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MEETING NOTICE

CITIZENS COMMITTEE ON THE STATE OFFICE BUILDING

DATE: January 17, 1983

TIME: 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

PLACE: Opportunities for Broome, Inc.  
56 Whitney Avenue  
Binghamton, New York 13901

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Plan an activity to coincide with the anniversary of the fire at the State Office Building. The fire occurred on Feb. 5th, 1981.

Suggestions, to date, are to have:

- A. A mass demonstration at noon time on Feb. 4th;
  - B. A mass demonstration on Saturday, the 5th.
2. Follow up on the demands made as a result of the Dec. 9th meeting which was attended by approximately 120 persons. (A copy of those demands are attached.)

It is necessary to follow up on the successful meeting of Dec. 9th. If there is an interest in the health hazards posed by re-opening the State Office Building, we must show it.

For further information call:

Nike McGuire	797-6911 - evenings
Kelly Lynch	723-6493 - days
Mae Weiss	723-7842, evenings

CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE ON THE BINGHAMTON STATE OFFICE BUILDING

PRESS RELEASE

FOLLOW UP ON THE PUBLIC FORUM ON THE BINGHAMTON STATE OFFICE BUILDING HELD ON DECEMBER 9th, BINGHAMTON NEW YORK

- 1.. We demand immediate transfer of the medical surveillance to an appropriate academic group with expertise in the area. The committee is concerned with the conflict of interest created by the State which is the polluter and defendant and in charge of medical surveillance. In addition, the surveillance as developed by the defendants is unacceptable. Medical surveillance of exposed persons should be life long, just as would be indicated after asbestos exposure or exposure to other chemicals which remain in the body. Fat biopsy for furans, PCB's, biphenylenes, and dioxins, and other special tests should be performed on exposed persons who request it. This should include persons working in or using contaminated parts of the State Office Building, the parking garage, City Hall, or County Office Building.
2. The first priority of the State must be to the health of those exposed. To date, many more dollars have been allocated and expended by the State on the building than on persons exposed to the deadly chemicals found within the State Office Building, and also in the parking garage and in City Hall, which, as indicated last night by the City's consultant Dr. Verbit, was contaminated by the explosion.
3. We accept the invitation of the State to have the Citizens Committee appoint a representative on the State panel. We appoint Ellen Silbergeld of the Environmental Defense Fund to be our representative at this time. The unions which represent the workers affected should appoint representatives to the State's expert panel. One of these representatives must be an expert who can accurately assess the psychological problems that have and shall arise.
4. David Rings, Office of General Services, said last night that the State is in the process of developing psychiatric means to prepare the workers for re-entry to the building. We reject this position and are affronted by Ring's efforts at manipulation. Workers should not be forced to enter the building at the threat of the loss of their jobs.

- 5/ ~~YESTERDAY'S~~ PRESS RELEASE BY THE  
release by the state Health Department indicates  
that the State is not aware of medical problems that are related to  
the fire. We are appalled by apparent attempts on the part of the  
State and Broome County Health Departments to apparently misrepresent  
the serious nature of toxic chemicals and their effects on people.  
The State refuses to acknowledge the existence of real health  
effects which have been reported to them. This committee is  
aware of health problems which occurred to persons who were inside  
the Binghamton State Office Building since the incident.
6. The State must acknowledge that there is little information

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6. The State must acknowledge that there is little information on the toxic effects of most of the chemicals found in the State Office Building, the parking garage, City Hall, and the County Office Building. The Committee demands an expanded assessment of risk covering all the known effects of these chemicals. If the building is to be re-opened these standards must be satisfied as a minimum. The Committee on the State Office Building believes that there is no way that the building can be cleaned and re-opened if the State holds to Dr. N. Kim's assessment. Mr. Kings again restated last night the State's commitment to clean all areas of the building to the same levels as in other buildings. The Committee agrees with Mr. Kings and demands that this commitment must also be satisfied.

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The Committee on the State Office Building is supported by:

CSEA Local 604;

Broome County Federation of Labor - AFL-CIO;

New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPiRG);

Opportunities for Broome, Inc.; Binghamton Civil Service Forum;

Community and Labor Coalitions; IBM Workers United;

Binghamton West Side Council; Binghamton Firefighters Association;

Binghamton South Side Council; CSEA Local 002;

Many individuals who work in the Government Complex

For further information, contact: Charlotte Moran 729-9470,

Debra Smith 727-7950, Mike McGuire 797-6911, Nypirg 798-4977.