PCB PR

Additional statements of endorsement were submitted for the record by the National Association of Margarine Manufacturers and Rep. Michel (R-Ill.), another House sponsor of the proposal, who listed other groups supporting HR 2166 as follows:

American Heart Association, American Nursing Home Association, American Soybean Associ tion, Corn Refiners Association, Illinois & Chicago Restaurant Association, Land of Lincol Soybean Association, National Cottonseed Products Association, and National Soybean Processors Association.

In his questioning of witnesses, Kennedy carefully drew for the record statements that the change in notification would not affect the health of consumers, increase costs to restaurant customers, or affect the milk industry adversely.

The hearing moved smoothly until Garstang's appearance upset Kennedy's composure somewhat.

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EFFECTIVENESS OF PACKAGING BARRIERS FOR PCB'S TO BE TESTED

TRW's Hazleton Laboratories will conduct tests to determine whether or not barriers in food packaging will prevent the migration of polychlorinated biphenyls to foods (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, Oct. 11, Page 2).

Under tests contracted by the American Paper Institute, Hazleton will test a variety of virgin and recycled papers and paperboards impregnated with 5 and 100 p.p.m. of PCBs to determine the migration of the substances into corn flakes, rice cake mix, and vegetable shortening.

The test material will be studied in direct contact with foods as well as with waxed glassine, polyethylene, and PVDC-coated paper as barriers between it and the foods.

In addition to the migration studies, Hazleton will also determine the extent of PCB contamination of paper and paperboard packaging in current or recent use.

The Food and Drug Administration is in the final stages of wrapping up its own survey of 15 food commodities to determine the extent of PCB contamination (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, Nov. 1, Page 2).

Meanwhile, increasing scientific interest in PCBs was evident. A National Science Foundation investigator, Dr. George D. Grice, reported in a release on ocean exploration that PCB was present, along with DDT, in practically all specimens collected from the seas during recent cruises. The amounts of PCB were usually in higher concentrations than DDT, he said.

He reported that the concentrations of both compounds appear to be of "physiological significance."

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