PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

PRESS QUERY

(x) Divisional
( ) Financial
( ) Corporate

Date Time

Nov. 18, 1971, 2 p.m.

QUERIED BY: (REPORTER AND MEDIA)

Mike Quinn, Newsday, Long Island, N.Y.

TO: (x) St. Louis Bulletin Board
( ) New York Public Relations
( ) New York Textiles Public Relations
( ) West Coast Public Relations
( ) Brussels Public Relations
(X) Lloyd R. Cole
(X) C. P. Cunningham
W. R. Corey
John Mason
W. B. Papageorge
H. S. Bergen
E. P. Wheeler
P. S. Park
Sam Pickard
P.J.A. Marsh-Brussels

Q: We are doing a story for tomorrow's edition based on a report from Cornell University and the affect of PCB on osprey. I have a few facts here about Monsanto but called to check them with you for accuracy. Has Monsanto actually stopped selling PCB for certain uses?

A: Yes, we now sell only to the electrical industry and for heat-transfer systems, both of which are considered closed systems.

Q: Of the former uses of PCB, can you think of any household item that might today contain PCB?

A: No, I cannot think of any household item that might purposely contain PCB. Of course, you have read about the recycled paper problem but in this case the PCB was not originally meant to end up in the cardboard.

Q: Is Monsanto the sole U.S. producer and can you estimate production to date?

A: Monsanto is the sole U.S. producer and while I cannot give you production and sales figures, we are working with a recently formed government task force and this kind of information is being provided to them.

Q: Has Monsanto done any testing as to the affect of PCB on the environment? (EVJ -- What do you mean by affect -- affect on animals, humans or what?) Mr. Quinn -- well everything.

A: First we came to the conclusion, by reading reports from qualified scientists that PCB is a persistent chemical. This has been the basis for our control

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SOURCE OF ANSWER (List All Sources)
Files

NAME (Staffer Handling Query)
E. V. John

program. Secondly, we are just now concluding two-year laboratory tests on rats, dogs and chickens. The work was done by an outside laboratory and the researchers are in the process of publishing their work.

The press query concluded with a conversational discussion about environmental reporting. Quinn seemed determined to write an accurate report and I complimented him for this effort. I pointed out that there have been too many recent incidents where the sensational headline caused great concern. One example I gave him was the mercury scare of 1970. Now scientists are finding out that we had more mercury in our tissues 63 years ago than we do today. Compared to the early scare headlines, these follow-up reports appear to be "voices crying in the wilderness" in an effort to put perspective into the environmental movement.

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