

Safety Concerns, 1930s

Doug Fraser retired President, United Auto Workers, Oral History Interview:

Back in the old days, the union was ignorant in terms of chemicals or the environment. I remember working in the summer; we used to take our shirts off and work in our undershirts. We would be brown by the end of the day. And the foreman would say, "That's iron in your body." Nobody wore respirators. And the sound was deafening in the press room, but nobody wore ear protection. Things have changed dramatically both in the cleanliness and safety of the plants.