

FILE NAME: Allied Signal Bendix (ASB)

DATE: 1980 Aug

DOC#: ASB028

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Article RE Bendix & Asbestos

Asbestos — Bendix

Windsor, June 1980

Two Bendix workers have been awarded compensation for cancer attributable to the asbestos they were exposed to at work. One, Tommy Dunn, had worked at Bendix only 11½ years. His case had attracted a great deal of media attention.

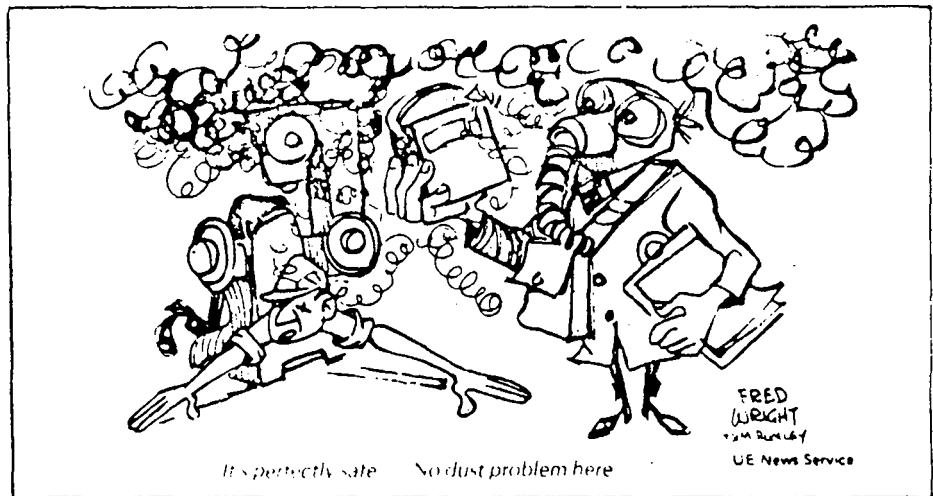
So far these two are the only ones of the nineteen filed which have been awarded. Two are still pending. Seven others are being appealed by the Ontario Federation of Labour on behalf of Local 195, UAW.

The tragedy of the whole situation at Bendix is that it is unnecessary. If Ministry of Labour recommendations made in 1966 had been acted on then, perhaps none of the deaths would have occurred.

Who said that?

"Existing guidelines for controlling exposure to asbestos in the occupational setting have been developed to control the development of asbestosis, rather than cancer. Occupational limits for asbestos in the Province and all other jurisdictions with similar control strategies have been based upon epidemiological studies relating solely to this form of lung fibrosis."

Asbestos In Public Buildings
Ontario Ministry of Labour Occupational Health and Safety Division. March 26, 1980. p.1.1.



Asbestos

London, England, June 1980

The British Advisory Committee on Asbestos has made three recommendations to Britain's Health and Safety Executive with respect to asbestos:

- 1) substitute safe products for asbestos where possible
- 2) establish standards based on type of asbestos — 1f/cc for white asbestos (chrysotile) 5f/cc for brown asbestos (amosite) stronger voluntary ban on blue asbestos (crocidolite).
- 3) reduce all overall exposure.

These recommendations are based on the belief that there is no safe level of exposure to asbestos and that all the best standards can do is minimize risk.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BOARD

Below are the Ontario WCB figures on workplace deaths, both due to accidents and industrial disease (those which the WCB recognizes) for the past three years.

	1977	1978	1979
Total Deaths	228	226	263
Traumatic Injury	185	184	209
Industrial Disease	43	42	54

Farewell to Our Friends

It is with great sadness that the Centre says goodbye to Mary Morison and Dr. John Marshall. Mary and John were greatly responsible for the development of the OFL Health and Safety Manual. John Marshall produced the original audio-visual materials used by the Centre.

John left our staff last September, but he has continued to help with the development of new materials and has been consulted by many union groups over the past year, for his expertise in health and safety.

Mary, who leaves our staff

this month, will be missed for her extensive knowledge of toxic substances and her commitment to women worker's problems. She made an invaluable contribution to the Centre in initiating and editing 'At the Source' and developing many of our teaching programmes.

We wish John well, as he takes up his residency in surgery in Halifax and we know that Mary will continue her fine work in health and safety. We can say to our union brothers and sisters in Nova Scotia and the Maritimes, you have two good friends joining you "from away".

Uranium Miners

Elliot Lake, May 1980

After more than a year of pressure from the USWA, the federal government finally announced this month that uranium miners would be covered by the provisions of Bill 70 by reference under the Canada Labour Code.

According to Paul Falkowski, Safety and Health Coordinator, District 6 of the USWA, this may prove to be a shallow victory. Bill 70 is a provincial law and can never take precedence over federal law — in this case the Canada Labour Code — where the two may be in conflict (eg. right to refuse provisions). A far better alternative, according to the Steelworkers, would have been to cover the workers by reference to Bill 70 under the Atomic Energy Control Act where no conflict with existing provisions would occur.