THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Sept. 22, 1971

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SEP 27 PM

PCB'S: THE NEED FOR CONTROL

(Mr. RYAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute, to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous matter.)

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with grave concern that I bring to the attention of the House the fact that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has discovered that a large number of turkeys in the State of Minnesota have been contaminated with a highly toxic DDT-like chemical—polychlorinated biphenyl—PCB. I am informed that some 50,000 turkeys are now under retention and that PCB levels up to 300 parts per million in fat have been found. That is significantly above the Food and Drug Administration's interim guideline of 5 parts per million in edible tissue.

For 2 years, I have urged the appropriate Federal agencies to take certain specific measures that would have forestalled such an occurrence. During that time, I have called upon the Food and Drug Administration, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, the Council on Environmental Quality, the President's Commission on Product Safety, and the Environmental Protection Agency to undertake preventive measures that would have safeguarded the public from the hazards of PCB's. Yet in an almost unprecedented display of callous disregard for the welfare of our citizens, that action was not forthcoming.

The results are now tragically apparent.

Nor is this incident in Minnesota the first such occurrence of food contamination from this deadly chemical. On July 28, I brought to the attention of the House the fact that a significant proportion of poultry raised in 12 Southeastern States had been contaminated with PCB's. Subsequent investigation has shown that this contamination was not limited to poultry, but affected swine, milk, eggs, broken egg products, and catfish as well.

Previously, I have alerted this body to PCB contamination of poultry in New York State—contamination resulting in the slaughter of 146,000 chickens. And I have made known the contamination of dry milk in the State of Ohio.

Perhaps the most startling aspect of the most recent contamination in Minnesota, is that despite 6 weeks of effort, a government has been unable to ascertain the source of the contamination. The implications of this and previous incidents are clear. As long as PCB's are allowed to be used unfettered, our environment, our food supply, and our faith will be increasingly threatened. We cannot continue to attempt to meet each incident of PCB contamination as it occurs; we must insure that this contamination does not take place at all.

Therefore, I have introduced legislation—H.R. 10083—which will insure that the public will be safeguarded against such future contamination. That legislation will do what is necessary in view of the dangers of PCB's: Ban them entirely. It is important that hearings be held on this legislation at the soonest possible date and that they consider not only the need to control this deadly chemical, but the unconscionable failure of the Federal agencies to take the necessary administrative actions that might have precluded widescale contamination of our food supply and our environment with PCB's as well.

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