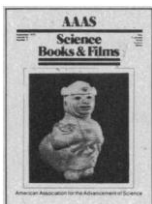


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Johns-Mansville who showed it to me." He adds, however, that "Fenwick is not a paid stooge for Johns-Mansville" and that both he and she supported the legislation "because it would ameliorate the current very serious human problem facing these workers."

Fenwick's staff also claims that Larry Cohen, an attorney for the asbestos workers' union, is partly responsible for drafting it. Cohen told *Science* that "Johns-Mansville very definitely initiated the idea. They came to us with the idea of joining in a legislative approach as a substitute for litigation, which had been a hit-or-miss deal for our members. They did present the first draft, but we also exercised our option to object to it, and it went through eight or nine drafts before it was introduced by Fenwick. We did get some of the figures changed along the way to get a more liberal bill from the worker's standpoint."—R. JEFFREY SMITH

### Nitrite Study

Publication of P. N. Newberne's report "Nitrite promotes lymphoma incidence in rats" (8 June, p. 1079), without alerting uninformed readers to the controversy surrounding the work upon which the report is based, is premature to say the least.

Readers of *Science* should be informed that the results reported by Newberne lack credibility at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which sponsored the study at a cost of about \$500,000. According to the FDA, "Pathologists associated with the Interagency Working Group on Nitrite Research have determined that there appears to exist a substantial difference with respect to their diagnostic opinions concerning the histopathology as compared to diagnoses made by Dr. Newberne and his associates" (1). As a consequence of this "substantial difference," the FDA has contracted with Universities Associated for Research and Education in Pathology, at a cost of \$458,095, to determine whether or not the data generated by Newberne and his associates are reliable (2).

PAUL G. ROEHRIG

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### References

1. A. C. Kolbye, "Justification for non-competitive procurement" (Internal memorandum, contract No. 223-79-2263, "Re-evaluation of histopathology of M.I.T. chronic nitrite ingestion studies in rats," Bureau of Foods, FDA, Washington, D.C., 19 October 1978).
2. *Food Chem. News*, 2 April 1979, p. 49.