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PATERSON EVENING NEWS
PATERSON, N. J.
(e) 70,000

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Asbestos Dust

Editor, The News:

You are to be commended for your editorial about the dangers of asbestos dust.

The building demolition industry, however, is not the only potential source of large amounts of asbestos dust.

Automobile and truck brake shoes and discs are formed from a mixture of a resin and asbestos. I have not made the calculation, but if the number of miles driven by vehicles in the U.S. is multiplied by the average brake wear per mile, one intuitively realizes the huge amounts of asbestos dust that are released into the environment, since the total number of miles driven is a very large number.

I do not know if the dust is freely dispersed or remains as larger particles which adhere to some of the resin; or if the more dangerous crystal modification of asbestos is present (asbestos is capable of existing in several crystal forms, one of which is much more carcinogenic than the others.

I suggest that a study of the effects of asbestos in brakes be carried out by concerned federal and state agencies. If these studies give early signs of danger, asbestos brakes should be banned immediately. Substitutes in friction brakes, and other types of brakes utilizing modern technological advances can easily be imagined. Perhaps they will not be as inexpensive to produce, but will be well worth the substitution.

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