

WITH A WHIMPER

Company operates two asbestos
mine in Yukon, and the other at
in Columbia.
open mine and the milling plant
reported high concentrations of
state extremely dusty working
ble for ninety percent turnover in
in periods.

Although a union could conceivably help working conditions, turn-over in staff makes organization ineffective. The large number of non-Canadians hired by the company, and the lack of interest in union activity on the part of these co-workers helps to ensure a weak union.

The Cassiar townsite is located close to the stock piles of asbestos and dust was a continual problem in the town. Workers complained that dust was constantly being blown into the homes and bunkhouses.

Mount Sinai Environmental Medicine Laboratory suggest that asbestos may be the actual villain in ovarian and cervical tumors.

There are several ways in which talcum can be introduced into the female reproductive system. Until recently, doctors used talcum powder to preserve the rubber gloves they wear in pelvic examinations. For the same reason, women dust their birth control diaphragms with talcum. Also, talcum powder is a principal ingredient of feminine hygiene spray.

In addition, asbestos fibres have been detected in the water supplies of several Canadian cities. Asbestos has also been found in Canadian and American beers (some breweries use asbestos filtering pads), in soft drinks, port, vermouth, and sherry.



Townpeople are exposed to an incredible amount of airborne pollutants that are continually being inhaled with predictable results to their health.

The researchers would like to include one personal incident that they observed. During a brief period while filming at the mine site, our automobile was left parked within a hundred yards of the mill for a period of three hours. We discovered upon return that the car was completely covered with a heavy layer of asbestos fibre which in places had accumulated to a depth of a half inch. Worker's bunkhouses were within a short distance of our car. The homes for workers and their families, the cafeteria and other community buildings were only a short distance further.

In Vancouver, seven construction unions walked off the job over what they felt to be hazardous working conditions around asbestos. The workers had been employed in spraying an asbestos material on steel girders in new buildings.

The use of asbestos in the spraying technique is a matter of controversy in the industry. Although no documented information is available on the extent of asbestos spraying in Canada it is estimated that it is on the same scale as the states where fifty percent of new buildings are fireproofed in this manner. The danger in the technique lies in the fact that up to twenty-five or even fifty percent of the asbestos sprayed is wasted and finds its way into the environment.

It is estimated that asbestos spraying is responsible for the major part of asbestos pollution in urban areas.

A surprising source of asbestos pollution is talcum powder. A recent study found that eight out of ten brands of talcum powder available on the market contain asbestos in various amounts. Undoubtedly, both the baby and the mother using talcum powder would inhale fibres released while dusting the baby.

Another recent scientific finding is that the talc used in cheap cosmetics of all kinds have been found to contain asbestos.

In addition, further relationships between talc asbestos and cancer have been uncovered. Researchers found particles of talc in seventy-five percent of ovarian tumors and fifty percent of cervical tumors examined. It is reported that scientists at

Because of these reasons the STOP people make the following recommendations:

1. The use of asbestos as a modelling material by children should be halted immediately.
2. Asbestos materials should be regarded as a material as hazardous as radio-active substances.
3. In mining areas, legislation should be introduced to deal with the hazards to the workers.
4. Employers in all asbestos related industries should inform their employees of the dangers to their health.
5. Cities across Canada should ban the spraying of buildings with asbestos.
6. All asbestos shipped, stored, and handled should be packed in airtight containers.
7. The government should sample all brands of talcum powder available and withdraw those containing asbestos.

provincial health inspectors making
efforts to force minimum standards, the
in the opinion that little good is done

red about provincial health
reported that they came once
but always gave the company
ice. Workers stated that it was
policy to pay men overtime to
all prior to the visits of
vs."

BASED ON A BRIEF
PREPARED BY S.T.O.P.
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