

BCC: Mr. J. R. Eck
Mr. D. J. Forrestal
Mr. E. V. John
Mr. T. C. Ford
Mr. J. J. Spano

Monsanto

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

Monsanto Company
800 N. Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63166
Phone: (314) 684-1000

PERSONAL

July 20, 1970

Mr. Richard J. Pothier
Science Writer
The Miami Herald
1 Herald Plaza
Miami, Florida 33101

Dear Mr. Pothier:

Thanks for writing and giving me your comments about my letter to the editor in advance of publishing.

I don't think it's necessary for us to belabor the matter further. Things are never as black as some people think or as white as others would like to have them.

In our case we thought we were getting a pretty black eye when maybe all we deserve is a gray one.

For your personal information, our PCB material in transformers is required by law in many states. Since the only substitute material is so unreliable as to blow up and catch fire at times, we are obliged to continue making PCB available to the power companies.

As for the list of products using PCB, we have always supplied the general types of use. We have not given specific "brand names" since this would violate confidences with customers. In addition, we have withdrawn PCB from the majority of these individual markets. Putting it another way: We are not now making the product available for any use where it is not confined in a closed system.

In Monsanto's case it's not so much the matter of polishing an image as it is keeping people from panicking themselves into an untenable situation such as legislating a useful material out of existence before a reasonable substitute can be found

Thanks again for your courtesy. Under separate cover, I'm sending you a copy of a report on a symposium sponsored by Monsanto this

DSW 282012

STLCOPCB4063340

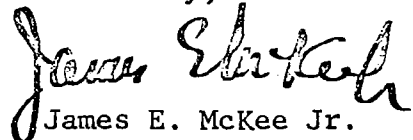
Mr. Richard J. Pothier

-2-

July 20, 1970

spring. As a Science Editor, you might find something of interest in it.

Sincerely,


James E. McKee Jr.
Assistant Editor

/eb

P.S. Next time
you do a story about
us why don't you give
us a call? My number
is (314) 694-2864.
Call it collect. 

DSW 282013

STLCOPCB4063341