Today we are proud of the progress made—I speak mostly for our own two plants—the United States Asbestos Division at Manheim with 1,300 employes and the General Asbestos Division at Charleston, South Carolina, with 1,000 employes. I speak also of Johns Manville, Keasby and Mattison, Union Asbestos and Rubber Company, General Electric and many others who have spent much time and expense to control a bad hazard.

In every process that can be controlled, something has been done about it. The first approach is to collect the dust at its source—take it out of the machine and building, filter it or wet it down—and our policy is not to return the filtered air to the department. In fact, we are now exhausting from our plant at Manheim about 300,000 cubic feet of air per minute and not one cubic foot is being returned. We agree with our Department of Labor and Industry that this filtered air is not sufficiently free of dust particles.

Another problem is after we get it out of the department—years ago cyclones were the accepted units for disposal and separation of the dust from the air—dust laden air was discharged into the atmosphere. Today we use either burlap filters for the textile dusts and wet collectors for the grinding dust. In certain processes in the manufacture of asbestos, it is almost impossible to collect the dust at its source. I refer to weaving, spinning, twisting and braiding. Our solution to weaving and braiding is water sprays to dampen the yarns sufficiently to allay the dust—eight to ten per cent will do the trick. For years damp weaving was frowned upon by chemists and some customers because it was more difficult to impregnate these damp woven products. Most of these difficulties have been overcome by new methods of impregnation.

Spinning and twisting of asbestos yarns is today our worst problem to control. We are now working with the engineers of the Morraine Company, a division of General Motors. We hope this will be our answer.

We believe that the designers and builders have a responsibility in the construction of their machines so that exhaust equipment is part of that unit. This is just as important as safety guards for moving parts. Over a period of twenty-five years, we have so controlled the dust that the concentration of dust has been reduced from a range of 10, 15, 25, 40 up to 75 and more million particles per cubic foot. Today the average is well under five million, which is considered a safe concentration. We are not satisfied that five million is safe, therefore we continue to reduce the count to an absolute minimum. Our efforts have shown results, not only in the cost of the compensation cases, but as a humanitarian reason. We have had no cases of asbestosis develop in any employe who was hired in the last twelve years.

We have our own Medical and First Aid Department. All employes are required to take a pre-employment medical examination, including a chest X-ray. Periodically chest X-rays are