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Celanese Sees Improvement In the Fiber Market Picture

Citing a turn-around in supply-demand for man-made fibers and strong demand for non-cellulosic fibers, officials of Celanese Corporation last week told the New York Society of Security Analysts that markets for all the company's major chemicals and most of its plastic products continue to exceed capacities.

Specifically, the officials noted cellulosic yarns selling at near capacity and improved prices. As examples, they reported prices increasing 5 cents per pound for acetate tricot yarns and 3 to 5 cents for acetate weaving yarns, effective June 4.

They added, however, that it is still too soon to predict the ultimate significance of these moves for the company's 1973 profits and that some of the price increases represent only partial recovery from '71-'72 erosions.

Methaqualone Flap Continues; Strict Controls Debated

The pressure continues to mount over proposals to put methaqualone under more strict controls by Food & Drug Administration. Last week Sen. Birch Bayh of Indiana introduced legislation in Congress to stem the drug's abuse.

Sen. Bayh's bill would place the sedative-hypnotic drug on Schedule II of the Controlled Substances Act, thereby subjecting it to production quotas, stricter distribution and storage security and stringent import and export regulations.

Sen. Bayh's bill concurs with Justice Department's Bureau of Narcotics & Dangerous Drugs. The government agency

Cutter Broadens Recall Of Contaminated Solutions

Food & Drug Administration says that Cutter Laboratories, Inc., is increasing its recall of a possibly contaminated intravenous solution to 909,138 bottles from the previously reported 20,292. The preparations are suspected of being contaminated with bacteria.

Cutter acknowledges that it is broadening the recall, but denies that the figure is so high, noting that many of the bottles have been used already. One death, two cases of infection in Wisconsin and another in Ohio have been linked to the Cutter product by government agencies.

The fluid being recalled includes 20,292 bottles produced between January 4, and August 21, 1972 and 145 more lots, totaling 909,138 bottles, produced since last September 13, according to press reports.

Acrylic Expansion Is Slated

Rohm and Haas Company, Philadelphia, plans to expand its "Plexiglas" acrylic molding powder facilities at Louisville, Ky. at a cost of \$4 million. The new facility is expected to go into production by the end of 1974. Similar expansions were put into operation in late 1970 at the firm's Bristol, Pa. plant and in Louisville in 1968.

last fortnight advised that Department of Health, Education & Welfare (of which FDA is a part) should place methaqualone on Schedule II (CMR, 3/19/73, pg. 3).

As chairman of the Senate Juvenile Delinquency Subcommittee, Sen. Bayh was instrumental in the successful effort to reduce amphetamine production—now at 20 percent of 1971 levels—and has since introduced three bills designed to tighten production and control of barbiturates.

BNDD's report to FDA said in essence that methaqualone should be classified as a potentially dangerous drug and placed

in gasoline. EPA, through executive vice-president Philip E. Robinson, is thereby adding its voice to the chorus of industry dissent singing out against the study titled "EPA's Position on the Health Effects of Airborne Lead."

Scientists have found "error, bias and non-science in EPA's claim that lead in gasoline poses a threat to public health," according to Mr. Robinson.

Mr. Robinson has submitted to EPA a point-by-point critique of its stance "developed by scientists from scientific studies

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Superphosphate Export Snag Affecting Japan and Chinese

Export of some 11,500 tons of superphosphate to the People's Republic of China has some Japanese fertilizer manufacturing interests worried. The fact is the delivery was delayed because of the price factor and a shortage of the key material—sulfuric acid—which is greatly affecting the fertilizer output in Japan at this time.

Exports had been coming along in good shape up to the delay, on a time-unspecified basis, with shipments to a total of 32,000 tons having been concluded by a trio of Japanese enterprises. Nissan Chemical Industries, Ltd., Taki Fertilizer Manufacturing Company and Konoshima Chemical Company.

under the same strict controls governing cocaine, morphine and other narcotics and stimulants.

Meanwhile, back at the plant, a spokesman for William H. Rorer, Inc., Fort Washington, Pa., one of the three producers of the drug under the name of "Quaalude," criticized BNDD's recommendation to place the substance on Schedule II as "unwarranted."

Some time ago, the spokesman says, Rorer had formally asked BNDD to classify methaqualone with the other sedative-

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Use of Suspected Carcinogens

Sen. Abraham Ribicoff, of Connecticut, has made public a Food & Drug Administration internal memorandum purportedly showing that the government allows meat and dairy product manufacturers to inject livestock with drugs suspected of causing cancer.

The FDA memo, prepared September 27, 1972 by FDA's Office of Veterinary Medicine Research, asserts that nine drugs approved by FDA for beef cattle are classified as possible carcinogens, as are two for milk cattle, four for poultry, three for hogs, five for sheep, and four for hens.

Among the suspected carcinogens are diethylstilbestrol and melengestrol acetate; the others are not named.

In a letter to appropriate agency officials, Sen. Ribicoff asserts that the government is subjecting the public to "intolerable risks" in allowing the continued use of these chemicals.

Vinyl Chloride Vapors To Be Inhaled by Rats

The effect of vinyl chloride vapor on laboratory animals will be determined by tests being conducted by Industrial Bio-Test Laboratories, Inc., for Manufacturing Chemists Association.

The chemical companies supporting the project are seeking additional scientific information about the vapor in the interest of employee safety. Hamsters, rats and mice will be subjected to predetermined levels of the vapor in the air they breathe seven hours a day, five days a week, for at least a year.

Vinyl chloride is one of many chemicals for which National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health recently invited submission of available data.

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