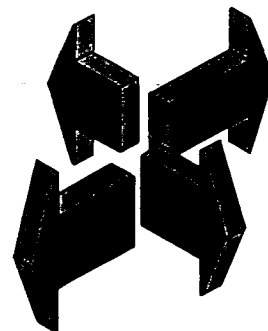


MCA NEWS

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Study Shows Death Rate Average for VC Workers

The findings of a survey contracted by MCA show that vinyl chloride workers, in the aggregate, experience death rates from all causes that compare favorably with other U.S. male industrial workers. This, in spite of the now well-recognized risk of angiosarcoma of the liver among such workers. The only statistically significant differences in their specific mortality rates appeared where reported death rates were lower than that of the general population.

Although the total number of cases was

small, there did appear to be suggestive dose-related increases in the incidence of cancers of the urinary organs and the brain in the longer-exposed workers, as compared with their counterparts who, at the time of death, had worked for shorter periods in jobs exposing them to vinyl chloride.

Employees Identified

These results were reported May 10th by Dr. Irving R. Tabershaw to a meeting held under the auspices of the New York Academy of Sciences. In the course of the

study, the firm of Tabershaw-Cooper Associates Inc. had identified 8,384 past and present employees of the VC/PVC industry, and had determined the vital status of 7,128. Among these individuals, 352 deaths had occurred during the period under study and, of these, death certificates had been obtained on 328.

Release of subsequently acquired data is planned in a supplementary report.

Earlier, MCA had announced preliminary indications that vinyl chloride exposure has produced angiosarcoma in mice at several exposure levels.

Industrial Bio-Test Laboratories, Inc., which is conducting the MCA-administered vinyl chloride animal exposure study, informed MCA that its work—although very preliminary at this point—tends to confirm the findings of Professor Cesare Maltoni, an Italian scientist who found that vinyl chloride exposure caused cancer in rats.

MCA immediately notified the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the Environmental Protection Agency of the preliminary test results.

Mice Affected

In the MCA-administered study, rats, hamsters and mice are being exposed seven hours a day, five days a week, to 2,500 parts per million (ppm), 200 ppm and 50 ppm. After seven months of exposure, angiosarcoma has been observed in mice at all levels, but not in rats or hamsters.

Professor Maltoni reported at the OSHA hearings on vinyl chloride February 15 that he had observed the liver cancer in rats exposed four hours a day, five days a week, to 250 ppm for up to 12 months. However, he did not find the cancer in testing at the 50 ppm level.

The animal exposure study is continuing, and further vinyl chloride testing is under consideration.

Former Commerce Head Peterson To Speak at June Annual Meeting

Peter G. Peterson, chairman of Lehman Brothers Inc. and former secretary of commerce, will be the main speaker at MCA's 102nd Annual Meeting at The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., June 6-8.



Peter G. Peterson

Safety Award for having made the greatest improvement in industrial safety during the past five years.

Agendas for the business session June 6 will be mailed around May 15 to executive contacts.

Joins Investment Firm

Just prior to joining Lehman, an international investment banking firm, Mr. Peterson served as ambassador and personal representative abroad for President Nixon.

More than 900 persons have registered for the meeting, at which six of the nation's outstanding chemistry teachers will be honored along with four companies that will receive the Lammot du Pont

He joined the firm as vice chairman and board member in June 1973 and was elected to his present post in August of that year.

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Appeals Court Finds Economics Can Enter Into OSHA Rulings

A decision that could have a substantial bearing on the shape of occupational health standards to be administered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration was handed down by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia on April 15.

The court's decision was reached on a petition of the Industrial Union Department, AFL-CIO, for a review of the secretary of labor's Standard for Exposure to Asbestos Dust under the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

Briefly, the court denied the petition to review the asbestos standard, except for

continued on page 3

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MCA Firms Told of Suits Trying To Protect Right of Rules Review

MCA is advising member companies of certain lawsuits undertaken by several major chemical companies to protect their legal rights to judicial review of wastewater guidelines and standards issued by the Environmental Protection Agency. The regulations cover effluent guidelines and new plant standards for inorganic chemicals, plastics and synthetics and organic chemicals under the 1972 Water Pollution Control Act.

The principal petitions are before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in Richmond. Related proceedings have been filed in other courts. MCA has filed a motion to join the petitioners challenging the effluent guidelines on inorganic chemicals in the Fourth Circuit because the major legal questions involved concern all the Association's members. Those issues are:

- Whether judicial review of effluent guidelines *must* be sought in the Court of Appeals within 90 days of their issuance, and
- Whether EPA is not required to fix guidelines flexibly.

Law Ambiguous

The 1972 law is not completely clear on the 90-day limit. If the limit does not apply to the guidelines at this stage, guidelines would be subject to challenge later in connection with discharge permits issued under them.

If the court rules the other way, a producer could be severely penalized by not taking legal action within 90 days from issuance dates. This could result because effluent guidelines requirements could be written into discharge permits after the 90-day period as non-negotiable requirements and might then be totally immune from court action.

EPA's effluent limitation guidelines and standards published March 12 for inorganic chemicals, April 5 for plastics and synthetics, and April 25 for organic chemicals, are *final* rules and regulations.

MCA is suggesting that member companies evaluate their environmental control programs and determine whether they can comply, and it also suggests that they may wish to consider filing a legal challenge. Although other companies have already

done so, the Association points out, suits may not cover the particular concerns of any individual company.

Filing Dates Given

Under the 1972 act, legal challenges to the standards for *new* plants *must* be filed within 90 days from March 12, April 5 or April 25 unless based solely on new data. If not challenged within 90 days, the standards must be met by new plants and there will be no variances.

MCA is *not* seeking to participate in litigation concerning guidelines on individual products in view of the Association's long-standing policy not to become involved in individual product problems of this nature. Its staff and general facilities are wholly inadequate for product-by-product considerations, and there is potential anti-trust sensitivity for MCA in activity of this sort.

The Association is asking that MCA President William J. Driver be advised of any legal actions a company takes on the EPA regulations.

What Is Business?

MCA NEWS reprints without comment the following editorial from Nation's Business.

The energy problem has brought attacks not just on oil companies but on business as a whole. Critics demand that business somehow be punished.

We wonder what they mean by "business."

All the businesses we know are owned by people—whether by one guy, a few partners, or thousands of stockholders.

Businesses buy from people, too—some big ones buy from thousands of suppliers.

Businesses give people jobs—a total of 90.5 million.

And businesses serve people—providing the goods and services all 212 million of us need and want.

Whom would it hurt to punish business?

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Brussels Tariff Hearings Planned For Chemicals

The United States Tariff Commission has begun public hearings on its staff's proposals to accomplish conversion of the Tariff Schedules of the United States to the Brussels Tariff Nomenclature (BTN).

The Commission has scheduled the hearings by groups of BTN chapters, which are, in effect, a division into industrial sectors. The principal coverage for chemicals is in BTN chapters 28 through 40, on which hearings are scheduled for August 12 in New York.

Members of the commission's chemical division staff are providing the industry the opportunity to make suggestions before the formal release of the draft chapters, 30 days before the hearings are to begin.

The hearings are the result of a study begun at the request of the President after an appeal to him by the Office of the Special Trade Representative, which anticipated international negotiations on such a tariff conversion.

To keep the new tariff structure within reasonable size, a number of changes in U.S. import duties will be necessary, and it is these changes which will be the subject of the August hearings.

Trade Advisor Asks Help In Cutting Non-Tariff Bars

The cooperation of U.S. chemical manufacturers in an effort to reduce non-tariff barriers to trade is being requested by the Office of the Chemical Industry Trade Advisor.

The effort stems from the intention of the Office of the Special Trade Representative to negotiate actively on the reduction of such barriers on behalf of the U.S., regardless of whether or not Congress enacts a new trade bill this year. Accordingly, the special task forces formed to assist the trade advisor are now seeking to identify non-tariff barriers to U.S. chemical exports.

The success of the trade advisor in providing such information should enhance the U.S. negotiating position during the discussions.

President's Annual Reception Draws Many Notables



More than 350 persons attended the President's Annual Reception for Members of Congress and government officials on April 8 at the Madison Hotel in Washington. Among the many dignitaries attending were Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan, 10 senators and more than 50 congressmen. At left, President William J. Driver and Senator Vance Hartke (D-Ind.),

left, listen to Secretary Brennan make a point. At right, President Driver gestures to MCA Executive Committee Chairman Jack B. St. Clair in a conversation with Senator Harrison A. Williams, Jr. (D-N.J.), right, after the senator was greeted by Werner C. Brown, MCA's chairman of the board.

Economics Can Affect OSHA Rulings

(Continued from page 1)

remanding it to the secretary for re-examination of the following:

- The uniform application of the 1976 effective date of the two fiber standard.
- The three-year retention period for monitoring records.

Of importance is the court's finding that economic feasibility could properly be included as a factor entering into the secretary's conclusion regarding standards.

The court adds, however, "... this qualification is not intended to provide a route

by which recalcitrant employers or industries may avoid the reforms contemplated by the act."

Another matter of interest is the court's view regarding the weight to be accorded by the secretary of labor to National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health recommendations, stressing that such recommendations are only an "aid." "The NIOSH recommendation was undoubtedly important in the eyes of Congress as an aid to the secretary, but we cannot see that it was intended as more than that," the court stated.

Peter Peterson to Speak at Annual Meeting of Association

(Continued from page 1)

Appointed commerce secretary on January 27, 1972, he was asked at the same time by the President to assume the chairmanship of the National Commission on Productivity, which included leaders from business, labor and the public sector, as well as the secretaries of treasury, labor, commerce and the director of the Office of Management and Budget.

At the age of 34, Mr. Peterson was elected president of Bell & Howell and two years later he was named chief executive officer, the position he held until February 1971, when he joined the White House as

the assistant to the president for international economic affairs.

A former part-time university faculty member and advertising firm vice president at 27, Mr. Peterson left his mark at Bell & Howell. During his nine years of leadership, corporate sales more than doubled and operating earnings more than quadrupled.

The recipient of numerous achievement awards, he graduated summa cum laude from Northwestern University with a B.S. degree and received his M.B.A. degree with honors from the University of Chicago.

House Unit Reviews Safety, Health Act; Suggestions Invited

The House Select Subcommittee on Labor is holding oversight hearings on the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 under the chairmanship of Congressman Dominick C. Daniels (D-N.J.) for the purpose of reviewing the act for possible legislative strengthening.

The subcommittee is especially interested in specific examples and experiences of difficulties with the act and its administration that indicate where some correction appears needed. Criticisms of OSHA to date have included vague standards, on-site consultations with immediate threat of citation and insufficient time for the preparation of comments on regulations and standards.

It is unlikely, considering the slow pace of two hearing days a month and planned hearings in the field next year, that the subcommittee will act on any of the 60 amendments to the act already introduced. Nevertheless, the subcommittee has invited interested parties to come forward with suggestions, and MCA feels that member companies with problems or suggestions should bring them to the attention of the subcommittee now.

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Senator McClure Calls for Review of Environmental Laws

Senator James A. McClure (R-Idaho) has called for a re-examination of "the Clean Air Act and other environmental legislation passed without accurate basis in fact."

Senator McClure made this recommendation in remarks before the Air Pollution Control Association's 2nd Government Affairs Seminar in March.

The Senator took bureaucrats to task for not understanding the "two-way relationship between ecological needs and energy needs," and for not understanding "the interrelationships between the air, water and land."

He then took Congress to task for passing laws which "for the most part did not address the total environment; instead they addressed an individual environmental problem." Congress, he said, "tended to some degree to look at the environment with tunnel vision."

"What has been sadly lacking in the whole conservation effort," the senator continued, "is not sincerity or hard work or even the ability to sacrifice. It was simply a lack of knowledge on the part of the individual—whether he be private citizen or governmental official—of anything other than one aspect of a problem."

He pointed to a stack scrubber that would reliably remove sulfur dioxide from commercial power plant stacks as a particularly horrible example of "tunnel vision": "Despite the fact that it does not exist, legislation exists requiring performance based on its use," he said.

Another such example, according to Senator McClure, is "the impossible

standards set for the emissions of oxides of nitrogen from automobiles—standards which cannot possibly be guaranteed."

The senator also stated, "Perhaps the most serious drawback involved in the ecological perspective of both the Congress and the bureaucracy is the tendency to look upon the United States as a giant monolith," adding, "Programs which make excellent sense in New York are foolishly made applicable to Oklahoma."

He said that Congress should "remove restraints that keep others from acting on their own," since "the vast majority of Americans, whether businessmen, environmentalists or both, are responsible

Technical Committees Elect

The Food, Drug and Cosmetic Chemicals Committee has re-elected George W. Ingle of Monsanto Company and W. H. Meyer of The Proctor & Gamble Company to the posts of chairman and vice chairman, respectively. Their terms run for two years beginning June 10.

At the April meeting of the Chemical Packaging Committee, Stephan Kuzma of Allied Chemical Corporation was elected chairman of the committee for the two-year term beginning June 1. Joseph Sandford, Jr., of E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company was elected to the post of vice chairman.

citizens. . . . Before further harm is done to our society—including, of course, our natural environment—revisions to these statutes must be enacted. And, these revisions must be based on a total definition of 'environment'—a definition that includes man's natural social and economic environment."

MCA Asks Your Help On Updating Mail Lists

The recent postal rate increase has caused MCA to take a hard look at its mailing costs and to ask member companies for help in cutting down on duplicate mailings. Help is needed because of the sheer size of MCA's correspondence, which includes 170 mailing lists with 8000 names and 22,000 mailing plates.

Member companies are asked to report duplicate mailings. If a plant manager receives a publication under both his title and name, for example, MCA should be notified.

Returned mail stamped "Return to Sender" or "Addressee Unknown" is no help in eliminating duplications. If an individual has been transferred, a change of address card should be completed and mailed. Also, notification of resignation, retirement or death will help greatly in reducing unnecessary mailings.

OSHA Hearings Consider Revision of Noise Standard

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration held hearings late in March on the possible revision of the industrial noise standard. As a result of the hearings, the Department of Labor is presently preparing an environmental impact statement, but it has given no indication when the statement will be issued.

The Scientific Advisory Committee on Noise recommends a time-weighted average of dBA 90, the current standard. The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health recommends in its criteria document a time-weighted average of dBA 85 for new installations.



A. I. Roberts (left) and G. W. Rousseau of the Department of Transportation's Office of Hazardous Materials answer questions of industry representatives during an informal conference sponsored by MCA on the proposed consolidation of regulations for the transportation of hazardous materials and the proposed Hazard Identification System.

Energy Data Unit Subject of Bill Under Scrutiny

Legislation to establish a National Energy Information Office is being marked up in the Senate Interior Committee.

The Energy Information Act, introduced by Senator Gaylord Nelson (D-Wis.), has more than 25 co-sponsors and would establish a National Energy Information Administration to operate a National Energy Information System.

The Department of the Interior would make the inspection and energy surveys called for in the legislation, but the new agency would be independent and charged with bringing together information on energy supply and demand.

Under the bill, energy producing and consuming businesses and establishments would be required to supply information from both domestic and foreign operations on all aspects of the energy supply process and on energy consumption. The required information would include disclosure on corporate structure, proprietary relationships, costs, prices, capital investments and profits.

The collected data would be classified public, confidential or secret, depending on criteria still being shaped in the mark-up sessions. A good deal of discretion for classification, however, would rest with the head of the proposed administration.

No hearings have been held as yet by the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee on a comparable bill in the House of Representatives.

Allocation Laws Confusing? New Directory May Be Help

McGraw-Hill hopes to take some of the confusion out of petroleum allocation laws by its new directory entitled "Energy Action Guide". The 64-page book is a summary in layman's language of the intent and execution of the allocation laws plus a complete directory of names, addresses and telephone numbers of officials in state, local and federal agencies who can help people with their fuel or energy problems.

The material was collected and compiled by McGraw-Hill World News bureaus and correspondents in 50 states.

The single copy price is \$4.95. In lots of 200 or more, the price is \$3.50 a copy.



Mrs. Peggy Walton, MCA's manager of consumer information, interviews Jack B. St. Clair, president of Shell Chemical Company and chairman of MCA's Executive Committee, for the radio program "Good Living", while Carl A. Gerstacker, chairman of the board of The Dow Chemical Company and member of the Executive Committee, looks on. Both were interviewed at the President's Reception last month on the chemical industry and the energy problem for radio spots that will be aired later this year on the program, which goes out to 450 radio stations around the country. Werner C. Brown, president of Hercules Incorporated and chairman of the board of MCA will be interviewed by Mrs. Walton early in May.

MCA Argues for Rate Bureau Restraints

In a statement to the Interstate Commerce Commission, MCA has said that rate bureaus should be prohibited from protesting or in any way interfering with independent action proposals of their member companies.

MCA's views were presented in a verified statement by Grant Arnold, general traffic manager of Ethyl Corporation and a member of the Traffic and Distribution Committee, in connection with the commission's investigation of rate bureaus. A rate bureau is an organization of carriers that sets uniform transportation rates for its members and enjoys certain exemptions from antitrust laws.

MCA also advised the ICC that the right of independent action by a member of a rate bureau does not adversely affect the rate structure and in fact is needed to preserve the validity of the rate structure.

The Association also recommended that carriers continue to publish single-line rates, and it asked the commission to consider adoption of a rule which would provide for the automatic suspension of any rate that was developed by a rate conference in violation of the section 5a agreement granting anti-trust immunity.

In addition, MCA recommended that rate increases should be proposed on a regional basis and said that it should be unnecessary for the commission to monitor public hearings of rate bureaus.

Safety Group From the U.K. Visits U.S. as MCA Guests

A group of safety representatives from the Chemical Industries Association (CIA) of Great Britain visited the United States as guests of MCA from April 29 to May 8.

Their visit included a briefing on CHEMTREC at MCA headquarters and a meeting with officials of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration in Washington before departing for Houston, Tex.

In Texas, the seven representatives of the Works Safety Committee of the CIA viewed the demonstration of chemical fire fighting techniques at the Longview plant of the Texas Eastman Company and visited plants of member companies in the Houston area. They also attended a meeting of the MCA Safety and Fire Protection Committee in Houston, along with a conference on risk analysis.

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Theme-of-the-Month

This is another in a series of articles on contributions and innovations of the chemicals and allied products industry. Reprinting in plant and corporate publications with or without supplemental information is unrestricted. Indeed, such use is highly recommended as a means of developing better understanding of the industry by all levels of society.

As Vital as Its Smell Is Bad

According to a small item in the New York Times, a chemist in New York has devised what must be the cheapest, yet probably most effective, means of preventing auto theft invented. It has only three elements, a jar, a lid and household ammonia. After parking, the chemist partially unscrews the lid on a jar of ammonia he keeps in the trunk. The loose lid keeps the odor in, but if the unsuspecting thief steps on the gas, over goes the jar and out spills the ammonia. The fumes are enough to start a whole den of thieves to choking.

An interesting idea, but the good chemist has forgotten a basic rule: Accidents do happen, and ammonia, even in its very dilute household solution, can be dangerous. Imagine the possibilities for lawsuits if car keys are lent, but warnings forgotten. So, it's doubtful if this new use will cause industry to gear up for a sudden upsurge in demand for ammonia. But then, the chemical industry is already producing more ammonia than any other industrial chemical with the exception of sulfuric acid, some 15.5 million tons a year.

For those of us who thought ammonia was only the breath-choking stuff used for cleaning windows, the question naturally arises: What is all that smelly stuff used for?

An Element of Life

The answer is that while ammonia is only nitrogen and hydrogen, nitrogen is one of the essential elements for all plant and animal life.

Plants and animals cannot use the uncombined nitrogen found in the air around us, but nature has provided enough "fixed," or chemically combined, nitrogen by setting in motion the nitrogen cycle.

In this cycle, nitrogen, in the form of chemical compounds, is stored by plants, which animals use as food. The animal breaks down the compounds, and some nitrogen enters into other compounds necessary for nutrition, while some is returned to the soil in animal waste. Certain bacteria then transform the new nitrogen compounds into forms that can be used by plants, which transform the compounds into those that are to serve once again as food for animals, and the cycle continues.

For eons, this natural system sufficed, but an increasing population depleted farm lands of their nitrogen content and modern sewage systems burned or washed out to sea organic wastes that would have returned much of the nitrogen to the soil. The immediate result was a boom in the sales of guano to Europe.

With the earth's soil being ever-more rapidly depleted of nitrogen, it was essential that chemistry develop a commercial process for the synthetic production of nitrogen fertilizer. The Haber-Bosch process of making ammonia was the answer, and improvements in the process have made ammonia not only competitive with

other, natural sources of nitrogen fertilizers, but virtually the sole source.

Ammonium nitrate, first produced for the munitions industry, has become the leading solid nitrogen fertilizer. It analyzes at about a third nitrogen. Urea, which analyzes at close to 50 percent nitrogen, is produced by reacting ammonia with carbon dioxide and accounts for much of the new and planned nitrogen fertilizer production. But anhydrous liquid ammonia itself is the ultimate nitrogen fertilizer, analyzing out at 82 percent nitrogen. In this case, ammonia itself is injected directly into the soil.

Nearly all explosives contain nitrogen and may be considered as derived from nitric acid and various organic materials, and ammonia is the raw material from which to obtain nitric acid.

Nitric acid is used for more than making explosives, however, and it is the second most important industrial acid and the eighth largest tonnage industry chemical. Its uses sometimes sound exotic, as in this sentence: "Nitric acid is used to convert cyclohexanone to adipic acid, which is a monomer." But the end result is simple: one of the most important nylons.

Ammonia is also an important intermediate in making sulfa drugs, antimalarial compounds, vitamins and amino acids. You'll also find it in your toothpaste. The petroleum industry uses ammonia to neutralize acids in refining oil in order to protect equipment. The wine, beer and alcoholic beverage industries use ammonia as a source for the nitrogen needed by microorganisms in fermentation.

It is used in making synthetic resins, treating metals, making synthetic fibers and scouring synthetic natural fibers. Aniline, the foundation of the modern dyeing industry, is indirectly derived from ammonia, so that not only are our clothes made with the help of ammonia, they are colored with it too. And the shoes we wear—the tanning industry uses ammonia as a depilatory and curing agent and to prevent slimes and molds from forming in the liquors it uses.

The pulp and paper industry uses an ammonia base process to make cheaper, stronger paper and to pulp some woods that are too hard to pulp by the calcium base process.

Ammonia is the refrigerant used in air conditioning large buildings and plants, and it is also used to make ice, process frozen foods and provide cooling in industrial processes like dewaxing lubricating oils.

Demand Will Increase

Considering the many and varied uses, it's easy to understand why some experts see the use of ammonia increasing by five percent annually for the next five years. And that demand would seem simple to fill. After all, ammonia is basically only nitrogen and hydrogen, and our atmosphere is more than three quarters nitrogen. Hydrogen, however, comes from natural gas, liquified petroleum gas or naphtha—the very items in such short supply because of the energy crisis.

An alternate source in the future may be high-sulfur fuel oil or gasified coal for ammonia synthesis gas, at higher cost further heightened by pollution controls. Nuclear energy might be used some day to supply the electricity needed to generate hydrogen by electrolysis of water. But right now, the world must worry through an ammonia crisis at a time when its food supply depends in part on its fertilizer supply.

So, ammonia isn't just that smelly stuff to clean with—or to foul thieves with. It's vital to both our agricultural and industrial production.

Miller Simpson, MCA Librarian, Marks 20 Years

President William J. Driver last month presented a silver plate symbolic of 20 years of service with the Association to Miller Simpson, MCA librarian, in a ceremony attended by the Washington staff.



Miller Simpson

Mr. Simpson was instrumental in creating the library. When he came to MCA from George Washington University's library in 1954, he found only a room with four bare walls. During the past 20 years, he has lined those walls with more than 3,200 volumes, an extensive vertical file and masses of government statistics pertaining to the chemical industry.

"The purpose of the library," he says, "is to serve the MCA staff, MCA member companies and the public in any way possible. To do this, we maintain materials on any development which would affect the chemical industry."

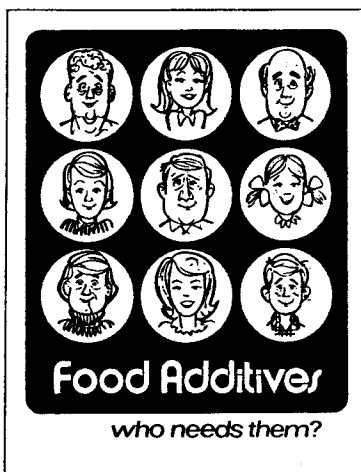
A graduate of Emory University in Atlanta, Mr. Simpson had been an English teacher and a librarian at several universities before coming to MCA. He also has served as organist and choir director in several churches in the Washington area and elsewhere. His special interests include travel and classical music.

Texas Chemical Council Honors High School Grads

The Texas Chemical Council this spring is awarding slide rules to graduating seniors from 145 Texas high schools because of their excellence in chemistry, science and math.

Selections were made by principals and science department heads on the basis of scholarship, imagination and scientific aptitude.

Texas Chemical Council President John T. Files, president of the Merichem Company of Houston, noted this is the 20th consecutive year for the awards. He said the intent of the council is to encourage the state's outstanding high school students to pursue a chemical career or to continue studies in the science field.



New Booklet Tells Consumer Reasons for Food Additives

Because MCA believes that consumers should be informed about food additives, it has published a new booklet to make the "whys" of food additives more understandable.

The 12-page booklet, "Food Additives: Who Needs Them?", answers questions on the amounts of additives used, how we can be sure they are really safe, why we can't go back to the "good old days" before modern additives, whether health and natural foods are really safer than processed foods and where to find additional information about food additives.

Included is a two-page chart showing the reasons for using food additives, some of those used and the foods in which they are used.

"Food Additives: Who Needs Them?" is available without charge from Consumer Information, Manufacturing Chemists Association, 1825 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

Slide Talk Depicts Need for Feedstocks

A slide presentation on the petrochemical industry's needs for feedstocks is now available from the Petrochemical Energy Group (PEG).

"Petrochemicals and Man-Made Materials" explains the realities of the energy problem and answers questions on supply and on the numerous military, political and economic problems caused by the shortages.

The absolute reliance of the petrochemical industry on petroleum feedstocks is presented in some detail, along with a description of the innumerable products the industry makes.

The 30-minute talk next focuses on the importance of the petrochemical industry in our economy and ends with a call for the development of new energy sources.

The 61-slide presentation costs \$33.50 and is available from M. C. Carpenter, director of marketing communications, Dow Chemical, U.S.A., 2020 Dow Center, Midland, Mich. 48640.

Gordon Conference on Water

The 1974 "Gordon Research Conference on Environmental Sciences: Water" will be held at New Hampton School, New Hampton, N.H., July 1-5. Applications to attend should be made well in advance because only approximately 100 conferees will be accepted. For details, contact Dr. Alexander M. Cruickshank, Director, Gordon Research Conferences, Pastore Chemical Laboratory, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R.I. 02881. A complete schedule of these Conferences appears in the March 8 issue of "Science".

MCA CALENDAR

Committee Meetings

May 15. Food, Drug and Cosmetic Chemicals, Washington, D.C.

May 15-16. Transportation and Distribution, Chicago, Ill.

May 16. Public Relations, Washington, D.C.

May 17. Education Activities, Washington, D.C.

May 22. Joint Subcommittee on Environmental Law—Water Resources Committee, Washington, D.C.

May 22-23. Water Resources, Washington, D.C.

May 23-24. Technical Information Retrieval, St. Louis, Mo.

May 29. Insurance Symposium, New York, N.Y.

May 29. Insurance, New York, N.Y.

May 29-30. Air Quality, Research Triangle Park, N.C.

June 4-5. Solid Wastes Management, Charleston, W. Va.

June 5. Plastics, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

September 11-12. Water Resources, Boston, Mass.

Other Events

June 6-8. Annual Meeting. The Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

24126007

BUSINESS CONDITIONS

Shipments' Value, Production Show First Quarter Gains

March shipments of chemicals and allied products advanced 3.2 percent from February for a first quarter 1974 increase of 17.1 percent over the same quarter of 1973. Chemical production rose less than one percent in March, but the first quarter was 5.2 percent higher than the same quarter a year ago.

Recently issued official data show that the industry's net profits after taxes were up 24 percent in the last quarter of 1973 compared with the like period a year earlier. For the year 1973, chemical earnings were 26.4 percent above the previous year, while all manufacturing earnings rose 31.9 percent.

Capital outlays for chemicals in the first quarter of 1974, based on January-February reports, were an estimated 31 percent above the same 1973 period. At the same time, projected expenditures for the year 1974 were revised to \$5.31 billion, a 19 percent increase.

Chemical wholesale prices rose 5.9 percent in March, for a first quarter increase of 15 percent. March employment advanced 0.6 percent from February, and the first quarter was 2.7 percent above the same quarter a year ago.

Exports rose 3.3 percent in March, while imports advanced 5.6 percent. First quarter comparisons showed exports up 63.5 percent and imports up 19.5 percent, giving a chemical trade surplus of \$1.3 billion. All U.S. trade in March registered a deficit of \$171 million.

Economic Indicator	Date Compiled: April 30, 1974		Latest month or quarter	Same period year ago	Percent change	Annual data latest year*
GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT¹ (Annual Rate)	(bil. \$)	1Q	1,351.8	1,242.5	+ 8.8%	\$1
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX² All Items	(1967=100)	Mar.	143.1	129.8	+10.2	133.1
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION INDEX³ Total	(1967=100)	Mar.	123.9	123.7	+ 0.2	125.6
Chemicals & Products		Mar.	155.3	146.8	+ 5.8	150.2
WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX² All Commodities	(1967=100)	Mar.	154.5	129.7	+19.1	135.5
Chemicals & Allied Products		Mar.	127.3	106.7	+19.3	110.0
VALUE OF SHIPMENTS¹ Manufacturing	(mil. \$)	Mar.	78,309.0	69,719.0	+12.3	866,489.0
Chemicals & Allied Products		Mar.	6,518.0	5,488.0	+18.8	67,092.0
CORPORATE PROFITS AFTER TAXES⁴ Manufacturing	(mil. \$)	4Q	12,968.0	10,125.0	+28.1	48,095.0
Chemicals & Allied Products		4Q	1,435.0	1,157.0	+24.0	5,686.0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES¹ Manufacturing	(bil. \$)	1Q	9.38	7.80	+20.3	38.01
Chemicals & Allied Products		1Q	1.14	.87	+31.0	4.46
EMPLOYEES, ALL² Manufacturing	(thous.)	Mar.	19,657.0	19,521.0	+ 0.7	19,820.0
Chemicals & Allied Products		Mar.	1,044.2	1,016.2	+ 2.8	1,029.5
EMPLOYEES, PRODUCTION WORKERS² Manufacturing	(thous.)	Mar.	14,361.0	14,345.0	+ 0.1	14,575.0
Chemicals & Allied Products		Mar.	608.3	592.0	+ 2.8	599.8
HOURLY EARNINGS, PRODUCTION WORKERS² Manufacturing	(\$)	Mar.	4.23	3.98	+ 6.3	4.07
Chemicals & Allied Products		Mar.	4.65	4.36	+ 6.7	4.47
EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE¹ Total	(mil. \$)	Mar.	7,673.9	5,308.5	+44.6	7,144.4
Chemicals		Mar.	698.5	420.4	+66.2	595.5
IMPORTS, GENERAL¹ Total	(mil. \$)	Mar.	7,845.2	5,410.5	+45.0	69,121.2
Chemicals		Mar.	248.9	185.9	+33.9	2,436.7
TRADE BALANCE¹ Total	(mil. \$)	Mar.	-171.3	-102.0	—	+1,677.2
Chemicals		Mar.	+449.6	+234.5	+91.7	+3,311.8

*Department of Commerce. **Department of Labor. *Federal Reserve Board. *Federal Trade Commission. *1973.

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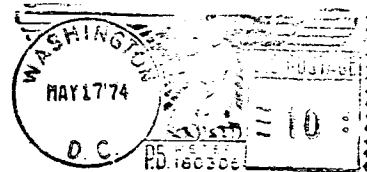
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