



picks up his ear muffs from cabinet. Muffs on them and are kept in cabinet when he is not in Weave Room.



Another nurse, Patsy Turner, fits muffs on Jean Booth of Scheduling, who frequently goes in Weave Room.



Harry Hylton is shown wearing hearing protective equipment while working as weaver.

Of Program

who are consultants in acoustics and electronics. The Goldberg engineers have made sound pressure level surveys and identified the high noise level locations in Fieldcrest plants. The company then purchased the necessary monitoring equipment and (Continued on Page Eight)

s Protection

Labor Department requires that firms holding government contracts of over \$10,000 must limit industrial noise to permissible levels on the "A" scale. The "A" scale is equivalent to sounds generated in the normal voice ranges. The exact permissible noise level depends upon the length of time an individual worker is exposed to noise at a particular level. Weave rooms at Fieldcrest are generally the locations with the highest noise level and where ear protection is required. However, other "trouble spots" will be given attention after the protective measures are taken in the weave rooms so that requirements are fully complied with. It should be pointed out that if any part of a company holds government contracts above \$10,000, then every part of the company comes under the regulations, and protective equipment must be worn in all locations requiring it until solutions to the noise problem can be found.

In Blanket Weave Room

Wearing Ear Muffs Becomes Mandatory

The mandatory wearing of hearing protective equipment became effective in the Blanket Weave Room Monday, July 13, following an adjustment period.

All employees of the department were fitted with an ear muff type of protection the week of June 8 and the intervening time was used for working out any individual problems.

The Blanket Weave Room employees thus became the first to participate in this phase of the comprehensive hearing conservation program adopted by the company to protect employees against possible hearing loss due to excessive noise levels in some locations.

Production employees and management personnel of the Blanket Weave Room are now required to wear ear protection during the entire shift when they are in the weave room.

Other persons who go into the weave room to perform various tasks must wear the protection and all visitors, both company and non-company, are required to wear ear protection while in the weave room.

The protective device being used is an acoustical earphone which reduces the noise going into the inner ear to a safe level but allows conversation and warning sounds to be heard.

It is similar to the ear protection worn by airport personnel when working around jet aircraft and to those

selected by other textile companies for use by their employees.

The ear muffs were fitted individually on the Blanket Weave employees for comfort and effectiveness by Dr. J. G. Springer, Fieldcrest medical director, and registered nurses from the Medical Department at the General Offices. Each employee was instructed in the use of the protective equipment.

A personal set of ear muffs with his name on it was issued to every Blanket Mill Weave Room employee. The ear muffs are kept in cabinets in the weave room where the employee picks up his pair as he comes to work and returns them to the cabinet at the end of the work shift.

Although there was some discomfort at first, Dr. Springer said it was considered remarkable that of the approximately 300 persons fitted, only six were found to have medical reasons for not wearing the protection. These cases are being handled on an individual basis, Dr. Springer said.

The protective equipment will be issued to Sheeting Weave Room employees next. A series of meetings with the employees will be held beginning July 14, at which the hearing conservation program will be explained and the protective equipment demonstrated. The program will be extended to remaining weave room locations and other high noise areas as soon as is practicable.