TIFTON, GA.
GAZETTE
D. 9,000

OCT 8 1976

Two Views

The way in which powerful industries view their responsibility to society can have a profound effect on the type of world in which Americans live.

Two contrasting examples this week make the point.

On the one hand, Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Co. announced that it will halt production of poly-chlorinated biphenyl (PCB) as quickly as it can be phased out because of potentially adverse effects. PCB is used in the manufacture of electrical components and other specialized items.

The chemical, which is virtually indestructible, is thought to cause reproductive failures, gastric disorders and skin lesions in mammals. Monsanto's decision will greatly reduce potential for further harmful pollution by PCB.

On the other hand, two firms were fined more than $17 million by a federal court for illegally dumping the pesticide Kepone into the historic James River in Virginia. The firms included Allied Chemical Corp., which admitted 940 separate instances of putting highly toxic chemicals into the river.

The result has been a fishing ban on the James — a ban which might have to be extended to Chesapeake Bay, one of the nation's biggest and most vital sources of fish and marine life. In addition, humans have suffered effects of Kepone poisoning.

Two major firms, two different views. One begins a voluntary action to end production because of the hazards; the other must be stopped by official and court action. In such ways is the fate of the nation's people and their environment determined.

MONS 050846