

Board Approves MCA's 1975-76 Budget

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package for plastics. This will be supported, as in the past, by the subscriptions of the member companies participating in the MCA Plastics Group, now numbering 56. Expenditures of \$72,000 are forecast, requiring \$60,000 of new income.

The Board also heard reports from the Economic Policy Review, Transportation Equipment and International Trade Committees.

In reviewing international economic trends, John Roorda of the Economic Policy Review Committee said there is no prospect for lower oil prices. Indeed, prices may go up, since several OPEC nations are complaining about the decreasing value of the dollar.

Mr. Roorda reviewed the trial run of MCA's energy conservation reporting program and said the program now will be extended to as many member companies as possible, with the next report due September 1 at the Federal Energy Administration and the Commerce Department.

Mr. Roorda predicted that oil demand would stay fairly level or grow slightly during 1975, although adoption of new tariffs and excise taxes could cause as much as a five percent decline.

The decline in U.S. natural gas production is likely to continue for the next few years until price increases result in new onshore production or until increased offshore leasing programs bring in new finds, Mr. Roorda concluded.

Changes Studied

D. M. Long, chairman of the Transportation Equipment Committee, reported that considerable attention was paid during the year to proposed changes in the design, construction and use of transportation equipment, particularly tank cars.

For some time, said Mr. Long, the Federal Railroad Administration has been considering the restriction or prohibition of bottom outlets on all tank cars carrying hazardous materials. This would impose a hardship on the chemical industry, Mr. Long said, and the committee is waiting for completion of a study on such equipment before developing a recommended position for MCA.

The committee also is studying the possible effects if the Department of Transportation canceled authority for visual inspection as a means of requalifying tank trucks

for continued service, and if the department established regulatory requirements for the inspection and retest of hose used to load and unload tank trucks, cars and barges.

The committee continues to review proposals concerning the Hazard Information system and the proposed consolidation of regulations for all transportation modes, Mr. Long said.

Richard M. Brennan, chairman of the International Trade Committee, told the Board that MCA's positions on the Trade Act of 1974 are reflected in the enacted legislation.

These included the following:

- Tariff cuts are limited to 50 percent and elimination of duties are held to those of five percent or less.

- Congressional approval is needed to eliminate non-tariff barriers.

- Negotiation within sectors is assured when feasible.

- Provision is made to consider industry advice during negotiations without publicly divulging confidential information.

The Department of Commerce and the Special Trade Representative have instituted an Industry Policy Advisory Committee and 26 Industry Sector Advisory Committees, Mr. Brennan said. There was a delay in starting the work of the sector advisory committees, and their chairmen protested against the unrealistic programs finally scheduled for them. The International Trade Commission has begun hearings across the country and the Trade Policy Staff Committee will hold similar hearings shortly on the probable effects of implementing the new trade legislation.

Abs to Speak at Greenbrier

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Annual Meeting, which will be held June 12-14 at The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va. Six of North America's outstanding chemistry teachers will be honored at the meeting, as will the member companies receiving the Lammot du Pont Safety Award for having made the greatest improvement in industrial safety during the past five years.

The agenda for the business session June 12 will be mailed around May 23 to executive contacts

MCA Units to Review Cancer Group's Study

MCA technical committees will be reviewing a new National Cancer Institute report linking cancer and chemicals.

The study, which has received press attention, will be available in June. It contrasts cancer mortalities in 139 U.S. counties where the chemical industry is concentrated with cancer deaths in the rest of the nation.

NCI researchers conclude that:

- In both sexes, the death rates for all cancers were slightly but significantly higher in the chemical industry counties.

- The increased risk of bladder and nasal tumors among males and females in the 139 counties raises the possibility that occupational carcinogens may have escaped into the general environment.

The study also suggests some fresh leads to chemical exposures that may cause cancer. NCI pointed out elevated rates of (1) bladder cancer in counties manufacturing cosmetics, industrial gases and soaps and detergents; (2) lung cancer in counties producing pharmaceuticals, soaps and detergents, paints, inorganic pigments and synthetic rubber, and (3) liver cancer in counties manufacturing cosmetics, soaps and detergents and printing inks.

The study, *Cancer and Mortality in U.S. Counties with Chemical Industries*, was made by Robert Hoover and Joseph F. Fraumeni, Jr. of NCI's Epidemiology Branch. It will appear in *Environmental Research*, Vol. 9, Issue No. 2. The journal will be available in June from Joseph Petrowski, Academic Press, Journal Production Dept., 111 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10003.

Louisiana CIC Hosts Tours

River Parishes, La., Chemical Industry Council hosted 30 high school students and teachers during the CIC's annual plant tour early in April.

A brief slide talk on the Freeport Chemical Company facility at Uncle Sam, La., was followed by a visit to the operation and maintenance laboratory facilities, with Freeport representatives explaining the operations.

After lunch at Freeport, the group went up the Mississippi to visit Gulf Oil Chemicals Company's styrene monomer facility.

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