

strate why:

ITEM--Union Carbide's plant in Tonawanda, New York, near Buffalo, manufactures the "molecular sieve," and absorbent chemical powder with many commercial uses. Last spring, union examinations of eighteen workers who had been employed in that department showed that all eighteen had acute bronchitis, all eighteen had suffered from dermatitis, seven had emphysema and two had circulatory problems caused by ulcerated sores. Yet Union Carbide claimed none of the men had "any occupationally incurred pulmonary (lung) problems" according to company medical records.

Harvey Cowan, a chemical operator at the plant after more than five years, left in 1967 totally disabled from emphysema. He filed for workmen's compensation in 1969 after suffering two heart attacks, but Union Carbide refused to bring the case before the compensation board. On Sept. 26, 1970, Cowan died, at age fifty-five.

A union representative who approached management got this reply from one executive: "I'm not in the business of safety, I'm in the business of making molecular sieves."

ITEM--Workers in the American textile industry are almost unanimously assaulted by a trio of dangerous hazards in waving mills, most of which are located in Southern states. Clouds of raw cotton fibers cause a serious respiratory ailment known asbyssinosis, from which 100,000 workers are now suffering and to which another 250,000 are exposed. Breathing tiny particles of asbestos, a hazard in textile mills since the 1800's results in asbestiosis, a loss of lung function, or mesothelioma, a deadly form of lung cancer

which is unique to those who have breathed asbestos dust. And finally, ear-drum-damaging noise pollution in mills is among the worst in American industry with workers constantly exposed to decibel levels above one hundred, when eight-five decibels are harmful.

Acoustical engineering studies indicate noise could be reduced in mills for about fifty cents per month per employee. Yet the industry does nothing, despite the convincing evidence and relatively low cost of correction.

ITEM--Proponents of American nuclear power--both for industry and defense--have consistently maintained that mining large stockpiles of uranium is more vital than protecting miners by setting strict exposure standards for radon, the cancer-producing gas permitted in mines. Environmentalists familiar with the Atomic Energy Commission's long reluctance to establish truly safe standards for radiation exposure were not surprised when the industry's Federal Radiation Council dragged its feet in demanding proper ventilation of radon gas in uranium mines.

For mining operations on the Colorado Plateau, the FRC set "standards" that were ten to one hundred times the levels set by the International Commission on Radiological Protection, neutral, non-industrial agency. Still, compensation claims by disabled miners or the families of deceased miners are often denied because "little is known" about the correlation between deadly radon gas and cancer. But much is known, it seems about the profit-making potential of the uranium industry, for which the AEC and the FRC have both lobbied in Congress.

Who is at work to begin correcting such shocking and criminal