... secession is ridiculous. It was murder for political gain, and Argentina should take care that in delivering justice over this crime it denies that political motive.

We'll Stick In Gitmo

"GITMO," the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, rarely makes the news. When it does the event is usually a rumor or a question about its abandonment to Fidel Castro.

The answer this time is a consistent one, and we are glad to see it emphasized. Asked at a foreign policy conference for youth leaders about the base, Secretary of the Navy John Chafee replied: "I'll say very flatly that Guantanamo is there to stay — we have a base on Guantanamo and we intend to maintain it."

Gitmo is not easily defensible but it has a strategic psychological value as a listening post. Castro dare not attack it, for he would get badly burned in the process and he would be in default of a 67-year-old treaty giving the United States rights to the base.

In the meantime the bay serves as a training area for U.S. warships and the ships of friendly nations. Gitmo's lonely crew may rest assured that their country, even if its attention seems to be diverted elsewhere, has not forgotten them.

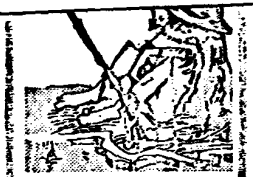
Paper Wasted By Insipid Item

In my opinion an essay by a third grader would have more literary merit than the item titled "Hurts I Have Known" by Jim Dance July 6.

What is shocking about the situation is that something as insipid as that would be passed for publication.

Since newspapers are continually increasing their prices, using as an excuse increased costs such as the cost of newsprint, one can only wonder why they waste newsprint in this fashion.

A. J. LAMBERTON
Pompano Beach



OKEECHOBEE JOE SAYS
the way those folks are squaring off it looks like the original Spiro Agnew watch won't produce much more than a nervous tic.

... Channel, Oil and Troubled Waters," states: "The explanation is that pumping must continue in other areas, including the Sun Oil leasehold which produced the Santa Barbara spill . . ."

The spill to which you refer occurred on January 28 1969, on Tract 402, which is held jointly by Union Oil Co., Texaco Gulf and Mobil Oil, with Union as the operator. Sun is not a participant in this lease, where the spill happened.

Sun holds Tract 401, which is immediately adjacent to Tract 402. We did not begin any drilling operations on Tract 402, until June of 1970. We have not had any oil spill incident whatsoever on our tract.

ROBERT L. KLAUS
SUN OIL CO.
Philadelphia, Pa.

PCB 'Not Poison,' Says Monsanto

Richard Pothier's July 9 article on PCB, a "DDT-like poison" carries several inaccuracies. It states, for example, that the manufacturer, Monsanto Company, is organizing "at federal request" a campaign to reduce leaks of the chemical. This was not at government request. It was started in 1968 when we first discovered PCB might be a problem to the environment and long before many scientists or politicians knew of the issue.

Another inaccuracy in the story was reference to a major PCB fish kill in Alabama last year. There have been no major fish kills in the area of our Alabama plant since 1966, when heavy rains caused damage to our plant. Investigations showed that kill was not caused by PCB.

PCB is not a poison as the headline implied, but we are withdrawing it from sale where it is not used within a closed system. Although recommended in a 1960 catalogue as a possible ingredient in plastic bags, PCB has never been used in such applications.

Scientific instruments capable of detecting small amounts of chemicals have not been available too long. But more to the point, no one bothered to use them to examine organisms in the food chain until a couple of years ago. Since that time Monsanto, as a responsible company, has taken the initiative in solving the problem without pressure from government organized groups. PCB cannot simply be taken out of service since it is used in nearly all electrical transformers and to do so would result in major power failures throughout the world.

JAMES E. McKEE JR.
Assistant Director of
Public Relations
Monsanto Co.
St. Louis

(Editor's note: Mr. Pothier replies: "PCB is a poison, used in eight different pesticides, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is used alone as a pesticide. USDA says it's sponsoring an "exhaustive review" of the product's hazards. The Herald article's facts on PCB's toxicity came from biologists with the U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. Monsanto refuses to make public a list of all products now containing PCB — a company spokesman told The New York Times this week that the list "would serve no useful nonpolitical purpose." The company spokesman, however, said PCB itself is now being used as a pesticide. The account of the "fish kill" near the firm's Alabama plant came from a scientist with the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Since The Herald's story was published Monsanto has said it plans to restrict sales of PCB, apparently because of mounting evidence that the chemical —related to DDT—can induce birth defects in animals.)

Keep Miam On Pollutio

George F. Adams i
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maybe, even improve it.

JAC

CRB Is Off-B On Housing

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Cain, its chairman, is an ex

WILLIAM M. Hic

MONS 029451