ROUTE SLIP Date 6-15-78

MONSANTO COMPANY, St. Louis

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From: PUBLIC RELATIONS

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More Letters From Readers

Chemical Dangers And Industry's Responsibility

Statements made by Steven D. Jellinek of the Environmental Protection Agency to the employees of the Monsanto Chemical Co., as reported May 25, try to give a watchdog impression but have all the earmarks of a cat in the sack.

The EPA has not been able to cope with the waste problems, the residues of our industrial systems. Monsanto does not use the burner at Sauget for PCBs, even though EPA regulations recommend the burning of PCBs. Wilsonville, Ill., to the utter dismay of the citizenry receives PCBs at a site with a water table less than 10 feet. Regulations indicate PCBs should not be buried in an area with a water table less than 50 feet from the surface. *Industry is still the prime polluter.* The controls are more seeming than actual. There is a development of new facilities, and chemical companies are making record earnings.



EPA regulations say that by-products and reprocessing could help minimize waste development. The jobs would be there, but companies prefer the margin of profit in proliferation of chemicals. Monsanto says it is dedicated to remain the leader in worldwide production of trichloroisocyanuric acid. Such cyanide and chlorine compounds are among the most treacherous, and the Wilsonville site receives both. Whereas, Monsanto makes misleading statements concerning chemical hazards, some responsible research indicates twice the amount of chemicals is developed and used in some areas than is useful.

Now Charles L. Schultze, economic adviser, indicates new control measures would impose substantially higher costs than are necessary and asks for modifications. It's the same story over again. Irresponsible companies go ahead with their own self-serving ways. Only with the exposure of problems and ramifications of others suffering for it do they begin to talk costs. Waste haulers, chemical companies and EPA officials develop a self-comforting discourse for public relations purposes without discerning the debilitation left in the wake or any acknowledgement of responsibility, preferring rather to suggest that chemicals are mankind's savior.

Mirko Popovich

Benld, Ill.

Wilsonville file

6/15/78

FYI: R. J. Barlow, J. R. Foehr, R. C. Isham, V. T. Matteucci, L. A. Miller, E. T. Mollica, D. Wood

FROM: G. F. Barton

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