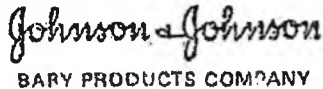


FILE NAME: CTFA (CTFA)

DATE: 1976 Mar 8

DOC#: CTFA007

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Unpublished Internal Report – Cosmetic Talc
Status



For CTFA Talc Meeting
March 11, 1976

March 8, 1976

COSMETIC TALC STATUS

The safety of consumer talcum products has been under continued attack, primarily led by the Mt. Sinai group, because of three alleged concerns. These allegations are as follows:

1. Commercial talcs often contain asbestos as naturally occurring contaminants.
2. Talc contains other impurities, minerals and metals which may have potential biological significance.
3. Talc as a mineral itself may be hazardous.

I. FACTS ON TALC

A. Asbestos and Cosmetic Talcs

- chrysotile asbestos has never been detected in cosmetic talcs or finished talcum products.
- amphibole asbestos, e.g. tremolite and anthophyllite, has been found in a few U. S. consumer talcum products (by Mt. Sinai and confirmed by a very reliable expert consultant).
- disagreement existed between Sinai scientist and an expert consultant in recent analyses for asbestos in British OTC talcum products. This resulted in withdrawal of highly controversial allegations of asbestos in British talcum products intended for presentation at the 4th International Symposium on Inhaled Particles & Vapours.
- Mt. Sinai disclosed statements in February '76 during private interview with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation that their analysis of U. S. products has found asbestos.

March 8, 1976

B. Biological Testing of Cosmetic Talcs

- extensive animal testing data is only available for Windsor 66 talc and Italian 00000 talc.
- Battelle hamster inhalation testing on Windsor 66 talc with chronic exposures up to 185 times median baby dosage has demonstrated no exposure-related pathology.
- MRC (British Medical Research Council) testing with Italian 00000 talc indicated no tumours resulted from intrapleural inoculation or ingestion.
- MRC testing with Italian talc showed fibrosis at high and very long exposures (up to 1000 times median baby dosage).

C. Human Medical Studies

- Rubino Mortality Study indicated no excess deaths due to cancer amongst talc miners and millers exposed to Italian cosmetic talc.
- Green prospective Pulmonary Study with Windsor talc miners and millers have shown no respiratory disease.
- Kleinfeld has published that deaths were due to cancer of lung and pleura amongst talc workers receiving high exposure to industrial talcs mixed with appreciable amounts of tremolite, anthophyllite and small amount of silica.

D. Conclusions

- all of the data which argues strongly that cosmetic talcs are not a hazard to health under normal-use conditions are based on studies with Windsor 66 and Italian 00000 talcs, both of which have a talc purity of better than 90%, and no asbestos content.
- amphibole asbestos contaminants have been observed in finished talcum products. Tight specifications should be written to preclude sources which are marginal as to potential contaminants.

A-77 Free Reading

NAMES & FACES IN THE NEWS

Caroline Kennedy, 18, made the front page of the London Sunday Mirror, pictured riding in a florist's van with John Barclay, 22, a professional cricket player. The Mirror said Barclay and Miss Kennedy, daughter of President John F. Kennedy, went to a discotheque in London's Knightsbridge area. The paper quoted Barclay, who is working with a florist during the winter, as saying, "I'm not her boyfriend. We met at a dinner party, and I gave her a lift home in my firm's van."

Pope Paul VI yesterday said he had canceled all audiences and public appearances next week in observance of Lent and to prepare for death, which he cannot be far off. The 78-year-old pontiff's reference to death came a few days after the Vatican denied Italian newspaper reports that he was seriously ill. Vatican observers said the Pope's remark yesterday should not be taken as an indication of how long he was going to live in the near future.

At least eight relatives of Cambodian Prince Norodom Sihanouk are

Study finds

By Marian Burros
Washington Post

WASHINGTON—Asbestos fibers found in thousands of products from food to building insulation, have been discovered in nine of 19 baby and baby powders studied by researchers at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York.

Asbestos can cause mesothelioma, a rare form of chest and abdominal cancer, and asbestosis, scarring of lung tissue. In 1972 Dr. William J. Nicholson of Mt. Sinai reported that these diseases caused nearly 40 percent of the deaths of New York and New Jersey asbestos workers.

Dr. Irving J. Selikoff of Mt. Sinai, a specialist on occupational diseases, said "We do not know a safe threshold level for a carcinogen like asbestos." Once asbestos fibers enter the body, he said, they stay there.

Japanese interrogate

Asbestos in body powders

Depart-
ment
of Health
and
Human
Resources
has
announced
that
it
has
found
asbestos
in
some
body
powders.
The
FDA
has
also
found
asbestos
in
some
baby
powders.
The
FDA
has
also
found
asbestos
in
some
baby
powders.

no long
in percent
of the
total
weight
of the
powder.
The
FDA
has
also
found
asbestos
in
some
baby
powders.

They are certain their products
are safe. They said no asbestos had
been found in their testing.

The manufacturer of Rosemary
Talc could not be reached for com-
ments.

The other powders studied were
Kleenex Medicated Powder, Avon
Skin of Paradise Beauty Dust, Di-
perene Medicated Body Powder,
Johnson's Baby Powders — one made
in England and one in the United
States — Johnson's Medicated Pow-
der, Johnson's Bath Talc, Yardley After
Shave Powder and Yardley Original
Body Powder. None of them con-
tained asbestos. Diaperene contained
nickel; it is made of cornstarch.

The Food and Drug Administra-
tion said in 1972 it could propose reg-
ulations to cover the use of asbestos-
contaminated talc in cosmetics.

The director of FDA's division of
cosmetics technology, Heinz J. Er-
mann, recently said the agency had
not issued regulations because it had
not found a fast method for determin-
ing the presence of asbestos at low
levels. The sophisticated method used
at Mt. Sinai, electron microscopy, is
too time-consuming and expensive, he
said.

The Mt. Sinai researchers, who
have conducted the study under a
grant from the National Institute of
Environmental Health Services since
1973, also investigated the powders
for the presence of other metallic ele-
ments, including nickel.

With the exception of Rosemary
Talc and Diaperene, which contained
no nickel, 16 of the powders con-
tained from 4 to 710 parts per million
of nickel. A sample of Johnson's Baby
Powder contained 2200 ppm.

Moscow assails campaign rhetoric

From C. Morris

THE GLOBE AND MAIL, TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1976

13

Contaminants found in 10 talcum powders

NEW YORK (AP) — Ten out of 19 body and baby powders tested at Mount Sinai Hospital here were contaminated with asbestos fibres capable of causing a rare form of chest and abdominal cancer, researchers said yesterday.

Dr. Arthur Rohl, who conducted the tests with Dr. Arthur Langer, said there has been no investigation of the dangers from asbestos in such powders.

"There should be some sort of quality control instituted either by the industry or by congressional legislation," he said in an interview.

The researchers said the contamination usually was found in the talc used in the powders.

Asbestos fibres can cause mesothelioma, a chest and abdominal cancer, and can also result in the scarring of lung tissue and in gastrointestinal difficulties, Dr. Rohl said.

The researchers said:

—Ten of the 19 U.S. samples contained from 2 per cent to 20 per cent asbestos fibres. The highest concentration was in ZBT Baby Powder with Baby Oil; Cashmere Bouquet Body Talc; Coty Airspun Face Powder and Rosemary Talc. These were in the 8 per cent to 20 per cent bracket.

—Rosemary also contained

30 per cent quartz.

—Other powders containing less than 5 per cent asbestos were Faberge Brut Talc, Yardley Invisible Talc, Yardley Black Label Body Powder, Mennen Shave Talc and English Leather After Shave Talc.

The manufacturers of Rosemary could not be reached for comment, but the others said they were convinced their products were safe and said their own tests had shown no asbestos.

The baby and body powder tests were undertaken as part of a study of the dangers involved in occupational exposure to asbestos, Dr. Rohl said.

"There is no firm evidence on low level or intermittent exposure such as from using talcum powder," he said. "We don't know for sure what the danger level is."

The tests at Mount Sinai used electron microscopy, which Heinz J. Eirmann, director of cosmetics technology in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, said was too expensive and time-consuming for the agency to use.

The experiments at Mount Sinai were financed by a grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Services and began in 1973.

88 ASBURY PARK PRESS, Tues., Mar. 9, 1976

Asbestos Fibers Found in Many Baby Powders

NEW YORK (AP) — Dr. Arthur Rohl said yesterday a survey he and Dr. Arthur Langer conducted for Mt. Sinai Hospital showed 10 of 19 body and baby powders tested were contaminated by asbestos fibers.

"There should be some sort of quality control instituted either by the industry or by congressional legislation," he said in an interview.

Asbestos can cause a rare form of chest and abdominal cancer, the scarring of lung tissue and gastro-intestinal complaints, but Dr. Rohl said there has been no investigation of the dangers from asbestos in talcum powder.

"The studies have related to occupational exposure to asbestos by those working in the industry eight hours a day," he said.

"There is no firm evidence on low level or intermittent exposure such as from using talcum powder. We don't know for sure what the danger level is.

"The dose response relationship is very difficult to extrapolate."

Dr. Rohl said he and Dr. Langer had done a parallel survey of body and baby powders manufactured in Britain and found "very few of those were contaminated and those that were, were considerably less so than those made here."

He said the reason was that British manufacturers used "northern Italian and Chinese talc which are not contaminated whereas

American talc deposits are usually contaminated."

Dr. Langer said 10 of the 19 American samples contained from two to 20 per cent asbestos fibers. The highest concentration, he said, was in ZBT Baby Powder with Baby Oil; Cashmere Bouquet Body Talc, Coty Airspun Face Powder and Rosemary Talc. These were in the 8 to 20 per cent bracket.

Dr. Rohl said Rosemary also contained 30 per cent quartz.

Bauer & Black Baby Talc, which is no longer on the market, had a 15 per cent concentration.

Other powders containing less than five per cent asbestos, Dr. Langer said, were Faberge Brut Talc, Yardley Invisible Talc, Yardley Black Label Body Powder, Mennen Shave Talc and English Leather After Shave Talc.

All were manufactured in the United States, Dr. Rohl said.

The manufacturers of Rosemary could not be reached for comment, but the others said they were convinced their products were safe and said their own tests had shown no asbestos.

The products which the two doctors found uncontaminated were Ammen's Medicated Powder; Avon Bird of Paradise Beauty Dust; Diaperene Medicated Body Powder; two Johnson's Baby Powders—one made here and one in Britain; Johnson's Medicated Powder; Mennen Bath Talc; Yardley After Shave Powder and Yardley Original Body Powder.

Today In History

On this date in 1862, the first Civil War battle...

Ten years ago—Defense

FDA urged to study baby powders

By JOHN WALCOTT
The Record, Washington Bureau
Researchers from New York's Mt. Sinai Hospital have called for the Food and Drug Administration to begin animal studies to find whether there is a link between baby powders and cancer.

The urging came from Mt. Sinai's Dr. Arthur Rehl after scientists from the hospital's Department of Environmental Medicine said they uncovered

evidence that some baby powders contain asbestos, a known cancer-carrying agent.

The scientists also have discovered traces of chromium and nickel in some of the pow-

ders they have tested. Some chromium and nickel compounds have been linked to cancer in laboratory experiments.

In addition, cancer re-

searchers at Mt. Sinai, one of the nation's leading environmental-cancer research centers, and elsewhere are beginning to question the safety of talc, the main ingredient in most baby and bath powders.

Talc and asbestos commonly are found together in the earth and share some chemical properties, and there is some evidence that talc itself can cause lung damage.

Rehl recommends baby

powders made from cornstarch instead of talc.

The Mt. Sinai scientists bought 20 samples of powder at stores in the New York area between 1972 and 1974. Ten of the samples were found to contain asbestos in concentrations ranging from 2 to 30 per cent. The other 10 samples contained no detectable asbestos.

The Food and Drug Admin-
See BARY, Page A-6

Central Bergen News on Pages B-1-6

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Comics	A-20	Obituaries	B-19
Editorial Pages	B-2, 3	Sports, Racing	B-7-10
Legal Notices	B-16	Television	A-21

Talc tests wanting, FDA experts admits

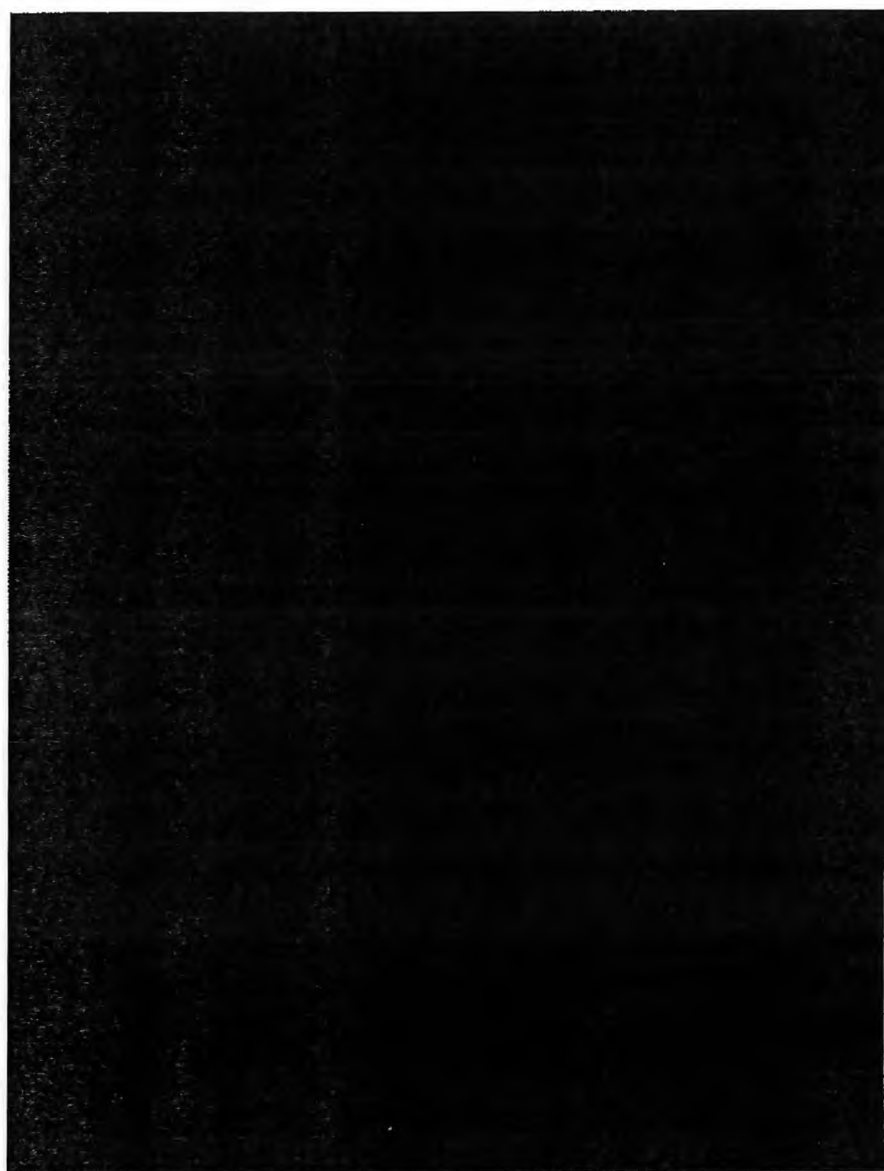
BY JOHN WALCOTT
WASHINGTON — Baby play-
things and toys have been
found to contain asbestos
which should not be allowed
on the market, the Food and
Drug Administration experts
said today.

However, John J. Schemm,
director of the FDA's
Division of Cosmetics Technol-
ogy, said that asbestos
has been found in some
baby and bath powders
which are contaminated with
cancer-causing material. He
said that the FDA has
been testing baby powder
since 1964 and has found
asbestos in 10 of the 20 baby
powders tested.

The FDA has been testing
baby powder since 1964 and
has found asbestos in 10 of
the 20 baby powders tested.
The FDA has been testing
baby powder since 1964 and
has found asbestos in 10 of
the 20 baby powders tested.

J. HOMESTOCK'S PINE SPECTACULAR. ALL OUR FINEST PINE 15%-20% OFF.





...on. Ebermann's testimony was interrupted after lunch, with his staff health expert, his press secretary, two House investigation subcommittee staffers, and a reporter in tow. Maguire asked Ebermann to produce his files on baby powders and to explain what the FDA has been doing about the reports of contamination.

At one point, Maguire asked whether the FDA considers any level of asbestos in powders, no matter how low, to be safe. Ebermann replied that no safe exposure to asbestos had been found, and later said that talc which is found to contain asbestos should not be used to make baby or body powders.

Cans testing difficult

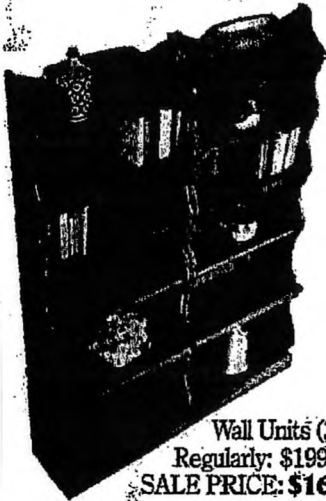
He said, however, that the sophisticated and time-consuming techniques that are needed to find asbestos fibers can test only minute amounts of talc. Because talc and asbestos fibers are mixed together in infinitely variable concentrations, tests on such small samples do not accurately reflect asbestos levels in larger samples of talc, he told Maguire.

The Record

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All returns prepared by computer.
All types of returns prepared.
All types of returns prepared.
ABC
TAX SERVICE
323 Main Street
Barnstable, MA 01930
489-3669

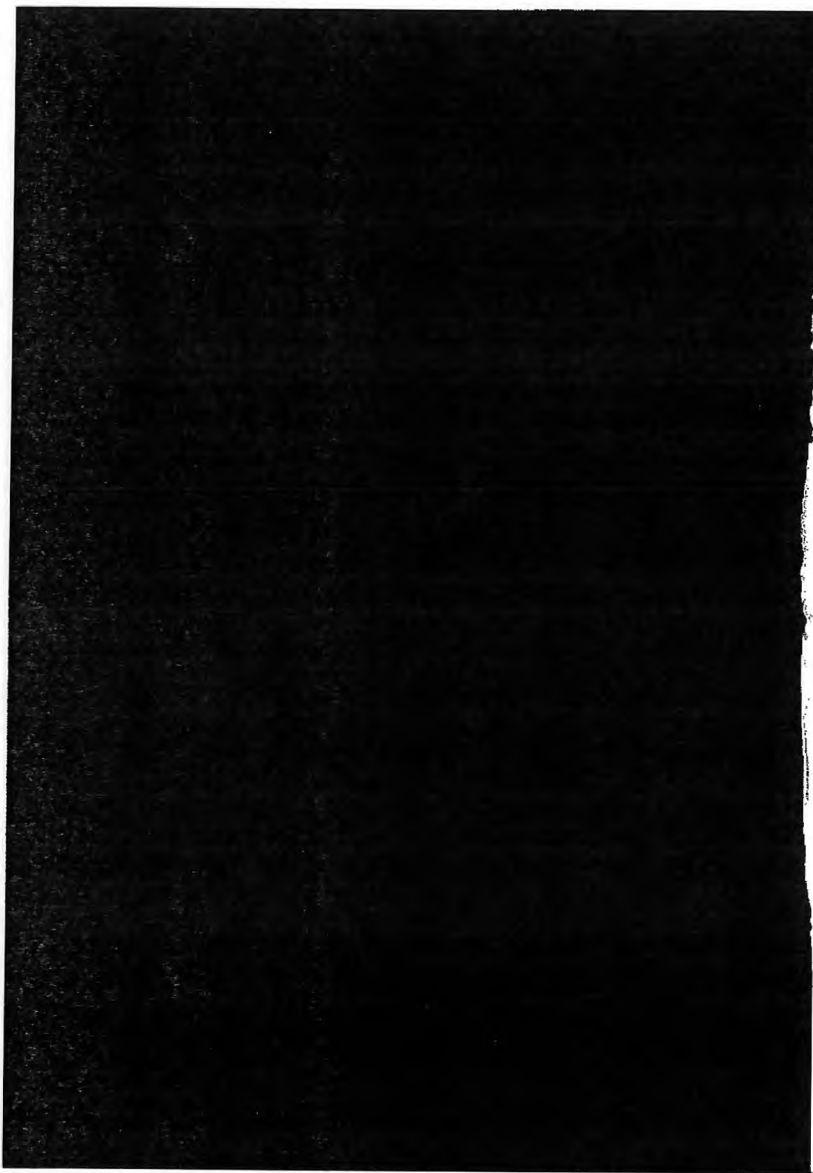


Wall Units (30" each)
Regularly: \$199 each
SALE PRICE: \$169 each



Filled
by Brooks
Regularly: \$399

PARAMUS Route 17, just north of Route 1





AP Wirephoto

TEASE-SHIRTS The T-shirt — once the regulation issue for GIs during World War II — has grown up. They've evolved from simple white cotton to those with

startling messages printed on the front. And now, the latest is a line called Body Language. It's a collection which speaks for itself.

DIPLOMA CHANG

School System Considers M

By RAFF KLINGER
Sun-Sentinel Writer

Requiring high school students to pass a reading and math skills test in order to graduate and awarding different diplomas based on competency is being investigated by the county school system administration.

School Supt. Joseph Carroll said Jerry Williams, director of program evaluation for the school system, has been studying whether tests are used in other school systems. In addition to whether different diplomas are allowed in Florida.

The study has been prompted by the suggestions of county school board members and a nationwide interest in toughening public school standards, due in complaints many high school graduates cannot read well enough to function in contemporary society.

"We're up against a crisis of public confidence over whether a diploma means anything," Carroll said.

Williams has been attempting to collect as many proficiency tests as are now in use, as a basis for formulating one for the county school system, Carroll said.

What we want is a certificate of survival in today's

Cancer-Linked Asbestos Found In 10 Body Powders

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Ten out of 19 baby and body powders tested at Mount Sinai Hospital here were contaminated with asbestos fibers capable of causing a rare form of chest and abdominal cancer, researchers said yesterday.

Dr. Arthur Robl, who conducted the tests with Dr. Arthur Langor, said there has been no investigation of the dangers from asbestos in such powders.

"There should be some sort of quality control instituted either by the industry or by congressional legislation," he said.

The researchers said the contamination usually was found in the talc used in the powders.

Asbestos fibers can cause mesothelioma, a chest and abdominal cancer, and can also result in the scarring of lung tissue and

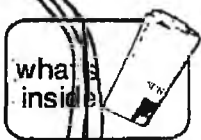
• Ten of the 19 American samples contained from two per cent to 20 per cent asbestos fibers. The highest concentration was in ZBT Baby Powder with Baby Oil; Cashmere Bouquet Body Talc; Coty Airspan Face Powder and Rosemary Talc. These were in the eight per cent to 20 per cent bracket.

• Rosemary also contained 30 per cent quartz.

• Bauer & Black Baby Talc, which is no longer on the market, had a 15 per cent concentration.

• Other powders containing less than five per cent asbestos were Fabergé Brut Talc; Yardley Invisible Talc; Yardley Black Label Body Powder; Menem Shave Talc and English Leather After Shave Talc.

The manufacturers of Rosemary could not be reached for comment. (Turn to Page 2-A, Col. 1)



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In the typical situation, a 64-year-old Harold Harrison, father of George Beale George Harrison, told him: "George has returned after some hesitation, and the boys have all agreed to do the show in the United States and possibly stay together for other shows." George, John Lennon, Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr broke up as a group in 1971 after selling more than 360 million records.

Jackie Coogan Hospitalized

Actor Jackie Coogan was reported in good condition yesterday in a Palm Springs, Calif., hospital after suffering a fainting spell. Coogan, 61, was taken by ambulance to Desert Hospital where tests were being performed. Coogan, who shot to fame as a child star in "The Kid," at the age of 4 and made millions before he was 10, has been doing movie and televising parts in recent years.

Pregnant Precedents

President Idi Amin has urged women pilots trained in the Ugandan air force to exercise self-control following disclosure that two of the seven trainees are pregnant. "Some of you have not been following regulations and that is why you have become pregnant," Amin told the women in a meeting at a presidential lodge on Lake Victoria. "If you are pregnant, your performance as pilots is hindered," Amin, quoted in the government newspaper Voice of Uganda, said the women's squadron will be taught birth control as well as flying techniques.

Making A Date In Court

Mexico City authorities believe they have found a way to discourage bribeking among traffic cops. They assigned women to write out tickets for erring motorists. "Our girls can't be bought," says Lt. Col. Maria Isabel Espinoza, chief of Group 28, the 600-member feminine contingent of the capital's police force. "We have too much pride." The force began recruiting women in 1972. Although submitting to rigorous training — including karate lessons — policewomen were assigned primarily to patrolling parks and downtown streets. Their main job was to answer questions, give directions and "show the badge." Two years ago they were assigned to traffic duty on a trial basis. Apparently the system works. "Most drivers are convinced they can pay their fine directly to a policeman if they are stopped," one city official explained. But according to Lt. Col. Espinoza, male drivers frequently are shocked when stopped by a policewoman. "We did have to make them try to bribe," she admitted. "We eliminated mini-skirts."

Best Library 12. Jack Coogan, 61, was taken by ambulance to Desert Hospital where tests were being performed. Coogan, who shot to fame as a child star in "The Kid," at the age of 4 and made millions before he was 10, has been doing movie and televising parts in recent years.

I've J

The Associated Press

LONDON — An American who worked for an armored car firm started airport officials during a routine customs check when police said he blurted out:

"I've stolen a quarter of a million dollars. Please tell the boss. When he opens the safe he might have a heart attack."

A search of his luggage uncovered \$287,580, authorities reported.

They identified the ex-secu guard as Noel Theodore Richard, 2

A 'Phantom Mail-Order

The New York Times News Service

WASHINGTON — A mysterious company with no visible office directors, calling itself Malprac Research Inc., is offering a "review" of "potent malpractice cases" by anonymous physicians for an \$80 fee, of which half must be paid in advance.

The Virginia-based concern is under investigation by the Virginia Attorney General's office for possible illegal or unethical actions. Since incorporation in mid-January, the company has placed advertisements in newspapers and posted the telephone booths, as well as in a brochure.

Scientific Medical

Stop the Vicio

Even For

Now you can get fast, for relief from the torment of itching, rather, dry skin even unbearable personal in the treatment and relief of Malprac Medicated Cream. Thousands of people's troubles of personal itching are now they are disappearing. You see, itching causes which causes more itching.

WHERE IN THE WORLD BUT

Asbestos Found In Powders

(Continued from Page 1-A)

but the others said they were convinced their products were safe and said their own tests had shown no asbestos.

The baby and body powder tests were undertaken as part of a study of the dangers involved in occupational exposure to asbestos, Rohl said.

"There is no firm evidence on low level or intermittent exposure such as from using talcum powder," he said. "We don't know for sure what the danger level is."

The tests at Mount Sinai used electron microscopy. Heinz J. Eitmann, director of cosmetics technology in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, said the examination and

use. There is no "fast control" method, he said.

The products which the two doctors found uncontaminated with asbestos fibers were Amman's Medicated Powder; Avon Bird of Paradise Beauty Dust; Diaperene Medicated Body Powder; two Johnson's Baby Powders — one made here and one in Britain; Johnson's Medicated Powder; Mermen Bath Tale; Yardley After Shave Powder and Yardley Original Body Powder.

Rohl said he and Langer had done a parallel survey of baby and body powders manufactured in Britain and found, "Very few of these were contaminated and those that were, were considerably less than those made

Re: Asbestos/TALC

3/12/76

Johnson & Johnson CONTACT

3/12/76 DR. D.R. Petersen called advising
F. ROESCH the CBS News will call on
TALC subject.

3/12/76 DR. George Lea - requested
lunch today with him and Bill
WAGGONER. FFR - CVD AT MACATEERS
Discussed CTFA TALC

3/18/76 DR Petersen - said to expect
a Telephone call from
MARION BURRAS
WASHINGTON POST NBC

3/18/76 - Robert J Schwenker JR
V-P. Research & Development
Personnel Products
VAN LIEW AVE.
MILLTOWN NJ 08850

Send letter on 1621 plus latest XRAY CURVE

- ① Our program started Aug 1971
- ② Method - X-RAY Diffraction
Plus Optical Microscopy
- ③ Test run on all cosmetic talc
No lots only source.
- ④ → Outside labs do work - i.e.
Prof. Lewis - McCrone LABS, ES LABS
Debell Richardson - H. Fallon - various
universities - customer confirmation

RE: Asbestos/Talc

3/16/76

11-12 AM

Interview -

CBS NEWS CHANNEL 2

MR. JOHN STOFFEL

212-975-6475

Subject - Asbestos IN TALC

Telephone - F. ROESCH

C. Driscoll "Listen IN" on other phone

General - asked about asbestos in
Talc. Have we ever found any
etc.

Advised WCD started program in
1971 to screen Talc used in
industry. Test are run and
no - detectable amounts present.

Was advised of the call from
DR. Petersen of J+J just before
actual call.

(JR)



TRADE & GOVT. MEMOS



INDUSTRY & FDA STUDIES SHOW TALC PURITY. CTFA says in March 17 press release. "The recent allegations concerning asbestos in talc

powders refer to analyses of products purchased in 1973," Cosmetic, Toiletry & Fragrance Assn. (CTFA) said. "These samples do not represent current production. Some products have been positively identified as being of 1970 or earlier production. (One product has not been manufactured since the end of World War II.) In 1971, when improved methodology first uncovered the potential for talcs to contain asbestos, the cosmetic industry took responsible action to protect consumers through monitoring of talc purity and where needed, changing to new talc sources.

"CTFA submitted to FDA on March 15, 1976, summary data on the purity of talc as a raw material and on finished products. These data, covering nearly 4,000 separate analyses, did not show the presence of asbestos in any talc tested since 1973. This substantiates the industry's belief that cosmetic talc products are safe for the consumer. Furthermore, FDA reported recently that analyses on 76 talcs purchased at retail by FDA field inspectors in 1975 showed no indication of asbestos contamination."



SEVEN STATE MEDICAID HEADS HAVE PROTESTED EAC STARTING DATE, scheduled for

April 26, in written presentations to HEW Secty. Mathews. Protests range from total rejection of MAC/EAC program to demands that launch be deferred to Jan. 1, 1977. Practical "impossibility" of meeting April 26 deadline are prominent in protests from Me., Mass., NH, NJ, Pa., Texas and WVa Medicaid administrators. Except for Texas, the seven protests were made via a petition generated at a Jan. 29 meeting in NYC of 13 state Medicaid administrators. Conn., NY, Va., RI, Vt. and D.C. Medicaid administrators did not join the protest. Mass. administrator supports only deferment of EAC. The state has been named with HEW as co-defendant in an anti-MAC lawsuit. Texas Welfare Com. Raymond Vowell wrote

3AC

Memo to Editors

FROM: Dr. Thomas C. Chalmers
President, Mount Sinai Medical Center
New York, New York

.....

Recent media reports concerning research on talc powder carried out by the Mount Sinai Medical Center created considerable confusion on the part of the public. The Medical Center has issued the following statement in order to correct any misinterpretation or misimpressions the media reports may have generated.

Dr. Thomas C. Chalmers
President, Mount Sinai Medical Center
New York, New York

March 23, 1976

FROM: Mount Sinai Medical Center
New York, New York

March 23, 1976

New York, N. Y. -- Recently data from research carried out in the Mount Sinai Medical Center for the last four years on the asbestos content of some talcum powders was cited in the press before it had been published in a scientific journal. The original purpose of this research was to develop effective techniques for measuring the presence of asbestos in talc. The problem has practical implications because prolonged exposure to certain forms of asbestos can cause cancer. The research work was of the highest technical quality and a significant contribution to the field. However, in the process of developing these new methods, the samples actually used had been purchased more than two years ago, a fact which was not mentioned in the media reports. Furthermore, the discovery of asbestos in some talcum powders by the Mount Sinai investigators was reported to the Food and Drug Administration at that time, and undoubtedly stimulated some manufacturers to change their sources of talc, so that recent analyses by the FDA have not revealed appreciable amounts of asbestos in any samples.

The Mount Sinai Medical Center wishes to correct certain confusions which the reporting of these data may have generated:

1) Any implication in the news stories that most of the talcum powder currently on the market contains asbestos is not borne out by the most recent data from the FDA, although continuing surveillance is indicated.

(more)

2) Although the news media specifically emphasized the dangers of talcum powders advertised for babies, the only baby powder tested that was reported to show asbestos represents less than 1% of the market, and that sample was five years old. The most commonly used baby talc has been consistently free of asbestos.

3) It is the opinion of Mount Sinai's Department of Pediatrics that baby talc is a useful and safe product.

Education of the public in respect to health matters is an important responsibility of Academic Health Centers. Educational efforts by such centers must be based on sound scientific principles and must be calculated to provide maximum benefit for the community.

Dissemination of research data on which health recommendations can be based must occur via peer-reviewed scientific publications. The inevitable existence of conflicting data requires that information be made available first to other properly trained experts who may be expected to interpret them individually or through official agencies or committees. The latter is slow but appreciably more reliable than public debates that are fragmented in the reporting.

This experience emphasizes the need for constant vigilance in ensuring that the transition period between discovery of important health related items and their revelation to the public is handled with proper attention to the accuracy of details, as required in scientific publications.

Memo



**COSMETIC,
TOILETRY and
FRAGRANCE**
ASSOCIATION, INC.

1133 15th STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005
PHONE (202) 331-1770

3-23-76

Date

To

Talc Subcommittee

From

M. Parks

Please:

- | | | |
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| ☐ Attend to | ☐ Prepare reply for my signature | ☐ As requested |
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Other Remarks

CIFA WSH

JANDJ NBK

MS. ANITA CURRY XXXX#55 3/23/76 4:10PM TO WASHINGTON

FOLLOWING IS THE PRESS RELEASE ISSUED AT 2:45 P.M. TODAY BY MOUNT SINAI. IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING IT IS A BRIEF MEMO TO EDITORS FROM DR. CHALMERS. AS DISCUSSED, THIS SHOULD BE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO WRC-TV AND WHAL-TV IN WASHINGTON. I KNOW THE WASHINGTON POST IS ALREADY AWARE OF IT AND IT IS MOVING ON PR NEWSWIRE.

MEMO TO EDITORS: RECENT MEDIA REPORTS CONCERNING RESEARCH ON TALCUM POWDER CARRIED OUT BY THE MOUNT SINAI MEDICAL CENTER CREATED CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION ON THE PART OF THE PUBLIC. THE MEDICAL CENTER HAS ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN ORDER TO CORRECT ANY MISINTERPRETATION OR MISIMPRESSIONS THE MEDIA REPORTS MAY HAVE GENERATED.

DR. THOMAS C. CHALMERS
PRESIDENT, MOUNT SINAI MEDICAL CENTER
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

NEW YORK, NEW YORK -- RECENTLY DATA FROM RESEARCH CARRIED OUT IN THE MOUNT SINAI MEDICAL CENTER FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS ON THE ASBESTOS CONTENT OF SOME TALCUM POWDERS WAS CITED IN THE PRESS BEFORE IT HAD BEEN PUBLISHED IN A SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL. THE ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF THIS RESEARCH WAS TO DEVELOP EFFECTIVE TECHNIQUES FOR MEASURING THE PRESENCE OF ASBESTOS IN TALC. THE PROBLEM HAS PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS BECAUSE PROLONGED EXPOSURE TO CERTAIN FORMS OF ASBESTOS CAN CAUSE CANCER. THE RESEARCH WORK WAS OF THE HIGHEST TECHNICAL QUALITY AND A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIELD. HOWEVER, IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING THESE NEW METHODS, THE SAMPLES ACTUALLY USED HAD BEEN PURCHASED MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO, A FACT WHICH WAS NOT MENTIONED IN THE MEDIA REPORTS. FURTHERMORE, THE DISCOVERY OF ASBESTOS IN SOME TALCUM POWDERS BY THE MOUNT SINAI INVESTIGATORS WAS REPORTED TO THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AT THAT TIME, AND UNDOUBTEDLY STIMULATED SOME MANUFACTURERS TO CHANGE THEIR SOURCES OF TALC, SO THAT RECENT ANALYSES BY THE FDA HAVE NOT REVEALED APPRECIABLE AMOUNTS OF ASBESTOS IN ANY SAMPLES.

THE MOUNT SINAI MEDICAL CENTER WISHES TO CORRECT CERTAIN CONFUSIONS WHICH THE REPORTING OF THESE DATA MAY HAVE GENERATED:

1) ANY IMPLICATION IN THE NEWS STORIES THAT MOST OF THE TALCUM POWDER CURRENTLY ON THE MARKET CONTAINS ASBESTOS IS NOT BORNE OUT BY THE MOST RECENT DATA FROM THE FDA, ALTHOUGH CONTINUING SURVEILLANCE IS INDICATED.

2) ALTHOUGH THE NEWS MEDIA SPECIFICALLY EMPHASIZED THE DANGERS OF TALCUM POWDERS ADVERTISED FOR BABIES, THE ONLY BABY POWDER TESTED THAT WAS REPORTED TO SHOW ASBESTOS REPRESENTS LESS THAN 1 PERCENT OF THE MARKET, AND THAT SAMPLE WAS FIVE YEARS OLD. THE MOST COMMONLY USED BABY TALC HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY FREE OF ASBESTOS.

3) IT IS THE OPINION OF MOUNT SINAI'S DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS THAT BABY TALC IS A USEFUL AND SAFE PRODUCT.

EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN RESPECT TO HEALTH MATTERS IS AN IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY OF ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTERS. EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS BY SUCH CENTERS MUST BE BASED ON SOUND SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES AND MUST BE CALCULATED TO PROVIDE MAXIMUM BENEFIT FOR THE COMMUNITY.

DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH DATA ON WHICH HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS CAN BE BASED MUST OCCUR VIA PEER-REVIEWED SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS. THE INEVITABLE EXISTENCE OF CONFLICTING DATA REQUIRES THAT INFORMATION BE MADE AVAILABLE FIRST TO OTHER PROPERLY TRAINED EXPERTS WHO MAY BE EXPECTED TO INTERPRET THEM INDIVIDUALLY OR THROUGH OFFICIAL AGENCIES OR COMMITTEES. THE LATTER IS SLOW BUT APPRECIABLY MORE RELIABLE THAN PUBLIC DEBATES THAT ARE FRAGMENTED IN THE REPORTING.

THIS EXPERIENCE EMPHASIZES THE NEED FOR CONSTANT VIGILANCE IN ENSURING THAT THE TRANSITION PERIOD BETWEEN DISCOVERY OF IMPORTANT HEALTH RELATED ITEMS AND THEIR REVELATION OF THE PUBLIC IS HANDLED WITH PROPER ATTENTION TO THE ACCURACY OF DETAILS, AS REQUIRED IN SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS.

F. ROBERT KNIFFIN,
JOHNSON&JOHNSON CORPORATE PUBLIC RELATIONS

CIFA VSH

JANDJ NEK
M

CBS CHANNEL 2 NEWS
11:00 P.M. - 3/23/76
TAKEN BY TAPE

The study of a report run by two doctors from Mount Sinai Hospital tested nineteen baby and body powders. Nine of the powders reportedly contained asbestos fibers. The companies involved insisted that their products were safe. On March 8th, John Stossel spoke to Dr. Arthur Rohl of Mount Sinai, one of the two researchers on the study. Dr. Rohl stated his conclusions.

After the study, would you use talc?

Certainly not, I think there are enough problems with asbestos without using something like this. I would suggest corn starch as a substitute.

But today, Dr. Thomas Chowmers, president and dean of Mount Sinai, released a statement on a report in which he said the original purpose of this research was to develop effective techniques for measuring the presence of asbestos in talc. The research was of the highest quality. However, the samples actually used had been purchased more than three years ago, a fact that was not mentioned in the immediate reports. Dr. Chowmers also said any implication in the news story that most of the talcum powder currently on the market contained asbestos is not borne out by the most recent data from the FDA. In the opinion of Mount Sinai's department of pediatrics, baby talc is useful and a safe product.

To:

Mr. John C. Woodruff
Mr. Fred Roesch
Whittaker, Clark & Daniels, Inc.

HARRY HOLLAND & SON, INC.
15 SPINNING WHEEL ROAD
HINSDALE, ILL. 60521
PHONES: CHICAGO 312/762-8206
HINSDALE 312/325-5130

SUBJECT

Asbestos in Talcs

DATE

3/26/76

MESSAGE

On March 24th during the 10 PM news, WLS-TV (The Chicago ABC affiliate) reported a retraction of the story on asbestos in talc. After rechecking test results, it was found that only two of the nineteen talcs tested contained asbestos. One of these talcs had not been produced for several years and the other accounted for less than 1% of all talc used for body and baby powders. It was also stated that the level of asbestos in these two products was found to be very low.

This statement was released by the A.P.



Michael E. Durkin

med:dlo

3/26/76

New Row On Sinai Talc Data

By MARIAN BURROS
Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Mt. Sinai Medical Center in New York has issued a statement "to correct certain confusions" about reports of research work conducted at the hospital's Dept. of Environmental Medicine on the asbestos content of some talcum powders.

The Washington Post on March 3 reported the findings, which said that asbestos fibers were discovered in 9 of 19 baby and baby powders studied by the researchers.

Asbestos can cause mesothelioma, a rare form of chest and abdominal cancer, and asbestosis, scarring of lung tissue. In 1972 Dr. William J. Nicholson of Mt. Sinai reported that these diseases caused nearly 40 per cent of the deaths of New York-New Jersey asbestos workers.

The statement made a Wednesday by the center's president, Dr. Thomas C. Chalmers, said:

¶ The only baby powder tested that was reported to show asbestos represented less than 1 per cent of the market and the sample was five years old.

¶ The talcum powders used in the study "had been purchased more than three years ago."

¶ "Recent analyses by the FDA [Food and Drug Administration] have not revealed appreciable amounts of asbestos [in talcum powder]."

Researchers in the Dept. of Environmental Medicine have taken exception to some parts of Chalmers' statement.

Recent Samples

Arthur Rohl, research assistant in the department who worked on the talc study, said most of the powders had been purchased in 1973, but some were purchased as recently as 1975. Asbestos was found in some of the newer samples, he said, though "there was a decline in the amount."

Dr. Irving J. Selikoff, chairman of the department and a leading authority on occupational diseases, said the apparent discrepancy between FDA's findings and Mt. Sinai's is due to a difference in technique. FDA's methods are not sensitive enough to measure asbestos below a certain level, he said.

Selikoff also took exception to the statement issued by Mt. Sinai's Pediatrics Dept. that baby talc is safe and useful. He said: "I think they will live to regret it."

Dr. Horace H. Hodes, chairman of the department, is a member of the board of directors of Johnson & Johnson's Institute for Pediatric Service. The board advises Johnson & Johnson on disbursement of its funds for pediatric research. Members of the board receive no remuneration. Hodes declined to discuss his department's statement on the safety of baby talc.

Talcum Study Clarified by N. Y. Hospital

By Marian Burros

Washington Post Staff Writer

Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York has issued a statement "to correct certain confusions" about reports of research work conducted at the hospital's Department of Environmental Medicine on the asbestos content of some talcum powders.

The Washington Post reported the findings on March 8.

The statement made Wednesday by the center's president, Dr. Thomas C. Chalmers, said:

- The only baby powder tested that was reported to show asbestos represented less than one per cent of the market and the sample was five years old.

- The talcum powders used in the study "had been purchased more than three years ago."

- Recent analyses by the Food and Drug Administration "have not revealed appreciable amounts of asbestos" in talcum powder.

Chalmers also said, "The research work was of the highest technical quality and a significant contribution to the field."

Researchers in the Department of Environmental Medicine have taken exception to some parts of Chalmers' statement.

Arthur Rohl, research assistant in the department

tions. The level of sensitivity is greater with electron microscopy. DTA will not permit you to determine asbestos at less than half a per cent, possibly one per cent, whereas you can determine it at lower concentrations by using electron microscopy."

Selikoff acknowledged that the cosmetics industry has "gone ahead quietly and improved the talc. But there is a huge chink in their armor. They were dusting people with asbestos all these years before, so what was put in the lungs before is still there."

"I certainly wouldn't want to be dusted with any asbestos. There is no safe level of asbestos known," Selikoff said.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the Department of Labor addressed the same issue in a proposed amendment to regulations governing the limits of asbestos exposure for asbestos workers. In printing the proposal in the Oct. 9, 1975, Federal Register, OSHA said it "recognizes that there is no assurance of a safe exposure for a substance with known carcinogenic properties. In this case asbestos, and thus there should be no detectable concentrations."