Medical Department

August 2, 1971

Press Inquiry
Jim Welsh - Washington Star
Approx. 1:30 pm - Saturday,
July 31, 1971 - at home

John Eck
D1G

John Mason - B1SA
Sam Pickard - Washington (2)
Ed John - C2SE
Jim McKee - C2SA
Rod Harris - C2NA

After inquiring if I were Elmer Wheeler who worked for Monsanto, Jim Welsh identified himself. The following represents the gist of the conversation:

Welsh: I'm doing a follow-up story on the silly" (?) PCB-chicken incident for the Sunday Star. Is is true that Monsanto did not identify East Coast Terminal as a feed processor because of it's name?

Response: I'm not in a position to answer that question.

Welsh: Well, I understand that that's what the FDA says. If that's the case, it could put Monsanto in a better light in the story. After all there are all kinds of terminals. It could even be a truck terminal.

Response: Obviously, you are right that there are truck terminals, bus terminals, sea port terminals. It is possible that some of these could handle liquid cargoes such as thick oils where heat transfer systems might be used. This is not to say that such systems are used - or that *any* of them use our fluid because I don't know.

Welsh: Were you in contact with the FDA this week?

Response: I, personally?

Welsh: Yes.

Response: No.

Welsh: Did it come as a surprise to Monsanto that there was PCB's leaking into the fish meal?

Response: Totally.

Welsh: Didn't Monsanto announce that they were developing substitute agents for heat transfer systems and some other uses?

Response: I would have to rely on our press release on this subject issued I believe about a year ago. I'm at home and don't have a copy available.

Welsh: How many systems were used for food and feed processing?

Response: I don't have that information.

Welsh: Have all the systems been changed to non-PCB fluids?

Response: That is my understanding.

Welsh: Do you think there will be any additional legislation to ban the use or sales of PCB's?

Response: I can't comment on that.

I phoned the above to Jim McKee and John Mason soon after the call and to Sam Pickard about dinner time Saturday evening. I reached you Sunday afternoon and Red Harris about 6:00 P.M. Sunday.

Elmer P. Wheeler

/bka