A - THE QUESTIONS

Short and simple answers to difficult questions

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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

UC-4152

Medical and Physical questions

1. If it is not true that 1 fibre can kill a man, how much asbestos than is needed to kill a man ?

2. The limit value of 2 f/ml protects workers from asbestosis risk. Is this value low enough to protect them also from lungcancer and mesothelioma ?

3. Supposing the 2 fiber/ml standard rules out the risk of asbestosis, how much % of the workforce will die from other asbestos diseases in a factory operating at 2 f/ml ?

4. Is it true that mesothelioma can occur after very short exposure to very high concentrations ?

5. If mesothelioma can also be caused by very low concentrations, how can industry justify the sale of asbestos based householdgoods such as simmering pads?

6. How to explain that asbestos diseases are often diagnosed only when it is already too late to stop the disease from progressing ?

7. If the diagnosis of asbestos related diseases is so difficult and requires highly specialized and experienced doctors, does it not mean that many cases remain undetected and that much more people die from asbestos than the reported cases.

8. The fibres which are too fine to be seen by the optical microscope, are they not dangerous ?

9. There are much more asbestos fibres present in the air than those detectable by optical microscopy. How then can industry justify the use of optical microscopy to measure asbestos concentrations in the workplace ?

10. Industry is in favour of optical microscopy because it gives lower figures than the electronmicroscope. Or not ?

11. Asbestos is recognized as a proven human carcinogen. How than to explain th we need not worry about ingestion of asbestos ?

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12. If ingestion of asbestos is harmless, why than have some countries banned asbestos filters for wine ?

13. If ingestion of asbestos is harmless, how than to explain the excess gastro-intestinal cancer risk among AC industry workers found in the Laquet - Lepoutre epidemiological study ?

14 The conviction that ingestion of asbestos is harmless is based on animal experiments. Is this sufficient proof to claim that it is safe for humans.

15. The San Francisco Bay Area study proves that ingestion of asbestos is not harmless. What does industry answer to that ?

16. If the public is not at risk from asbestos in buildings, how than to explain that the US government has found it necessary to remove asbestos from schools?

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Non Medical questions

1. The asbestos industry is opposed to substitution because it is a cheap raw material (Is it true that ...)

2. The use of asbestos is declining in the western world and increasing in third world countries. Is this not a proof that the asbestos industry is taking advantage of the less severe or non existing worker protection or environment protection legislation in these countries ?

3. Can A.C. pipes be recommended for drinking water distribution in third world countries without any restriction ?

4. If asbestos cement is as safe a product as industry claims it to be, why then does industry find it necessary to warn its customers by labelling and why is it necessary to use special tools ?

5. It has been proven that drinking water liberates fibres from AC pipes, and that natural erosion liberates fibres from AC roofs.
Is it right than to claim that asbestos fibres are "locked-in" in A.C. ?

6. Since asbestos fibres are virtually indestructible, is there no danger that they will accumulate in the environmental air and reach unacceptable proportio if the use of asbestos containing products is not prohibited ?

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5 - THE ANSWERS

SHORT AND SIMPLE ANSWERS TO DIFFICULT QUESTIONS

1. Different individuals have different levels of resistance, but studies at mines (McDonald) and factories (Newhouse) indicate that long term exposure to 2 f/ml does not statistically increase the risk.

2. The studies mentioned above indicate that 2 f/ml is a safe level for chrysotile Experience in asbestos-cement factories (Belgium and Austria for example) indicates that crocidolite can be used safely in asbestos-cement (wet processes at this level.

3. See answers to questions 1 and 2.

4. Some individuals are apparently more susceptible than others to mesothelioma, but lung tissue analysis shows that this disease is dose related. See also answer to question 2.

5. It is difficult to believe that domestic articles such as simmering pads could produce enough dust to cause disease. Asbestos can be used safely in factories (questions 1 and 2) at levels much higher than could ever normally be encountered from such articles.

6. It is unfortunately true that asbestos-related diseases have a long latent period during which no changes can be detected.

7. To some degree this is true, but not significantly so where there is good medical experience and expertise in diagnosis.

8. Generally the very fine fibres are too short to lodge in the lung.

9. The optical microscope is at present the only instrument able to provide the necessary speed and convenience in analysis.

10. No, but consistency of measuring methods is essential if standards are to be meaningful.

11. It is obviously not desirable to ingest any mineral material like asbestos, but studies so far indicate that ingestion of asbestos is not a hazard.

12. To be on the safe side only. There is no real evidence of the need for this.

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13. The authors of this study explain that the findings referred to are not likely to be due to asbestos exposure.

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14. No, it must be reinforced by human experience - as indeed it is in many studies of populations ingesting asbestos in drinking water.

15. There is considerable doubt about the validity of the statistical calculation used in this study as shown in Dr. Crump's recent analysis.

16. To be on the safe side, it is very doubtful whether there is justification for removal of material other than exposed or damaged sprayed asbestos insulation.

Non Medical Questions

1. The economic value of asbestos products to the community is an important factor, but it is not true that industry is generally opposed to substitution.

2. It is not true, but this is an important consideration of which the industry is well aware.

3. No, the special considerations necessary when aggressive water is involved must always be recognised.

4. Asbestos products are safe when they are used properly. The industry has a responsibility to provide the means for this.

5. The "locked-in" concept has limitations when all conditions of use are considered. The question of natural erosion must be studied separately. There is no evidence however that natural erosion of a/c products can ever produce dangerous concentrations of respirable asbestos dust.

6. Asbestos fibres settle out relatively rapidly from the air and are washed away or incorporated into the soil.

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