PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
CAP-356

NASHVILLE BANNER

JANUARY 17, 1968

Health Board Advises Against Asbestos Pipe

By DICK BATTLE

The Metropolitan Board of Health recommended today asbestos cement pipe not be used in the Metropolitan water system "until more evidence can be developed" concerning any health hazard from asbestos fibers.

Dr. Joseph Bistowish, director of health, said the board "has instructed me to recommend to Mr. Lawrence (director of water and sewerage services Robert L. Lawrence) against the use of asbestos pipe at this time until we can get more evidence. We want more information about it before we can make a firm decision."

Councilman James LaPenna has been urging that bidding be opened to allow purchase of asbestos-cement pipe.

Rejected Plea

Lawrence, who is responsible for specifications on materials, has rejected LaPenna's suggestions on the basis cast iron pipe is superior to the asbestos pipe in tensile strength and suitability for use here.

Several medical experts have suggested the possibility that the ingestion of asbestos fibers from the use of asbestos pipe might be a cause of intestinal cancer.

Dr. Bistowish said he also has asked the Nashville Academy of Medicine, through its Public Health Committee headed by Dr. Alvin Keller, to investigate the use of asbestos pipe.

The board in other actions this morning voted to add measles vaccination to the immunizations required for admission to schools, nursery schools and day care centers.

Delays Clinic

The board delayed opening of a public health clinic in the Edgehill Urban renewal project pending "discussion of several problems . . . including the level of indigency and how we can assure follow up care . . ." The director said he would probably discuss the matter with Vanderbilt and General Hospital officials.

Dr. Bistowish said a study of influenza cases involving employes at a local industrial plant indicates a new strain of flu virus, "A-2 Taiwan" was the cause of much of the recent flu epidemic.

He said clinical evidence might develop another strain but "we know this new (A-2 Taiwan) strain has been prevalent here based on the small number of cases checked at one industrial plant."