Read by Grant.

September 29, 1971

PCB ACTION SUMMARY

To summarize this chronology, I offer the following:

1. Based on the levels of PCBs we have found in our scientific evaluation of the health hazard, except for accident-type situations, we do not have an imminent health hazard problem, but PCBs are a potential hazard.

2. We are taking steps to cut off further introduction of PCBs into the food supply and to reduce the current low levels of PCBs as a food contaminant. We want to remove all PCBs from food from environmental or any other sources. By doing this we will eliminate the potential problem.

3. We need more scientific information on PCBs. The Government is working on this need.

4. We need more information on the extent of PCBs as an environmental contaminant and the extent of PCBs in the food supply. We are collecting such information.

5. PCBs serve many beneficial purposes.

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6. We have been monitoring the food supply for PCBs for some time and have developed reliable procedures for doing so.

7. We have acted specifically where action was warranted, and we have taken steps to deal with the long-range problem.

8. FDA developed a scientific analytical methodology to enable PCBs to be found in containers as well as food.

9. We have taken steps in concert with other agencies to protect the public.

10. Except for isolated incidents involving fish, almost all of the high levels of PCBs found have been associated with accidents, which we are working to prevent. We have set appropriate guidelines for regulatory and control actions.

11. We have stepped up our surveillance of the food supply to detect PCBs within our limited resources.

12. We have a coordinated government effort through an inter-agency task force under the direction of the Office of Science and Technology and the Council on Environmental Quality to deal with the problem.

13. We are bringing together the best scientists and data in the country to deal with the problem. major scientific meeting - soon

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14. We have met with the industries involved to deal with the problem. The following actions have been taken:

a. The Monsanto Chemical Co., the primary domestic supplier of PCBs, is only selling the compounds now for transformer, capacitor and non-food heat exchange uses.

b. PCBs are not now being used in the National Cash Register Company's carbon paper, but there are large quantities of carbonless carbon paper containing PCBs in office files throughout the country.

c. The NCR carbonless carbon paper is not now being used in recycled paper intended for food packaging.

d. Over and above FDA's increased surveillance, the food industry is now surveying its own plants and its products to be certain the PCBs are not being used. The food industry has been alerted to the need to avoid paper containers with PCBs.

We do not believe

15. In summary, PCBs are not an imminent hazard and the Government with full cooperation from the private sector is taking steps to eliminate the potential hazard.

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