

CAUSE OF DEATHS:

WITHOUT ASBESTOSIS - 3 DEATHS - HEART, LUNGS, CANCER
WITH ASBESTOSIS - 15 DEATHS
3 CASES OF ASBESTOSIS 100% AND COR PULMONALE
4 CASES OF ASBESTOSIS AND ENDOBRONCHIAL CANCER
3 CASES OF ASBESTOSIS AND NON PULMONARY CANCER
1 CASE OF ASBESTOSIS AND PLEURAL MESOTHELIOMA
4 CASES OF ASBESTOSIS ASSOCIATED TO OTHER PATHOLOGIES

PLANTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
Q10-21000

ATLAS HSBESTOS FEE PLEASE
(CANADA).

Mr. J. A. Oshpinski
Mr. H. D. S. Hardie
Mr. A. D. N. Jones
Mr. M. A. Bell

THE GAZETTE
11TH DECEMBER 1975

Please return to

Fifteen workers' deaths linked to asbestos plant

By MARILYN SYRAUSS
of The Gazette

The cause of death of all but three of 15 workers at an unidentified Montreal asbestos-products plant was linked yesterday by a doctor to some disease related to asbestos.

About half of the victims suffered from an asbestos-

related cancer between 1957 and 1974, his report called for stringent health controls in the major Quebec industry.

Dr. Philippe Landry, a pulmonary and medical specialist and the chairman of the committee, said yesterday that of 454 workers he examined, 132

received compensation from the Workmen's Compensation

Board after suffering from an asbestos-related disease such as asbestosis.

Landry told a four-man committee studying health conditions in the asbestos industry more than 100 of these compensated are still with the company, which processes asbestos fibres into pipes and other building materials.

Judge Rene Beaudry, the provincially-created committee's chairman, ordered Landry not to name the company.

NO CURE

Landry said he saw all 132 workers who had worked with asbestos fibres for 10 years or more in the Workmen's Compensation Board

special chest disease committee.

"There's no treatment for those who have worked in the industry for 15 years or more," said Landry, now associated with the Maisonneuve-Rosemount Hospital. "At that point, you can't stop the disease — there's no cure."

The 132 compensated

workers were exposed to asbestos fibres for an average of 15 to 24 years, he said.

Landry urged annual, compulsory medical check-ups for asbestos industry workers because "we can't see symptoms unless the victim already has 25 per cent of the asbestosis disease."

He told the public hearing

that asbestosis is caused when asbestos fibres are blocked in the lungs, preventing the exchange of oxygen through the blood and overworking the heart.

STERN MEASURES

In a series of strict recommendations to the committee, Landry said all surplus production should be

"completely eliminated, given that it encourages massive exposure to asbestos dust."

He called on employers to eliminate blue and brown fibres in manufacturing products, using only the less toxic white fibres at a reduced two fibres per cubic

(See DEATHS, Page 2)

Deaths linked to asbestos

(Continued from Page 1)

centimetre of air.

No limit exists now and the provincial government has set limits of five fibres per cubic centimetre of air, effective by 1978.

Because 90 per cent of asbestosis victims are smokers, Landry urged banning of smoking in all company areas.

He also called for compulsory medical examinations for all starting regular employees and posting of regular dust counts.

FIRMS FIGHT LIMIT

"I think it is my duty to make these recommendations to eliminate asbestosis and diminish the number of workers susceptible to cancer of the respiratory tracts by working in the

secondary asbestos industry." The Quebec Asbestos Mining Association, representing five producers, presented a 42-page brief to the committee expressing an absolute limit for amount of asbestos fibres in the air.

It suggested instead "a standard be observed wherever it is technically possible in the plant and a standard to be reached elsewhere with the possible alternative of wearing a mask or applying any other supplementary security measures."

The association asked Quebec for an "accelerated depreciation of 50 per cent, as granted by the federal government," for environmental control equipment, also requested a tax deduction of five per cent of the value of the investment.

Earlier in the hearing, the Industrial Medical Association of Quebec representing about 120 industrial doctors called for norms of two fibres per cubic centimetre of air, strict control of norms, medical examinations for workers and more research on the effects of asbestos on health.

"The ideal would be a dose of zero fibre per cubic centimetre of air, which would force the closing of asbestos mines and plants using asbestos," association president Honorius Millette said.

"In the absence of the ideal, we've got to establish an acceptable and practical threshold where risk of sickness caused by asbestosis would be reduced to the minimum."