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August 15, 1980

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Re: Grasso v. B.F. Goodrich Co., et al

Gentlemen:

Enclosed, please find the report of Samuel Epstein, our proposed expert witness.

Very truly yours,

*Michael J. Vassalotti*  
Michael J. Vassalotti

MJV:awh

Enclosure

JAL 14308

# MYSTERY CLUSTER

## Study finds no Ford, cancer tie

Researcher calls incidence rate a 'statistical artifact'

By Douglas Ilka  
News Staff Writer

An unexplained cluster of cancer death and incidence in a neighborhood near Ford Motor Co.'s Mt. Clemens paint and vinyl plants may be nothing more than a "statistical artifact," according to a researcher with the Michigan Cancer Foundation.

Dr. G. Marie Swanson, director of the foundation's registry of cancers in southeastern Michigan, found higher rates of two particular cancers — esophagus and cervix — in a computer study of the Mt. Clemens neighborhood.

But, overall, Dr. Swanson said: "The cancer rates near the plant do not appear to be anything out of the ordinary."

IN HER REPORT to Ford, Dr. Swanson recommended that the company do a mortality study of plant employees who work inside "where the exposures may be higher than in the neighborhood unless they are putting something out of their stacks that the workers are protected from."

There was no immediate comment from Ford on Dr. Swanson's report.

Ford officials have consistently denied that emissions from vents or chemical spills at the plants have caused any "abnormal health problems" in neighborhoods surrounding the industrial complex.

Since the 1960s, residents living near the huge Ford paint and vinyl plant complex have complained about odors, fumes and particle fallout.

ON APRIL 14, after pleas from some of the residents, The Detroit News documented six cases of cancer and two children born with birth defects in a cluster of six houses on or near Washington Street near the two Ford plants.

Four more cases of cancer identified by The News increase the unexplained cluster of diseases in the neighborhood to 10 cases of cancer, including five deaths, in eight houses and a church building where one of the victims worked daily for years.

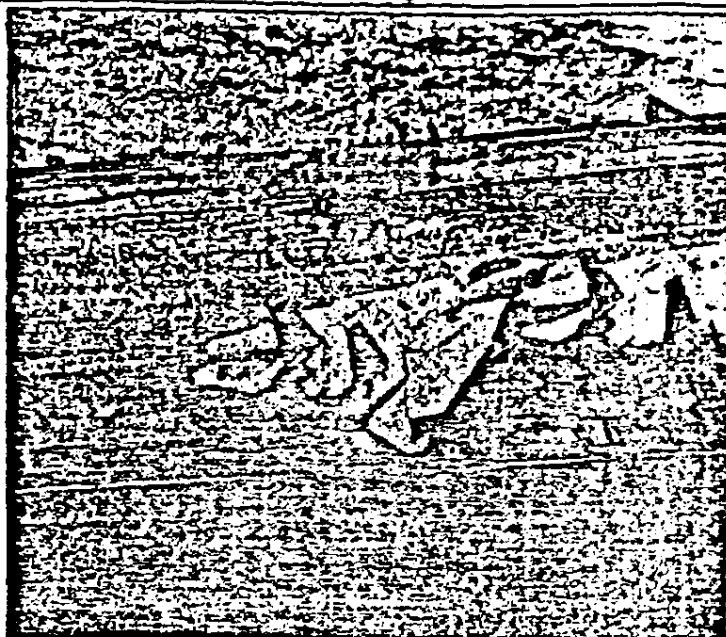
Informed of the newly documented cases, Dr. Swanson said:

"Without question that is very striking information."

"The hard thing to do is track it back for a reason. Because there is no one type of cancer that stands out, I would conclude it is a statistical artifact."

THE CANCER registry figures show 14,370 cases of cancer were diagnosed in Macomb County between 1973 and 1979, including 618

Continued on Page 12A



Wreckage of EA-6B plane lies entangled with two of the F-14 jets it damaged at

## House action set on higher Detroit tax

'Rescue package' clears committee

By Luther Keith  
and Robert E. Roach  
News Staff Writers

LANSING — Suburban commuters today awaited final House action on a proposed Detroit referendum which would increase the income tax paid by nonresidents working in the city.

A bitter floor debate to block that provision was predicted after the Detroit fiscal plan cleared the House Taxation Committee yesterday on a 12-3 vote.

As passed in committee, it would permit Detroit to hold a special election June 23 on increasing the city's resident income rate from 2 percent to 3 percent and the non-resident levy from a half of one percent to 1.5 percent.

Both are key factors in Mayor Coleman A. Young's crisis package to save Detroit from threatened bankruptcy. It also calls for legislative authorization to permit Detroit to borrow \$100 million and major wage concessions by city employees.

CITY OFFICIALS say Detroit will end this fiscal year June 30 with a \$119-million deficit and face a crisis in public services next year if no state action is taken now.

Continued on Page 8A

## Solidarity

Polish labor chief Lech Walesa plans a visit to Detroit

Polish union leader Lech Walesa plans to visit Detroit in July during a one-week American fund-raising trip, according to a U.S. executive who met with the labor activist in Warsaw. Leaders of the Polish community in Detroit greeted the news enthusiastically and immediately began arranging receptions.

"He will have a very enthusiastic welcome in the Polish community," said Kazimierz Olejarczyk, president of Michigan's division of the Polish American Congress. He said his group has collected nearly \$40,000 for Solidarity, the movement Walesa heads.

Walesa's tentatively scheduled tour of seven cities with large

Poland's Cardinal Wyszynski dies — Page 3A.

Polish-American populations was prompted by an invitation to receive a "freedom medal" from Philadelphia's mayor, businessman Edward J. Piazek said yesterday. The executive, who heads a frozen food company in Philadelphia, conveyed the invitation last week while he was in Poland trying to help ease a food shortage.

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## Officials say m

By Mike Martindale  
News Staff Writer

Prison riot coverage by radio, and especially television, is being blamed by prison officials for contributing to the spread of violence in Michigan prisons. But

are equally to blame.

Perry Johnson, director of the Michigan Depart-

quette inmates) were hearing it on the radio and seeing it on TV."

At Ionia State Reformatory last Friday, things were "running smoothly," Warden Dale Folts said. "But we were concerned about something like this happening. No question the media played a part."

"The men all have TV and radio."

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URL 14307

A-12-A—THE DETROIT NEWS—Thursday, May 28, 1991 • •

## Study finds no Ford, cancer link

Continued from Page 1A

cases in Mt. Clemens. Dr. Swanson said she specifically looked, in the city figures, for a higher incidence of liver and brain cancers, both connected scientifically with exposure to vinyl chloride which is used in the Ford plant.

"There were six cases of liver cancer in Mt. Clemens and one of those was an angiosarcoma, which is known to be caused by exposure to vinyl chloride," she said. "There were only 10 brain cancers."

"Statistically, that is not enough to make any comparisons."

DR. SWANSON compared the age-

adjusted cancer rates (per 100,000 population) in Mt. Clemens with those of Macomb County. She found:

- The Mt. Clemens rate of esophagus cancers was 137 percent higher than that of the county.

- Mt. Clemens' rate of cervical cancer was 128 percent higher than the county's.

- More cancers were recorded in the census tract including and surrounding the Ford plant and vinyl plants than in other census tracts studied. However, because that census tract is more populous, its cancer rate for men was actually 18.6 less than the Macomb County rate. For

women, the tract's cancer rate was 8.3 percent less than the county rate.

- For all cancers, the Mt. Clemens rate was only 3.5 percent greater than the county rate.

Dr. Swanson also reported on rates for cancer in different body sites. The following cancers showed higher rates in Mt. Clemens than in the county: ovary (10 percent higher); female breast (3.1 percent); stomach (27 percent); pancreas (32.4 percent); larynx (46.2 percent); lung (6.9 percent); and leukemia-multiple myeloma (17.5 percent).

However, because of the size of the

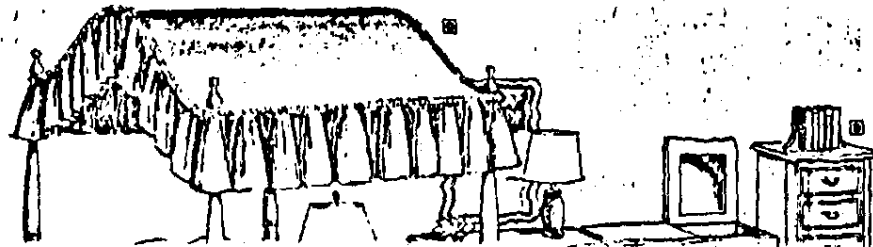
samples she worked with, Dr. Swanson said, these differences are not statistically significant.

Body sites for cancer where Dr. Swanson reported lower incidence rates in Mt. Clemens are: uterine (13.4 percent lower than the county rate); prostate (5.1 percent); colon (8 percent); rectum (13.2 percent); urinary bladder (11 percent) and lymphomas (8 percent).

A variety of toxic chemical spills have occurred at the two Ford plants, according to state records, including tetrahydrofuran, cathodic a-coat resin, butyl alcohol, methyl-ethyl ketone and polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB).

MONTGOMERY  
WARD

Sale ends Saturday



TAKE HOME  
HEFTY  
SAVINGS  
FROM  
FARMER  
JACK

## 2 streets show high cancer rate

By Douglas Ilka 4-9-81  
News Staff Writer  
Copyright, 1981, The Detroit News

Washington Street is not the only cancer street in the shadow of the huge Ford paint and vinyl plants in Mt. Clemens, according to residents of Grove Park Avenue.

The Detroit News reported last week that there is an unexplained cluster of cancer and birth defect cases on Washington Street, where residents have complained for years about fumes and fallout from the Ford complex.

"We seem to have a lot of cancer on Grove Park, too," said Mrs. Barbara VanDecar, whose mother died of liver cancer July 2, 1979.

**ON GROVE PARK,** The News has found six cases of cancer, including four deaths, in the 24 residences located north of Hubbard. Grove Park and Washington Street are south of the Ford complex.

In addition, two cases of cancer, including one death, also have been identified in six houses on Lafayette, located just west of the Ford plants.

In six houses on or adjacent to Washington Street, there have been six cases of cancer, including three deaths, and two children born with birth defects in the past nine years.

A Ford spokesman said the company is reviewing files to determine the extent of air and ground pollution controls put into the plants since their opening in 1958.

The Michigan Public Health Department is checking its records. One official said: "We have no offi-

Continued on Page 9A

URL 14309

## 4-19-81 2 streets show high rate of cancer cases

Continued from Page 1A  
cial position. We will send a letter  
to The News asking for additional  
information."

Dr. Kenneth Wilcox, chief of the  
state's Division of Environmental  
Epidemiology, said:

"Every month, we get a letter  
from someone who finds a lot of  
cancer cases. Our staff doesn't have  
time to investigate all of these  
things. If the residents are upset,  
you are encouraging that worry by  
putting it into the paper."

The list of victims, whose names  
were provided by Grove Park resi-  
dents, includes:

- Mrs. Kathryn L. Moore, 70, a  
former society writer for a local  
newspaper. Her daughter, Mrs.  
VanDecar, resides at 86 Grove Park  
in the home her parents lived in for  
50 years. Mrs. Moore died of a liver  
cancer that had spread after an  
earlier diagnosis of colon cancer.

- Edward Roy Champine Jr., 55, of  
98 Grove Park, died June 26, 1979  
of heart failure caused by carcino-  
ma of the stomach that had spread  
to other parts of his body. He work-  
ed for the city of Mt. Clemens.

- Mrs. Margaret Sedora, 68, of 77  
Grove Park, died April 4, 1973, of  
carcinoma of the breast that had  
spread to other parts of her body.  
She was a decorator at Mt. Clemens  
Pottery.

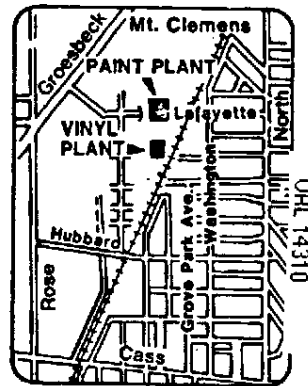
- Frederick Fischer, 65, of 71 Grove  
Park, died of leukemia June 8,  
1972. His wife, Bertha, 70, currently  
is receiving treatment for lung can-  
cer. Fischer also was a Mt. Clemens  
city employee.

- Mrs. Katherine Roberts, 42, of 86  
Grove Park, has suffered for the  
past two years with a condition that  
three doctors have told her is can-  
cer. Another doctor maintains the  
ailment is a bleeding ulcer. Mrs.  
Roberts has required several blood  
transfusions because of a consis-  
ent low blood count measured in labo-  
ratory tests.

Grove Park residents, those who  
have lived in the neighborhood for  
years and newcomers, described the  
fumes and odors from the Ford com-  
plex as "stifling, nauseous and  
choking." Several complained of  
unexplained medical problems.

"I've had the flu for the longest  
time, at least I think it's the flu,"  
said Mrs. VanDecar, 37, who keeps  
her 9-year-old daughter indoors on  
summer days when the chemical  
fumes are strongest.

"OFTEN, THERE is a terrible,  
terrible chemical smell. One morn-  
ing it woke me up and I nearly  
vomited."



Mrs. Roberts' husband, Ben, is a  
51-year old tow truck driver who  
works evenings.

"At night, when the wind shifts  
and starts blowing from the north,  
you can smell it real strong," said  
Roberts, who said that he gave up  
smoking in 1963. "We moved here  
about 12 years ago."

"My daughter (Rhonda, 21), is  
having breathing problems. I have  
spells where I'll be choking real  
bad. But the doctors can't seem to  
find what's causing it."

Mrs. Rose Bezeau, 42, moved into  
the Fischer home at 71 Grove Park  
three years ago. The family, includ-  
ing her husband, Robert, and five  
children, lived for eight years in a  
house at Cass and Washington, one  
block east and three blocks south of  
their current home.

"WE NEVER noticed any odor  
or smells when we lived in the  
house on Cass," Mrs. Bezeau said.  
"But here, on Grove Park, we've  
noticed that there are days when  
the fumes and odor coming from  
the plants is real bad."

The Ford plants have a history of  
toxic chemical spills dating back to  
1968, according to air and water  
control specialists with the Michi-  
gan Department of Natural  
Resources. Substances have  
included tetrahydrofuran, ethodic  
e-coat resin, butyl alcohol, methyl  
ethyl ketone and polychlorinated  
biphenyl (PCB).

In addition, measureable quanti-  
ties of vinyl chloride, a federally  
regulated carcinogen, have been  
found in air samples taken by Ford  
industrial hygienists inside the  
plant. A U.S. Environmental  
Protection Agency air quality sur-  
vey of the neighborhood surround-  
ing the plant found traces of vinyl  
chloride, but not in quantities  
above federally permitted levels.

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4-16-81

FORD STUDY

# Air tests detected carcinogen

Plant and street  
samples topped  
permissible levels

URL 14311

By DOUGLAS ILKA

News Staff Writer

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Air samples taken in 1974 inside Ford Motor Co.'s Mt. Clemens vinyl plant and in 1975 in close-by neighborhoods where residents are concerned about a clustering of cases of cancer and birth defects showed measurable levels of vinyl chloride, a federally regulated carcinogen.

The in-plant samplings taken by Ford industrial hygienists in November 1974 found vinyl chloride exposures among operators of latex printers in excess of the "action level" of .5 parts per million established by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

In a follow-up report from inside the plant, a Ford hygienist said the situation was substantially improved.

IN FEBRUARY 1975 neighborhood samplings, a private Cincinnati firm hired by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), found vinyl chloride in quantities ranging from 2.7 parts per billion to seven parts per billion.

In the last nine years, six cases of cancer (including three deaths) have occurred in six houses on or adjacent to Washington Street, just southeast of the plant, and two children were born with birth defects.

Two more cases of cancer have been identified by The Detroit News in a cluster of six houses on Lafayette Street, located just west of the entrance to the Ford paint and vinyl complex.

Mrs. Helen Grimm, 54, of 181 Lafayette died of respiratory failure caused by carcinomatosis on Aug. 16, 1980.

Russell Girard, 84, of 184 Lafayette, received treatment for cancer of the rectum and lower bowels in 1977. He is a former police chief of Mt. Clemens.

GIRARD SAID, "I've never  
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