IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

BEAUMONT DIVISION

FILED

JAN 6 1968

James R. [illegible], Clerk, U. S. Court

By Mildred C. Verret DEPUTY

CLAUDE J. TOMPLAIT

vs.

COMBUSTION ENGINEERING, INC., ET AL

CIVIL ACTION NO. 5402

MOTION OF DEFENDANT, PITTSBURGH CORNING CORPORATION, FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

In the above entitled and numbered cause wherein Claude J. Tomplait is Plaintiff and Combustion Engineering, Inc., R & I Refractor and Insulation Corporation, Johns-Manville Products Corporation, Johns-Manville Fiber Glass, Inc., Owens-Corning Fiber Glass Corporation, Pittsburgh Corning Corporation, Gustin-Bacon Manufacturing Company, Pittsburgh Plate and Glass Company, Fibreboard Paper Products Corporation and Eagle-Picher Industries, Inc. are Defendants, PITTSBURGH CORNING CORPORATION files this, its Motion for Summary Judgment, pursuant to Rule 56(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and as grounds for said Motion for Summary Judgment would show:

1.

Plaintiff, Claude J. Tomplait, in his First Amended Complaint, alleges that the Defendants manufactured certain insulation materials which contained chemicals and minerals and deleterious substances which were highly poisonous, dangerous and harmful to human beings and to the health of man; that such materials were defective and were not suitable for the purposes for which they were intended. It is further alleged that beginning in the year 1959, Plaintiff worked in the insulation industry with various employers, all of whom are named in Paragraphs 15 through 36 of the Plaintiff's Petition, and that he came into contact with the various materials specified in said paragraphs. The employers named include work and contact as late as the year 1964.

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Plaintiff alleges that he sustained personal injury as a result of coming into contact with said products. Specifically, he alleges that he sustained serious and permanent injury to his lungs and respiratory system which affected other parts of his body.

2.

Plaintiff, Claude J. Tomplait, filed his claim with the Industrial Accident Board dated February 24, 1962, filed with the Industrial Accident Board March 3, 1962, a certified copy of which is attached, claiming that he sustained severe external and internal injuries including pulmonary fibrosis, etc., while employed with Armstrong Contracting and Supply Company at the Firestone Plant in Orange. He described his condition as of February 24, 1962, as follows: "Injury to my body caused by asbestosis and silicosis causing severe external and internal injuries, namely pulmonary fibrosis, etc." The original claim was dated December 11, 1961 and was filed with the Industrial Accident Board accompanying a letter dated December 14, 1961. This claim states: "Describe Accident and Your Injury (in your own words): Injury to my body caused by asbestosis and silicosis causing severe external and internal injuries including pulmonary fibrosis, etc." This claim shows that the first distinct manifestation of this occupational disease was in July, 1961.

3.

A medical report filed with the Industrial Accident Board by Dr. T. R. Jones addressed to Mr. Claude J. Tomplait, 210 Kay Street, Bridge City, Texas, states that he saw Claude J. Tomplait on 8/1/61 with the chief complaint of dyspnea on exertion, tightness in the chest, malaise, loss of appetite and clubbing of the fingers. The patient gave a history of working for the past 21 years in the insulation business, stating that his job consisted of installing insulation material of various kinds, including asbestos, foam glass, fiber glass, rock wool, silicates, and various other types of insulating materials. He further stated that he had never used a face mask during his entire period of time, and the dusty element is quite considerable at his face level. The material has to be cut with a saw or knife, which creates considerable dust.

Dr. Jones diagnosed the patient's complaints as pulmonary fibrosis secondary to inhalation of probable asbestos fibers, silicates which contain some degree of silica, with a final diagnosis of pneumoconiosis.

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According to the deposition of the plaintiff, Claude J. Tomplait, he was told that he had some spots on his lungs in July, 1961. (Dep., Pg. 31). Dr. Jones told him that if he wanted to live to get out of the insulation work and quit smoking. Tomplait further stated that Dr. Jones told him that his lungs had a lot of insulation materials on them and that both lungs were in bad condition. (Dep., Pg. 32). Dr. Jones told him that he had silicosis and advised him to get out of this type of work. (Dep., Pg. 38).

He knew after he had seen Dr. Jones that if he worked with insulation materials after that date they could do him harm. (Dep., Pgs. 35 and 41).

5.

Claim was made by Tomplait's attorney before the Industrial Accident Board in Case No. W67299, styled Claude J. Tomplait vs. Armstrong Contracting and Supply Company, that claimant's incapacity began on approximately July 26, 1961, and that he was exposed to the hazards of this occupational disease with the following employers: Armstrong Contracting and Supply Corporation, Houston, Texas, from August 17, 1961; the Aber Company, Houston, from approximately September 7, 1961 to the middle of January, 1962; Industrial Insulating, Houston, for approximately one week during the month of October, 1961; Johns-Manville from approximately the middle of January, 1962 to the middle of February, 1962, and Armstrong Contracting and Supply Company, Houston, for one week during the latter part of February, 1962.

6.

There was an appeal from the award of the Industrial Accident Board, with the original petition being filed in Cause No. 13,916 in the 128th District Court of Orange County, styled Claude J. Tomplait vs. The Travelers Insurance Company, et al, a certified copy of said petition being attached hereto, said petition being filed December 21, 1962, alleging personal injury in July,

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1961, while employed by Armstrong Contracting and Supply Company. An amended complaint was filed in said cause on March 25, 1963, complaining of The Travelers Insurance Company, the insurance carrier of Armstrong Contracting and Supply Company; Texas Employers' Insurance Association, the compensation carrier for Johns-Manville Corporation and Johns-Manville Sales Corporation; and Queen Insurance Company of America, the insurance carrier of the Aber Company. A copy of said amended complaint is attached.

A final judgment was rendered in Cause No. A-13,916-A, styled Claude J. Tomplait vs. The Travelers Insurance Company and Texas Employers' Insurance Association, for all claims against Armstrong Contracting and Supply Company and Johns-Manville Corporation and Johns-Manville Sales Corporation on September 16, 1964.

The Claim against the Queen Insurance Company as the workmen's compensation carrier for the Aber Company remained on the docket of the District Court of Orange County under Cause No. A-13,'96, styled Claude J. Tomplait vs. The Queen Insurance Company of America, and judgment was rendered in this cause on May 26, 1966. A certified copy of this judgment is likewise attached.

7.

The Plaintiff's cause of action, if any he ever had, against the Pittsburgh Corning Corporation accrued on the date of any alleged harmful contact with products which may have been manufactured by this Defendant. In any event, the cause of action of the Plaintiff, Tomplait, for personal injury allegedly resulting from contact with this Defendant's product, which is denied, accrued at the time of the diagnosis made by his physician in July or August 1961. This diagnosis was brought to the direct attention of the Plaintiff, Claude J. Tomplait, as he admits that the doctor told him that he had silicosis resulting from the breathing of various products, and that he should get out of the insulation work, otherwise it would continue to be injurious to his health. Despite this warning, the Plaintiff continued to work

with insulation products and is attempting to assert a claim for subsequent exposures in working with insulation products as late as 1964, and probably 1966.

This Defendant says that these facts are undisputed, that the Plaintiff asserted and made his own claim that he had asbestosis in July of 1961, and there was a medical diagnosis in July and August of 1961, of which he was fully advised, and he was advised to get out of insulation work, but failed and refused to heed the advice of the examining physician.

8.

A firm basis for the granting of a Motion for Summary Judgment is that the exposure to dust and the fact that he was being exposed to asbestos products was well known to the Plaintiff, or should have been known, and there existed no duty on the part of any of the Defendants in this case to warn or advise him that he was creating dust from asbestos products by sawing into them and cutting them. He further admits on Page 40 of his deposition that he knew that the sawing and cutting of the products created dust particles into the air which he would breathe into his nose. In any event, neither of the Defendants in this case could be liable or responsible for any contact with its product from and after July or August 1961, when he was advised to discontinue this type of work. The Plaintiff's claim for any alleged injury from and after July and August 1961, is barred by the undisputed facts, in that there existed no duty to warn the Plaintiff of an alleged danger of which he already had knowledge and was fully advised.

9.

PITTSBURGH CORNING CORPORATION further says that if it did furnish the materials to any employer after July and August 1961, the Plaintiff had full knowledge of the potential dangers of working in the dust generated from the cutting and sawing of these products such that he does not have a

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cause of action for damages.

Further, the undisputed facts showing that the Plaintiff continued to work in the insulation industry and subject himself to insulation dust is sufficient to convict him of contributory negligence as a matter of law, at least from and after July and August 1961, when he had full knowledge of the alleged harmful effects from the use of such products.

10.

Various Defendants have filed a cross-action for contribution under Article 2212, Revised Civil Statutes of Texas. This Defendant says that if it is entitled to Summ ary Judgment as against the claim of the Plaintiff, then the Cross-Plaintiffs have no cause of action for contribution as it would not be a joint tort feasor.

11.

This Defendant asks the Court to enter an order to the effect that affidavits and exhibits to this Motion for Summary Judgment be filed separately and such exhibits can be considered as an Exhibit to this Motion, as well as to the Motions of each other Defendant for Summary Judgment without duplicating said Exhibits. This Defendant relies upon the exhibits, the pleadings, and the deposition on file;

WHEREFORE, this Defendant prays that the Court set this Motion for hearing, and after timely notice to the Respondents, that Summary Judgment be granted as against the Plaintiff, and that the claims of the

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cross-plaintiffs for contribution be DISMISSED.

Respectfully submitted:

WELLS, DUNCAN AND BEARD

By George E. Duncan

George E. Duncan
515 Beaumont Savings Building
Beaumont, Texas

Attorneys for Defendant,
PITTSBURGH CORNING CORPORATION

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True copies of this motion for summary judgment were mailed by certified mail on the 16th day of January, 1968, to the following attorneys of record:

Mr. Ben L. Reynolds
Royston, Rayzor & Cook
877 San Jacinto Building
Houston, Texas 77002

Mr. John G. Tucker
Orgain, Bell & Tucker
Beaumont Savings Building
Beaumont, Texas 77701

Mr. Charles S. Pipkin
Strong, Pipkin, Strong & Nelson
P. O. Box 1632
Beaumont, Texas 77704

Mr. John D. Rienstra
King, Sharfstein & Rienstra
707 Beaumont Savings Building
Beaumont, Texas 77701

Mr. Ward Stephenson
Attorney at Law
Stephenson Building
Orange, Texas 77630

Mr. Gordon R. Pate
1119 Beaumont Savings Building
Beaumont, Texas 77701

Mr. George A. Weller
Weller, Wheelus & Green
P. O. Box 350
Beaumont, Texas 77704

George E. Duncan
Of Wells, Duncan and Beard

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LAW OFFICES OF
WELLS, DUNCAN AND BEARD
BEAUMONT SAVINGS BUILDING
BEAUMONT, TEXAS

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