were completed by MSSM in 1976.

The results of the MSSM study on health hazards in the painting trades described the impact on our members health because of exposures to asbestos, silica sand, chromates, lead, benzene and other cancer causing materials.

The health hazards in our industry are real. Something has to be done. In 1975, we began pulling together all segments of the painting industry, including the manufacturers, the National Paint and Coatings Association; the contractors, the Painting and Decorating Contractors of America; our Brotherhood; the primary government agencies, like the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the



Dr. Irving J. Selikoff is introduced at the 23rd General Convention which began our Decade of Job Safety.

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The National Joint Safety and Health Committee in the Painting Industry meets with government and management to solve the health and safety problems in our industry.

Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW), as well as experts from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Out of these was welded the first industry-wide vertically integrated Safety and Health Committee in the United States.

With the General Executive Board I was the primary force behind forming the National Joint Safety and Health Committee in the Painting Industry, whose multiple meetings during the past five years has coordinated much of the research undertaken to solve the problems in our industry.

The Most Extensive in any Industry

During the first five years of our Decade of Job Safety, we aggressively solicited funds from OSHA necessary to develop a health and safety education program for our membership. Those efforts, in 1976 and 1977, resulted in the delivery of the most extensive training and health program for workers in any industry. To date 8,000 of our members have been trained and educated by the International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades Occupational Safety and Health Project (IBPAT/OSH Project).

The IBPAT/OSH Project is a program of nationally conducted seminars for workers in the paint and allied trades. Funded by OSHA, the project's videotape materials are produced in-house at our Brotherhood's headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Our General Executive Board and those General Representatives trained to put on one-day training programs are to be commended for their dedication to this fine program. Most especially, I am also proud of the fine work done by our

staff, who have put together the most professional audiovisual programmed learning project in the United States. No other OSHA financed training program has received as much acclaim as our IBPAT/OSH Project and we all have a right to be proud.

The Right to Know the Truth

The IBPAT/OSH Project represents a totally new approach to the problems of worker health and safety education. The Project's premise is that workers are indeed capable of understanding the complexities of health and safety hazards—and they also have the moral right to complete information about the hazards in order to protect themselves on the job. Much emphasis is placed on a worker's personal responsibilities and what a worker can do to resolve occupational safety and health problems.

The IBPAT/OSH Project is delivered directly to the workers in seminar groups of 100.

The program consists of 10 hours of innovative videotape modules instructing workers in general occupational health hazards, hazards particular to each trade group, control of occupational hazards, worker rights and responsibilities, how to call in outside professional help and OSHA standards and policies.

In addition, each worker receives a comprehensive 272-page training manual and reference guide.

Videotape modules are presented by an IBPAT General Representative trained to answer questions and direct the training activities of participants.



Education and training materials developed through the IBPAT/OSH Project provided training to 8,000 members.

To insure that workers identify with the program, all visuals are from real jobsite locations. In addition, general painters, abrasive blasters, drywall tapers, paint makers and floorcoverers are given specific modules which apply to all of these groups.

To date, 8,000 members have been trained at 85 IBPAT/OSH Training Seminars held throughout the country in 1978 and 1979. We plan to continue and expand this program of training throughout the next five years of our Decade of Safety to make safer tomorrows today.

It is obvious that we have made enormous progress during the first half of our Decade of

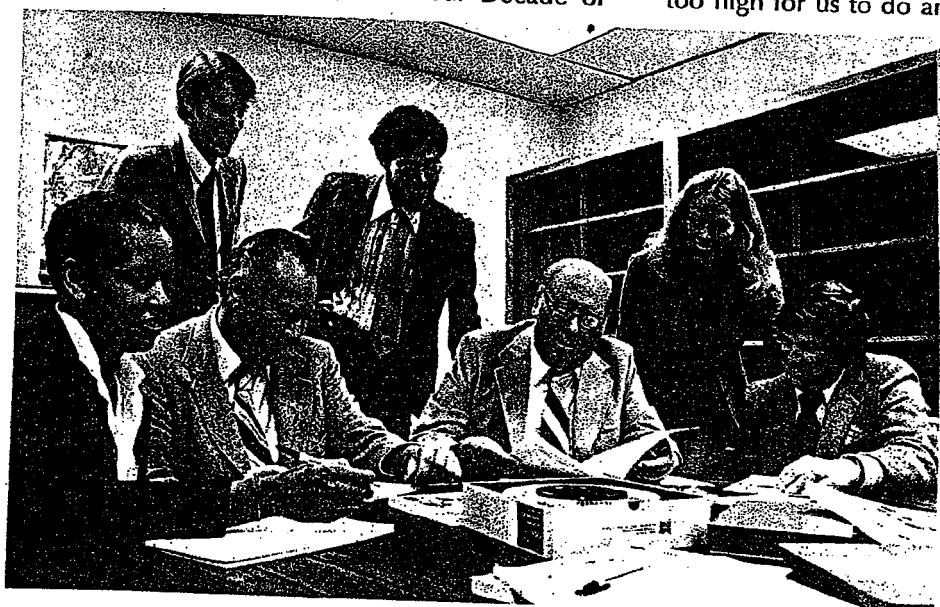
Job Safety. My commitment to you in this area will never be diluted. The formation of the National Joint Health and Safety Committee in the painting industry will continue to coordinate the research and information network we have developed for the painting industry. Health and job safety training will be updated and seminars will be used to train another 20,000 members about the hazards of the trade and how to protect themselves on the job.

A Permanent Vehicle for Safety

The next five years will find our Brotherhood still in the lead of advancing safe and healthy work places and conditions. Our proposal to the 24th General Convention is to establish a Department of Health and Safety in our Brotherhood financed from per capita income and private and public grants—one that will ensure the protection of our members.

Such a new Department of Health and Safety will make it possible to investigate the causes of unhealthy and unsafe working conditions; to provide for examinations and surveillance of members personal health; to continue the education role so important in making members aware of the hazards; and most importantly to initiate the involvement of District Council and Local Union programs, such as the pilot program in District Council 2 of St. Louis so that the job monitoring and medical surveillance can be fully implemented at the basic operational level of our organization.

Your Officers were the leaders in training during the first five years of our Decade of Job Safety and we will continue to be the leaders in every aspect of worker safety and health. The stakes are too high for us to do any less.



The IBPAT/OSH Project Staff at work.

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