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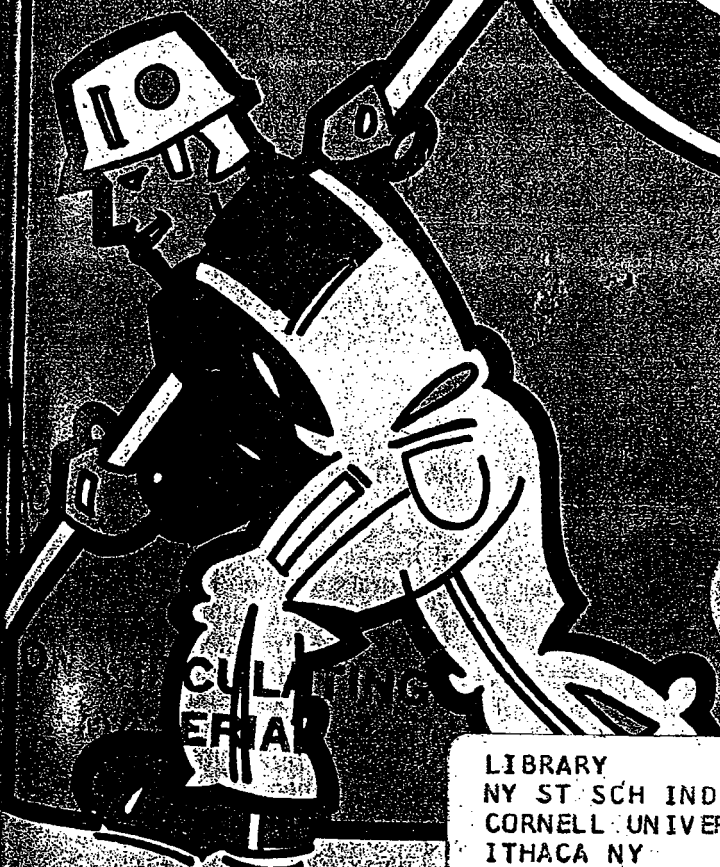
Painters & Allied Trades Journal



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Painters and Allied Trades JOURNAL

On the Cover

May is IBPAT's PAT month, And this year, the political choices can be ours. Special PAT '80 section, page 15.

NEWS AND FEATURES

page

- 4 IBPAT, BCTD Focus on Political, Economic Issues
- 6 What You Want on Product Labels
- 8 IBPAT Senate Testimony Backs OSHA
- 15 Special PAT Report

DEPARTMENTS

page

- Inside Front Cover From the General President
- 23 Local and District Council News
- 26 Sports and Recreation
- Inside Back Cover The General Secretary-Treasurer Reports

DEVOTED TO THE TRADE INTERESTS OF
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COACH • AUTOMOBILE • AIRCRAFT •
MACHINERY • RAILWAY EQUIPMENT •
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WALL COVERING • DECORATIVE AND
ARCHITECTURAL GLASS WORK •
GLAZING • CARPET • LINOLEUM • SOFT
TILE • PAINT AND VARNISH MAKING
BRUSH MAKERS AND TO THE TRADE
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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MAY 1980

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Product Labelling (Cont'd.)

We unanimously endorse the position of placing all ingredients on the label and let each of us take responsibility for learning about protective measures. After having the opportunity to participate in the IBPAT-OSH Safety Training Program, we feel that learning opportunities can be provided the membership through programs of this type.

D. E. West
Business Representative
Local 1010

Paint makers are killing professional painters and consumers now. This is being done under the supervision of the Federal Government by not insisting that all chemicals being used in paint and varnishes, thinners and removers be totally and completely identified.

John Dallio
Local 147

When they say "use with adequate ventilation," what do they mean by "adequate?" I have worked with methylene chloride outside with plenty of ventilation and I still get nauseous.

John Puetz
Local 275

Identify product labels with pictures of how chemicals are harmful, and what should be used for safety purposes. Example: if breathing the material is harmful, draw a little respirator or mask.

Dave Moutt
Local 972

Full disclosure is the best idea I have heard of in a long time. It will in fact save many lives that otherwise would be lost. I do not want to be one of them.

Cliff Johnson
Local 863

We have been left in the dark about the dangers of the materials we work with much too long. There should be some kind of warning on the label of the danger to the people working with it. This can only be done with help from you in Washington.

Gary Howell
Local 371

Manufacturers of dangerous chemicals used in the painting industry must be held liable for any accidents that occur with their products. If a painter is injured and the probable cause was a manufacturer's product, that manufacturer should pay damages.

Edward Costin
Local 184

I am Spanish-speaking, and sometimes we don't speak or read English. What I want is to put signs like on the highways so we know what it is, how much danger is in the can of paint, and what can we use.

Jorge Cerda
Local 101

The biggest hazard in the trade today is ignorance.

George R. Russell
Local 637

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

You are the one who will be affected by the proposed EPA labelling standard. You are the one who needs information about possible health effects and ways of protecting yourself and your co-workers.

What do you want? "Full disclosure" of all components on the label? A telephone number for your business representative or physician to call for information? If you have to make a choice, would you rather see information about protective measures on the label, along with only the most hazardous ingredients of a product, while you take responsibility for finding out about all the product ingredients? Or would you rather see all the ingredients on the label and take responsibility for learning about protective measures (through IBPAT/OSH Training, for example)? Maybe you would insist that all this information appear on the label at any cost?

IBPAT is putting its muscle into protecting your health and safety. Let us know what you want to see on the product label and give us your opinion of "full disclosure." Write to IBPAT, c/o Journal, 1750 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

IBPAT

IBPAT supported the performance of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in testimony before the Labor and Human Resources Committee of the United States Senate.

"IBPAT's testimony clearly demonstrates that OSHA programs and expenditures to provide safe and healthful workplaces for America's workers are not in vain," said General President S. Frank Raftery, reviewing the achievements of IBPAT-OSH cooperation presented in the testimony.

The Senate Committee is holding oversight hearings to investigate the performance of OSHA, as a prelude to consideration of the ill-conceived Schweiker-Williams "Occupational Safety and Health Improvements" bill (S.2153), which many in labor fear will dismantle OSHA.

"We need more OSHA programs and expenditures," said IBPAT during the course of testifying, "Not fewer."

The Committee confined all testimony to three areas of OSHA activities: 1) education and consultation; 2) OSHA enforcement; and 3) an overview of OSHA's progress during its 10-year existence.

As one of the most active and successful grantees of the OSHA New Directions Program, which funds the IBPAT/OSH Project, IBPAT was honored to be selected from among many willing organizations to present testimony about its education and technical assistance activities.

"The request to testify is a credit and recognition of IBPAT's accomplishments," says Raftery. "We have a right to be proud of our leadership in this field."

Partly because the IBPAT/OSH Project was funded with a training contract one-and-a-half years before the OSHA New Directions Program began, the IBPAT/OSH Project is far out in front in its efforts. For example, the Project last year trained over one-third of the total workers who received training under New Directions Grant Programs, which number over 90.

This is why the IBPAT/OSH Project is an example of the growth and success to be expected of other OSHA Projects in other unions, universities and private companies.

IBPAT Research Director Frank X. Burkhardt, who prepared IBPAT's written testimony with OSH Project Director Marilyn Larson and IBPAT

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Rod Wolford, presented oral testimony to the Committee and fielded many questions and comments from the Senators.

That the Senators were surprised and impressed with IBPAT's occupational health and safety accomplishments was readily apparent. Even Sen. Schweiker had to concede, "I have been critical of some aspects of OSHA, but Dr. [OSHA Administrator Eula] Bingham deserves credit for the New Directions Program. We have heard specific and good testimony which shows the money is well spent."

IBPAT's testimony focused on economic arguments for health and safety education and improvements in working conditions—what Burkhardt calls "more bang for the buck."

Burkhardt told the Senators how educated IBPAT members successfully demanded removal of asbestos from drywall taping compounds in the early 1970's, with the result that fewer workers will contract asbestos-related diseases whose medical care costs would be borne by the public. Burkhardt also explained how IBPAT and informed IBPAT sandblasters have obtained air-conditioned blast hoods. Use of the hoods, at a cost of about \$4.50 per day, has increased worker productivity an astonishing 40 to 60 percent.



Presenting IBPAT's testimony before the U.S. Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee is Research Director Francis X. Burkhardt; seated directly behind Burkhardt are Rod Wolford and IBPAT/OSH Project Director Marilyn Larson. At Burkhardt's right is James Wolfe, of the Moulder's Union.

Telling the Senators to overlook for a moment the human suffering of sick and injured tradesworkers and their families and to forget the quicksand of poverty into which occupa-

tional disease thrusts too many American workers, Burkhardt told the Committee exactly how lowered worker productivity contributes to the destruction of the economy.

(Continued next page)



Committee member Sen. Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.), elder statesman and friend of workers, made a strongly worded statement of support for the protection of working people. Said Javits, "I have fought off efforts to emasculate the [OSHA] law. I will fight every effort to break it wide open with broad exemptions."



Co-sponsor of the ill-conceived "Occupational Safety and Health Improvements" bill (S.2153), Sen. Richard Schweiker (R-Pa.) had to admit that OSHA's New Directions Program is "money well spent." However, Schweiker, who wants to eliminate many OSHA safety inspections, confined his questions and comments to health-related matters.

IBPAT's Senate Testimony Backs OSHA (Cont'd.)

"This is all unnecessary," said Burkhardt, "because education can turn these conditions around. The number one killer in construction is still ignorance." The full potential savings from reasonable prevention of injuries and illnesses in the paint and coatings industries alone could easily be 500 million dollars per year now lost in health costs, insurance premiums, lost wages and lowered productivity.

While progress has been made in researching occupational health and safety problems and in writing OSHA standards, all this must be communicated to the worker. "The worker is the ultimate agent of change," Burkhardt told the Committee. "Our experience shows that tradesworkers will go far in making derapads and in doing so will improve health and productivity."

Concluded Burkhardt, "No one is more concerned about inflation than an organization representing wage-earners. But, in casting about for causes, let us not mistake the treatment for the disease. We must recognize the causal link between the health of the nation's workforce and the health of its economy."



Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio), right, and Sen. Williams (D-N.J.) follow IBPAT's written statement as Director Burkhardt testifies.

Full copies of the testimony are available from: The Journal, c/o IBPAT, 1750 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

No new legislation is needed on the nation's basic federal job safety and health law, AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland told the Senate committee conducting "oversight" hearings on the Occupational Safety & Health Act.

What needs to be done can be handled administratively, Kirkland testified before the Senate Labor & Human Resources Committee, and everyone would benefit from a halt in business and right-wing horror stories about the law.

"Honest mistakes, not of subversion but of mundane incompetence, created situations where untrained inspectors enforced irrelevant standards which employers found unreasonable and the media held up to ridicule," Kirkland said. "None of this advanced the cause of safe and healthful working conditions."

But the cause has been served by the overall 10-year history of OSHA and its enforcement, Kirkland said, noting that on-job fatalities have decreased 10 percent during the program's history and total injuries have declined 15 percent.

He said that record was even more remarkable since the agency's first seven years were marred by an administration so "destructive and distasteful" as to border on sabotage.

"The AFL-CIO is pleased with the significant changes made under Sec. of Labor Marshall and Dr. Eula Bingham," Kirkland said. "One OSHA focused only on problems of worker safety. Today, the program has moved out of the dark ages to address complex occupational health problems."

In both health and safety, Kirkland observed, the agency had made more progress under Bingham than in the previous six years combined.



Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), no friend of labor, appears appropriately disappointed as he listens to testimony of OSHA's successful programs and the need for more and better health and safety efforts.

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