

making a special point of contacting parents of new-borns within OPPT.

For information about the program call Joe (260-2659) or Cindy (260-3886).

**EPA AND ANDERSON LABS KILL MICE IN CARPET TOXICITY TESTS: VERMONT NIXES 4-PC CARPET USE** by Bill Hirzy From January 5 through 8, EPA and Anderson Laboratories researchers conducted parallel toxicity tests in Massachusetts on the same carpet sample, using each others' equipment. Each group killed one of four test mice.

According to a Congressional staff representative who witnessed the testing, the EPA group leader was "exhorting the mouse in the EPA test chamber not to die." The ORD Division Director of the EPA group, Bob Dyer, commented on the parallel toxicity testing to Associated Press writer David Gram saying, "Basically there was no scientific study done there that I was aware of." Dyer was reported to have indicated that the studies were "inconclusive." AP reports that Rosalind Anderson rejoined, "He's out of his mind." In spite of the results and the need for EPA to take action to protect the public as well as the carpet and chemical industries, EPA remains reluctant to face up to the fact that carpet can - and is - causing severe adverse health effects.

The results led Rep. Bernard Sanders (I-VT) to again ask EPA to drop its participation in the Carpet and Rug Institute's "Green Tag" program. (The Union filed a grievance on the same issue in September which was denied in turn by Bob Axelrad and his boss Eileen Claussen.) EPA's Vic Kimm, Mark Greenwood, Bob Axelrad and others met with Rep. Sanders on February 2 to "discuss next steps."

EPA says it will be June 30 before "real" verification of Anderson's work is done, and about two years more before any regulatory action could start. In the meantime, EPA is willing to change the carpet brochure it and industry are happy with to the effect that some people report flu- and allergy like symptoms, and asked those who "signed on" to the previous brochure (Carpet and Rug Institute, et al.) for comments on the proposed new language.

On February 3, Rep. Sanders met with Local 2050, representatives of other Congressional offices, several Attorneys General, consumer groups and Dr. Anderson to discuss EPA's "next steps" proposal. Dr. Anderson said that she has now tested 200 carpet samples submitted by prospective purchasers, carpet mills themselves, and people complaining of ill-effects; ten of the 200 were "OK"...yes, 95% were toxic to mice. She stopped counting "Street Stories"-inspired phone calls from consumers complaining of adverse effects at 600. Many of these deal with induction of seizures, convulsions and asthma in children, as well as chemical sensitivity and more "routine" breathing problems and irritancy in adults. Pathology findings on dead mice include severe lung and brain damage.

Based on that meeting, the Union has submitted its comments on the new language to Charles Auer of EPA. We have asked that the Dialogue be reconvened to consider the new language and the Anderson/EPA research findings. Copies of our letter to Auer are available.

Meanwhile, the State of Vermont, acting as EPA Headquarters did in 1988, has announced that it will no longer buy or use 4-PC containing carpet. And CBS has another "Street Stories" nearing broadcast featuring a carpet victim in the western U.S. whose lung pathology mimics that seen in Dr. Anderson's mice and in a Georgia carpet mill worker in

SERIOUS CONDITION.