Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION)

DATE: July 22, 1975 — cc: Mr. F. J. Fitzgerald

SUBJECT: PCB PREPAREDNESS Q & A MATERIAL

REFERENCE: KSD/KSD-TV "Briefing Session" Program with Dr. Calloway

TO: Mr. J. W. Hanley:

Dr. Calloway may bring up the following questions during your panel discussion. Representative William F. Ryan of New York, to whom he may refer, was interested in PCBs in 1970 and 1971. Congressman Ryan died on September 17, 1972.

Q. Why has Monsanto refused to release PCB production information?

A. You should know that Monsanto made public its production figures in November, 1971 and we have continued to make this information available, in up-dated form on a yearly basis, to **anyone** requesting it, ever since. If you are referring to Congressmar Ryan, as you may know, he died in September, 1972. I think he would have been pleased the progress that has been made in controlling the entry of PCBs into the environment.

Q. What is the current status of your PCB program?

A. Monsanto has voluntarily restricted the sales of PCBs since the early 1970s to the electrical industry for use in sealed electrical equipment such as transformers and capacitors - where no known acceptable substitues exist. This program has been reviewed by a Federal Interdepartment Task Force (consisting of the Office of Science and Technology; Council on Environmental Quality; Department of Commerce, the EPA; HEW and the Department of the Interior. The report, which is a matter of public record, supports our current program.

Q. What are you doing to prevent PCB pollution at your manufacturing locations?

A. Monsanto agressively controls losses to the environment during manufacture with current, measureable losses at less than 0.001 per cent of total production and there are no detectable levels in the atmosphere. In addition, we have installed a special incinerator (at our Sauget, Illinois plant) that effectively destroys spent PCB material. This service is also made available to our customers to aid them in their disposal efforts.

MONS 030837

PCB Statements

Under section entitled "Polluted St. Louis"

"A number of the largest local corporations have helped make St. Louis as polluted as it is. Monsanto is manufacturing a chemical called PCB, or polychlorinated biphenyls. Research has found that PCB is lethal to fish, hampers reproduction in birds, and may have catastrophic consequences for certain ecological systems upon which people depend. Nonetheless, PCBs are regularly released into surrounding waterways during it manufacture. Monsanto has refused to cooperate with political officials and will not release information concerning the manufacture of PCB unless it is assured that such information will be kept from the public.

Rep. William F. Ryan of New York, a member of the House Interior Committee, is trying to bring pressure on corporations like Monsanto that are polluting our environmen But Ryan, quoted by a local newspaper as saying that Monsant would not provide him with information needed to determine t

"I asked Monsanto to release production statistics to researchers in the field. All the company offered is a confidential glimpse at statistics for public officials.

"I also asked Monsanto to require special labeling for all PCB. The company's letter to me failed to even acknowledge the request."

Ironically, Monsanto has a representative on the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Regional Community Health (ARCH), which is supposed to be planning to deal with the manifold health problems of the St. Louis area. What hypocrisy is this? They pollute the environment, help damage the health of the people, make profits from the sales and use of PCBs, and then turn around and express "Concern" for the health problems of the area.

It is if interest to note that Monsanto is now in the business of developing anti-pollution devices in anticipation of reaping the tax money that the government must make available one of these days to salvage our environment.

Q & A PREPAREDNESS STATEMENT RE PCBs...

Q. Why did Monsanto refuse to release PCB sales and production information to Congressman Ryan?

A. Monsanto chose not to give Congressman Ryan this information initially because our production figures are treated as confidential for competitive reasons and he would give us no assurance that the data would remain confidential. Monsanto, on the other hand, repeatedly offered to share this information with responsible government agencies for scientific purposes. We finally released these figures publicly in November, 1971 and have made available up-dated figures, on a yearly basis, to anyone requesting the information, ever since. As you may know, Congressman Ryan died in September, 1972. ~~MXXMMMIXI~~ I think he would have been pleased with the progress that has been made in controlling the entry of PCBs into the environment.

Q. What is the current status of your PCB program?

A. Monsanto has voluntarily restricted the sales of PCBs since the early 1970s to closed-system, dielectric uses. This program has been reviewed by a Federal Interdepartment Task Force (consisting of the Office of Science and Technology; Council on Environmental Quality; Department of Agriculture; Department of Commerce, the EPA, HEW and the Department of the Interior. The report, which is a matter of public record, supports our current program.

Q. What are you doing to prevent PCB pollution at you manufacturing sites?

A. Monsanto agressively controls losses to the environment during manfacture. Measureable losses to the environment are less than 0.001 % of total production, with no detectable levels in the atmosphere. In addition, we installed a special incinerator (at our Sauget, Ill. plant) that effectively destroys scrap PCBs. This service is also made available to our customers to assist them in their disposal efforts.

Q. How important are PCBs to Monsanto and where do you stand on alternate materials?

A. The profits we realize on the sales of PCBs are modest and represent less than one-half of one per cent of total Monsanto Company profits. The search for alternate materials to replace PCBs continues but no effective, fire resistant alternate, safe to human health and the environment is available at present. Millions of dollars have been spent to control and replace PCBs and our efforts are continuing

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It is if interest to note that Monsanto is now in the business of developing anti-pollution devices in anticipation of reaping the tax money that the government must make available one of these days to salvage our environment.

Dr. Calloway appears to be relying on some information which is outdated. Congressman William F. Ryan, who was interested in PCBs in 1970 and 1971, died on September 17, 1972. He would have been pleased with the progress which has been achieved in controlling the entry of PCBs into the environment.

The production information which Congressman Ryan was seeking was released in 1971. Since then it has been revised to include each additional year's production and copies are available to anyone who makes a request. In addition Monsanto representatives have made presentations before the Federal Interdepartmental Task Force on PCBs, the Food and Drug Administration, the Effluent Standards and Water Quality Information and Advisory Committee to the EPA, the Great Lakes States Governors Interagency Pesticide Council and numerous trade associations. We have participated in public hearings relating to PCB effluent standards and discussed PCBs with many individuals with universities, industry and government, worldwide. In short we have been willing to discuss PCBs openly and hopefully we have been helpful.

PCBs have been described as "lethal to fish, hampering reproduction in birds and having catastrophic consequences for certain ecological systems." None of these results have been supported by the available evidence. For example, the early contention that PCBs were responsible for the reproduction problems noted with the brown pelicans off Southern California were disproven by the wildlife laboratory of the Department of the Interior.

Aggressive control of losses to the environment during manufacture has been practiced by Monsanto and has resulted in measurable losses to the sewer of less than 0.001% of total production.

Although the sales of Monsanto's PCB products were reduced by about 50% as a result of its voluntarily imposed restrictions, the profits realized from the remaining sales are modest and represent less than one-half of one per cent of total Monsanto Company profits.

The search of alternative materials to replace PCBs continues with no fire resistant alternative available at present. Millions of dollars have been spent to control and replace the PCBs.

Our efforts are continuing.

To Assist in proper disposal of scrap PCB's, Monsanto initalled a spec (WGK) (Plant) incinerator that effectively destroys PCB's ~~under proper conditions~~. This service is also available to our customers to assist them in their disposal efforts.

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