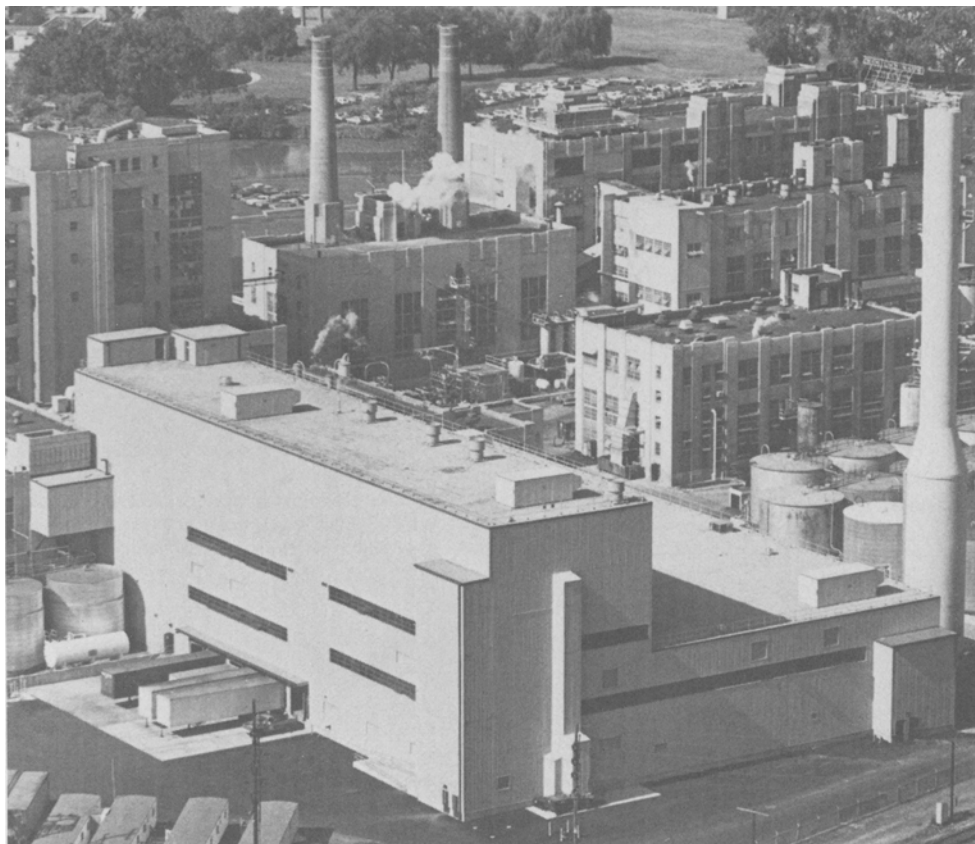


## Lever dedicates new plant



Aerial view of new Lever Brothers Bar Soap Plant (foreground), which more than doubles the company's soap processing and packing capacity at its Hammond, Indiana, installation.

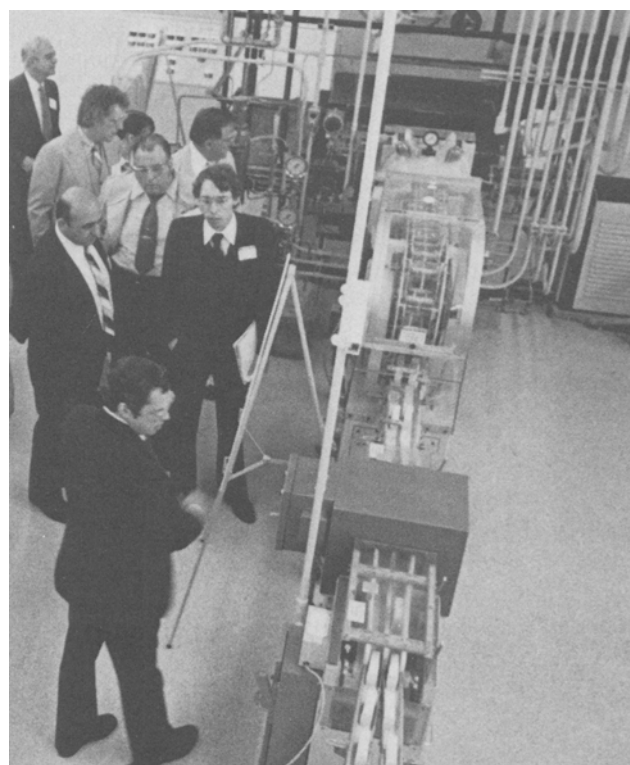
In formal dedication ceremonies on Oct. 17, 1980, Lever Brothers Co. officially commissioned its new \$43 million, 120,000 square foot bar soap plant in Hammond, Indiana.

Michael Angus, Lever's chairman, said the plant is "one of the most technologically advanced plants in the United States and the world." The major technological advancement is the use of continuous soapmaking technology that Unilever had developed previously in Europe. The continuous processing replaces batch processing and, according to Lever's description, "reduces a 10-day processing operation to a matter of hours."

The soapmaking portion of the operation was not open for tours during the dedication (as were the packaging operations), but basically involves saponification of tallow and/or vegetable oils (coconut), followed by centrifuging to produce the "neat" soap. Glycerin, a byproduct, is sold as a chemical feedstock.

The liquid soap then is stored in the packaging section of

**Visitors to Lever Bros. plant view bar soap production line.**



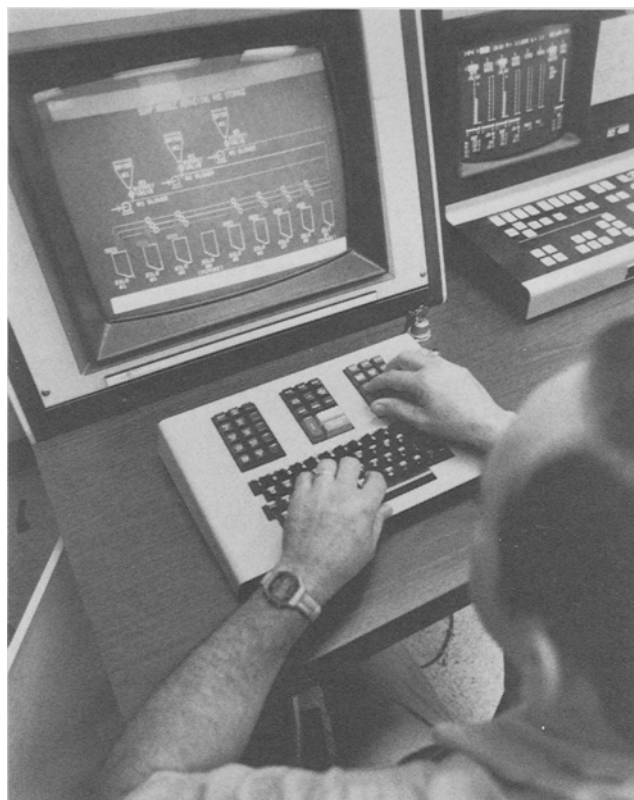
the plant until it is dried into noodles. The noodles are stored in one of seven storage silos capable of holding 120,000 pounds each. The silos are on the top floor of the four-story plant, along with perfumes, whitening agents and moisturizing ingredients. These are gravity-fed to the packaging floor where extruders produce a continuous log of soap which is then cut into bars, shaped and stamped before packaging.

The production line at Hammond can produce up to 400 bars per minute, according to Jim Vaka, project manager for bar soaps, and up to 5.25 million cases of bar soap a year. Each regular case holds 48 six-ounce bars. Storage is available for up to nine days' production. The new plant effectively doubles Lever's soap capacity in Hammond. The bar soap lines produce Lifebuoy, Lux and Shield. Other production units at the Hammond plant produce toilet bars, laundry and dishwashing liquid detergents, margarines, syrup and shortening. Products are shipped to 19 states.

The showiest part of the packaging operations is the control room, where microprocessors, computers, and video displays of the flow process permit close monitoring of production for quantity and quality.

Kenneth Durham, vice-chairman of Unilever Ltd., said at the dedication ceremonies that the modernization will enable Lever to market "products of quality at least cost."

The Hammond plant is Lever's largest manufacturing facility. The first Lever plant was constructed there in 1930, producing Lifebuoy, Lux, Lux Flakes and Rinso soap powder. □



Microprocessing room closely monitors and controls continuous soapmaking process at Lever Brothers Bar Soap Plant, using computerized equipment that can electronically change formulations with the push of a button.

## Cosmetic regulation talks available

The 1980 subscription service for International Cosmetic Regulations is available and subscription forms may be obtained from the International Federation of the Society of Cosmetic Chemists, 56 Kingsway, London WC2B 6DX, England.

Papers were presented during the 1980 International Cosmetic Regulation annual conference on Italy, Latin America, EEC, United States, Greece, Philippines, The Netherlands and a paper from Germany on voluntary fragrance industry regulation.

The conference on regulations followed the 11th Congress of the IFSCC held during September in Venice, Italy. Americans elected to serve as officers included Dr. W.E. Lange as honorary secretary and S.E. Allured as central coordinator. The new president of the group is Dr. A. Cocchini of Italy. □

## Briefs

The PQ Corporation's Bulletin 41-26 provides 80 formulations for industrial and commercial cleaning compounds and detergents; available from The PQ Corporation, PO Box 840, Valley Forge, PA 19842. □

### Closing dates may be changed for color additives

The FDA administration has proposed changing the closing dates for provisionally listed color additives. The proposed changes would extend the closing dates for 23 food, drug and cosmetic, and drug and cosmetic colors from dates in 1981 or 1982 into 1982 or 1983, respectively. Provisionally listed colors may be used until the closing dates, unless they receive approval for permanent listing in the interim. Persons seeking to comment on the proposed changes have until Jan. 13, 1981. Details: *Federal Register*, Friday, Nov. 14, 1980, p. 75226.