

FOR MONSANTO CHEMICAL

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MONSANTO CHEMICAL STORY

LEE NELSON: Manhattan Congressman William Ryan charged today that the Monsanto Company is manufacturing a drug capable of bringing about a major ecological disaster.

Ryan said the product is polychlorinated biphenols, known in the chemical industry as PCB's. The Democrat claims it's used in thousands of products, including hydraulic fluids, plastic wrappings, insecticides and printing inks.

He called on the Nixon Administration to mobilize all available resources to detail the extent of its threat and to determine how it can be eliminated from use.

Ryan leveled that charge at a press conference here in New York and he told newsmen that he's asked the Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration to consider banning the compound.

RYAN: I'm also calling upon the Monsanto Corporation, which manufactures this chemical and is the sole manufacturer in the United States of this chemical and is the sole manufacturer in the United States of this chemical, which is called Aerochlor, to cooperate fully and completely with the Federal Government to determine the extent of the threat to the environment.

I'm asking Monsanto Company to release all of its production and sales figures since 1940 and for its three Aerochlor clients, two in the United States and one in England. Scientists inform me that only with these figures can they intelligently estimate how much of the chemical is getting into the environment.

REPORTER: Congressman, what brought PCB to your attention in the first place?

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RYAN: PCB was brought to my attention first by research which was conducted by a member of my staff, Mrs. Jean Faust, who has been helping me with environmental questions for some time.

Then Environment carried an article by Dr. Riceborough which set forth his findings as a result of his investigations, particularly of marine life and-- such as fish, where concentrations were similar to the concentrations of DDT.

NELSON: Ryan says that misuse of the PCB can lead to deterioration of the kidneys, jaundice and atrophy of the liver and that exposure to extremely large doses can lead to death.