Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION) Fred J. Gehrung - New York

DATE : May 8, 1969

CC: Pierre R. Wilkins, New York
Richard J. Kotnour, St. Louis

SUBJECT : PCB Hearings

REFERENCE :

TO : Tom C. Ford
St. Louis

I was surprised yesterday with the telephone message from Diana Jacobs regarding the PCB and DDT controversy in that, if I understand you, you see the National Agricultural Chemicals Association as a protagonist. If indeed, the Association is attempting to draw attention to PCB to take the heat off DDT it's time to blow the whistle! For one thing, it would be a grave mistake in NACA policy to adopt this diversion-type strategy because the news columns, the conservationists and the federal government is perfectly capable of tackling two or two dozen investigations simultaneously. That is, concern over PCB won't draw attention away from concern over DDT. It's that simple.

But more importantly, as a very important dues-paying supporter of the NACA, Monsanto needs to call the Association to task if our company sees its interests jeopardized. The Organic Division needs to rally the Agriculture Division to its cause in this case. Bob Rumer can, with one phone call, establish just what the NACA is up to and can veto what's going on.

However, my guess is that Bob has cooled it during this DDT flap since it doesn't jeopardize our interests and isn't aware of the turn this matter has taken. My suggestion is that you brief him (in the presence of Dick Kotnour).

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As always, there will be Association members on the opposite side of the fence at NACA. So it won't be unusual, if Monsanto says "no" to the PCB ruse while Shell Chemical cries "yes". As you know, this sort of impasse results in the Association backing off and doing nothing -- exactly what you're looking for when it comes to whether or not to mention PCB.

Fred J. Gehrung

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