Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION) E. V. John - General Offices

DATE April 10, 1970

SUBJECT

REFERENCE

TO Mr. John R. Eck

cc Mr. H. L. Minckler - J. Nilsen
Mr. D. J. Forrestal
Dr. R. E. Kelly
Mr. W. B. Papageorge
Mr. E. P. Wheeler

On Tuesday (April 7), our New York public relations office received a call from Dr. Franklin Field, science editor for Station WNBC (the NBC-owned station) in New York. Dr. Field said that Congressman Ryan, from New York state, would make a statement on Friday, April 10, which would blast Monsanto and its pollution of the environment by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

Dr. Field asked that Monsanto supply an interviewee who could speak about PCBs in rebuttal to what Congressman Ryan would say.

The Organic division decided to send Elmer Wheeler, medical department, and William Papageorge, environmental manager, functional fluids, to New York for the interview. The interview took place on Thursday afternoon, April 9, and it was a "tough one" according to Messrs. Wheeler, Papageorge and our New York public relations people in attendance.

We have received copies of Congressman Ryan's remarks and they are attached. (Marginal notes were made by Dr. Field during the interview). We can expect to receive numerous press queries following Congressman Ryan's news conference Friday.

Also attached is a copy of our current position statement on PCBs, which due to the above circumstances, will need immediate revision.

E. V. John

Edward V. John
Public Relations Manager
Organic Chemicals Division

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Attachment

IN TO REV. 11-68

MONS 099753

[illegible] 19 — 11:00 A.M.

[illegible] CALL:
[illegible] (202) [illegible]

[illegible] FROM MONSANTO COMPANY'S [illegible]
C/PL-306 ON ARCOLOR (PCB) USES

[illegible]

[illegible] are manufactured in the United States only by the Monsanto [illegible], under the trade name ARCOLOR.

In the Technical Bulletin, C/PL-306, Monsanto describes qualities of [illegible], such as fire retardance, corrosion resistance, and adhesivity. [illegible] bulletin suggests "scores of new uses that could not be performed by [illegible] material." Five separate bulletins are offered to give [illegible] information for uses in resins, chlorinated rubber, emulsion [illegible], protective coatings, modifers for polysulfides, fire-retarding [illegible] and wax compounds.

[illegible] plasticizers are suggested for protective coatings, such as [illegible] plastic, coating compounds, adhesives, lacquers, inks, varnishes, [illegible], fabric coatings and pigment dispersions; components or extenders [illegible] and waxes. Page 5 describes Arcolor's compatibility with [illegible] "common plastic materials" such as asphalt, rubber, paraffin [illegible]. Other uses: in molded products, brake linings, chemically-[illegible] such as was recently reported in NEW YORK TIMES for [illegible] and in vinyl-asbestos floor tile.

[illegible] the applications of Arcolor in adhesives, the bulletin [illegible] "When the slight odor of Arcolor is objectionable in an [illegible] applications, it can be easily masked, at negligible [illegible] of a small amount of Santomark II."

[illegible] in prime coats for concrete storage tanks for gasoline [illegible] cents for concrete wood-kiln coatings (which are [illegible] and wood distillates).

[illegible] "Arcolor in Rubber" appears the sentence: "Typical [illegible] protective and decorative coatings for swimming pools, [illegible] structures, tank cars, and both wood and metal [illegible]

MONS 099757

In chlorinated-rubber formulations, Aroclor is suggested for heat-[illegible] adhesives, electrical coatings, paper and textile coatings, and [illegible]. Other versions are designed for wire and cable coatings, and for "[illegible] coatings for fabric or paper."

Page [illegible] says "Insecticides, for example, can be blended into such [illegible] to make insect traps or barriers on tree trunks for foliage or [illegible] protection."

Other uses: sealing and caulking compounds; automobile-body sealants; [illegible] compositions; tracing paper, window envelopes, and other paper-trans-[illegible]; and hot-melt resins for the protection of tools and metal [illegible].

On page [illegible], "high-chlorine-content Aroclor plasticizers" are [illegible] as "widely used in the manufacture of low-cost, flame-resistant [illegible]" for paper coatings, lacquers for plastics, and hot-melt adhesives. [illegible]: heat-resistant aluminum paints and enamels, such as for jet-engine [illegible], exhaust manifolds, and incinerators. Page 36: Waxes containing [illegible] are widely used in making dental castings, costume jewelry and [illegible]-cast aircraft parts. "Aroclor with waxes make excellent and [illegible] sealers for masonry, wood, fiberboard, and paper."

[illegible] it is explained that the kill-life of chlorinated insecti-[illegible] by Aroclor acting as a vapor suppressant and as a sticking [illegible] the insecticide to remain toxic on hard surfaces "for as [illegible]."

[illegible] moisture-proofing qualities, Aroclor is suggested on page 35 [illegible], such as paraffin; oils such as mineral oil or drying oils; [illegible] paper and cloth.

[illegible] "important ingredient" in mimeograph ink for use on bond [illegible] in the preparation of imitation gold lead; as pigment vehicles for [illegible] of glass and ceramics; as grinding and dispersing mediums.

[illegible] "Aroclor plasticizers are essential components of coatings [illegible] cotton drill for outer garments and for rendering olive-[illegible] distribution, water-repellent, and rot-proof for tents, [illegible]."

[illegible] "potential problem from the standpoint of both inhalation [illegible] and suggests the use of closed systems and local-exhaust

ventilation. It also mentions that vapors of Aroclor "at room temperature should not be breathed in a confined space..."

It suggests "the use of gloves and protective garments because of the possible occurrence of a condition called chloracne."

Aroclor is sold in Tank cars, 500 to 600-lb. steel drums, 100-lb. bags and 50-lb. cans.

From Chemical Week

Chemical Week for August 9, 1969, announced that "Monsanto, by mid-1970 would be bringing its worldwide plasticizer capacity to more than 600 million lbs./year." (p. 27)

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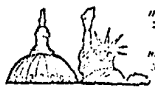
WILLIAM F. RYAN



House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
[illegible]
[illegible] St. Nicholas Avenue
New York, N.Y. [illegible]
AD 14760

FOR RELEASE APRIL 10 — 11:00 A.M.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL:
Jules Rothstein (212) 928-8036

STATEMENT BY

CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM F. RYAN

ON

A NEW ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD

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Today, I am calling for immediate action to prevent what may well be a major ecological disaster.

Recent scientific research has shown that polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), ingredients in many household and industrial products, are a danger to the environment.

I am calling on the Nixon administration to mobilize all available resources to detail the extent of the threat and steps that can be taken to eliminate it.

I am asking the Department of Agriculture to ban the use of PCBs in insecticides.

Because scientists have found this new hazard in foods, I am asking the Food and Drug Administration to set food tolerance levels. The levels would probably be similar to the ones the FDA established for DDT, which is chemically similar to this new hazard.

I am also asking the FDA to consider banning this environmentally dangerous chemical. An immediate study should be instituted to determine whether a ban is necessary. Meanwhile, the FDA should require all products containing PCBs to be labelled.

I also call upon the Monsanto Company, which manufactures the chemical under the trade name of AROCLOR, to cooperate completely with the FDA and the National Commission on Product Safety to determine how much of a threat PCBs are to the environment.

I am also asking Monsanto to release all its production figures for its three Aroclor plants. Scientists tell me that only with these figures can they intelligently gauge how much of the chemical is getting into the environment.

MONS 099760

Monsanto should immediately state, clearly and without equivocation, whether during the manufacturing process any PCBs are released to the environment, in any form; in what quantities they are released; and what control measures are in effect or being developed.

Monsanto should compile and release to the public a list of the uses of PCBs so that consumers can be aware of their presence.

Any manufacturer who uses PCBs should publish a list of the products containing these compounds; such products should be labelled as containing PCBs.

Until recently little was known about PCBs, even though its use is widespread. But now it is clear that disaster rides the winds in the form of this DDT-like chemical which is slowly but surely poisoning our environment, killing our birds, and poisoning our plantlife.

To the chemical industry, PCBs are a miracle ingredient in thousands of products from hydraulic fluid to plastic wrappings to insecticides to printing inks.

To scientists in several countries who have been carrying on independent research, PCBs are a menace that must be carefully watched before they claim human and animal lives.

The story of PCBs is an incredible tale of how man can pollute his environment simply by creating chemical compounds that will not breakdown in the wild--chemical compounds that are harmful to animal life.

It is also a tale of bureaucratic fumbling. The Department of Agriculture hasn't questioned the use of PCBs in insecticides because PCBs are considered an inert ingredient. Because of that curious classification there has been no attempt by the Division of Pesticide Regulation to ban the use of this chemical in pesticides.

While dangerous quantities of PCBs are sprayed into the environment as pesticides, this insidious chemical infects the environment through more roundabout means. Scientists are most alarmed at the quantities of PCBs they have discovered in birds, fruits, fish, conifer needles, human fat, and human milk.

It appears that PCBs are getting into the environment in many ways, through the stacks of manufacturing plants, through the weathering or friction wearing of various materials, and through the burning of plastics containing PCB.

It is interesting to note that although scientists on two continents independently found PCBs in wildlife Monsanto questions the research. It is also interesting to note that, when Dr. Robert Risebrough and Virginia Brodine were preparing a report on PCBs for the January-February issue of Environment, Monsanto said the chemicals are only used in so called "closed systems" where they could not affect the environment.

However, in a technical report issued by Monsanto on PCB uses, it clearly suggests dozens of "open system" uses including insecticides and printing inks. Monsanto can no longer be allowed to police itself. Federal action is necessary.

Here is why federal action is necessary. Here's the nature of the physical threat. Scientists tell us that like its chemical cousin, DDT, PCBs cause birds to lay eggs with pitifully thin shells, shells that are too weak to protect embryos. The experts also tell us that PCBs have a negative effect on the reproductive capacity of animals.

PCBs also have disasterous effects on human beings. If they have contact with the skin, they cause chloracne, a serious skin condition. If inhaled, the result is even more dramatic and frightening. Among the symptoms are nausea, rapid breathing, loss of weight, and a lowered red blood cell count. More serious results are the deterioration of the kidneys, jaundice, and atrophy of the liver. In sufficient quantities PCBs can cause death.

The incredible thing about the PCB menace is that its effects on man and animal have long been documented by chemists and biologists. Suddenly we have come to realize that this potentially dangerous chemical is in the environment. We must banish it from the environment now--before it is too late.

FOR RELEASE APRIL 10 — 11:00 A.M.

FOR FURTHER EXPLANATION CALL:
Jules Bernstein (212) 920-3036

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