

File
PCB
"Ryan"

city health officials in a two-pronged attack on lead-paint poisoning.

One part of the program would detect and treat children suffering lead-paint poisoning. The second part would amend the housing code to require elimination of lead-based paint from use in housing.

Only one death from lead-paint poisoning has been recorded in the city in recent years, but officials fear that hundreds of children may be suffering from it. A study by the Polk Control Center of Children's Hospital of the 12 dozen Homewood Branch youngsters found that a fourth of them had a dangerous level of lead in their systems. The committee adopted a three-point resolution which provides for:

A committee to begin drafting needed amendments to the housing and health codes.

An application for federal funding to carry out a lead-paint removal program in existing housing.

Exemption of setting up a fund to give poor home owners low-interest loans to repaint their homes with no-lead paint.—Pittsburgh Press, May 7, 1971.

VIOMIA

The Norfolk Lead Control Program is the first one to be funded under a new set of suggested community guidelines drawn up by the Public Health Service and also is the first comprehensive lead-poisoning project in the nation.

The program involves initial screening measures conducted by health department staff as well as a community-wide project to maintain support and interest in eliminating lead poisoning at the neighborhood level. The lead program staff have already spoken to some 300 people, such as PTA groups, to make them aware of the lead problem.

The program is headquartered in the Berkeley Model City Neighborhood Center and according to program coordinator Arlo V. Coker, he and his staff have collected more than 75 paint samples from homes throughout the city. Working through a list of children treated for lead poisoning at King's Daughters Children's Hospital in ATO and names supplied by city-wide clinics, Coker said that in most instances, as many as half of the samples collected come back positive for lead.

"Most lead poisoning cases that we've found are in black neighborhoods where the older deteriorating homes are," Coker said. He noted that most of these older and deteriorating homes are in the Berkeley, Equiverville, Brambleton and East Ghent area of the city which are Model City areas. A recent survey of homes in the city showed that over 80 percent of all dwelling units built prior to 1939 were in these four areas. Fifty-three percent of all the city's substandard housing is located in these areas," Coker added.—(Norfolk) Virginia-Pilot, October 16, 1970, February 25, 1971.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Community Health Services Administration, under a \$204,184 grant from the Model Cities Commission, is conducting a mass testing of children in a section of the inner city for lead poisoning. Of the 350 tested so far, five have had to be hospitalized. Another 30 children have a blood lead concentration of lead in their systems than is considered safe. These have been referred to hospitals and neighborhood health clinics for treatment on an outpatient basis.

Health officials say they would like to test 11,000 children between the ages of one and six from the model cities area; the total population of the area is about 50,000. The officials estimate that the city has about 8,000—about 10 percent of the 80,000 who live in old and dilapidated houses—who have higher levels of lead in their blood than are considered safe. Of these 8,000, there are an

estimated 500 who are so sick they should be hospitalized right away, they said.

The current screening procedure is operated out of a mobile testing facility. Community aides knock on doors in the neighborhood and ask parents to bring their children for testing. The test involves drawing blood from the arm into a small container which is taken to the city's testing lab or where the blood is tested for its lead level.—Washington Post, May 29, 1971.

WISCONSIN

Lead poisoning among inner city children has become as severe in Milwaukee, that Children's Hospital has established a special clinic to provide improved diagnosis, treatment and aftercare of lead poisoning victims. In 1967, six children died from lead poisoning, and in 1970, close to 80 youngsters were treated for the poisoning. None have died, but an underreported number have been left mentally retarded or otherwise brain damaged.

Lead poisoning has also been found among racing drivers and mechanics. Several years ago, a Milwaukee surgeon, Dr. Michael A. Polacek, medical director of the Wisconsin Auto Club, found abnormally high amounts of lead in the blood tests of two nationally known drivers who had been hospitalized for burns. After this discovery, Polacek took blood samples from 85 drivers, mechanics and driver-mechanics during a week of races. More than one-third had high amounts of lead; 3 had such high levels that poisoning would be expected; they also had poisoning signs including abdominal constipation, nausea, muscle weakness and dizziness.

Upon investigating the three poisoned racing members, Dr. Richard D. Stewart, chairman of environmental medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin, found that the lead in the blood of drivers and driver-mechanics was unrelated to breathing fumes from leaded gasoline or exhaust. Instead, it was absorbed through the skin when team members dismantled engines and washed the parts in kerosene.

Contract drivers, who merely drove the cars, had normal blood levels of lead. But drivers who also worked on the engines sometimes had a high blood lead level, indicating that lead poisoning might be a contributing cause of race crashes.—Milwaukee Journal, October 4, 1970.

PCB'S—THE NEED FOR CONGRESSIONAL ACTION

(MR. RYAN asked and was given permission to extend his remarks at this point in the Record and to include extraneous matter.)

MR. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Department of Agriculture conceded yesterday that millions of chickens fed on fish meal contaminated with a dangerous chemical—polychlorinated biphenyl—PCB—have reached the marketplace and in turn consumers' market baskets.

The potential consequences of this contamination are staggering. But just as dismaying is the fact that this incident could have been prevented if Federal agencies had lived up to their responsibilities to protect the public health and welfare.

For 2 years, I have urged the appropriate Federal agencies to take specific protective measures that would have safeguarded the public from the hazards of PCB's. During that time I have called upon the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Interior, the Food and Drug Administration, the President's

Commission on Product Safety, the Council on Environmental Quality, and the Environmental Protection Agency to take specific actions to protect the American people as well as fish, wildlife, poultry, and livestock from the hazards of PCB's.

Yet in an almost unprecedented display of callous disregard for the safety of our citizens, that action was not forthcoming. The results are now tragically apparent.

And despite the unfortunate lesson of this massive PCB contamination of poultry, the Federal bureaucracy still has not acted to prevent a recurrence in the future. The failure of the Federal Government in this entire matter is both shocking and inexcusable.

In view of the unconscionable neglect on the part of the executive branch, the Congress must now act.

I have introduced legislation—H.R. 10085—to prohibit the interstate distribution of PCB's. And I urge that the appropriate congressional committees immediately undertake a full and exhaustive investigation, not only of the current massive contamination of poultry and the need for Federal legislation to control this deadly chemical, but also into the indefensible failure of Federal agencies to take the necessary actions which would have prevented this incident.

At this point I include an article by Hank Burchard which appeared in the July 29 Washington Post detailing the extent of the current problem. I also include a July 29 Washington Evening Star article by John Fiska on PCB's.

The articles follow:

[From the Washington (D.C.) Post, July 29, 1971]

MILLIONS OF CHICKENS TAINTED (By Hank Burchard)

The Agriculture Department conceded yesterday that millions of chickens fed on fish meal contaminated with a DDT-like chemical have been sold in stores in the Washington area and much of the rest of the country.

The chemical, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), leaked into fish meal produced at a Wilmington, N.C., plant between April 30 and mid-July. From there it was widely distributed to poultry growers and hog raisers, mixed into up to 800,000 tons of feed.

Some 35 million broiling chickens alone are sent to market each week from the 12 states where feed containing the fish meal was sold. How many of those chickens consumed the contaminated feed and how much PCB was in their flesh when sold "cannot be known," Dr. Clayton R. Yentler, chief of Agriculture's Consumer and Marketing Bureau, said yesterday.

Last Friday, Dr. Fred Fullerton of Agriculture's Consumer and Marketing Service said that while he announced the fish meal PCB affair for a week, said there was "no evidence that any contaminated chickens have reached any consumer."

Dr. Yentler explained the apparent contradiction this way:

"There was no statement that chickens fed on the contaminated fish meal had not reached the market. The statement was that there was no evidence—and there still is none—that any of the marketed chickens contained more PCB than the 3 parts per million considered acceptable by the government."

Asked if there was any evidence that chickens containing more than 5 p.p.m. had not been marketed, Dr. Yettler said an announcement on the results of field tests would be made at the next meeting today.

In any case, Dr. Yettler said, "no chickens fed contaminated meat are on the market now and none will be released for market."

Asked if the meat could be used for frozen chickens and chicken meat used in the production of soups, hot dogs and other foods, Dr. Yettler referred the question to Dr. Fullerton, who could not be reached yesterday afternoon or last night.

The effects of PCB upon humans, if any, are not known. It has been shown to cause low fertility in fowl and liver damage in rats, and is thought by many scientists to be a serious long-term danger to man and animals.

Dr. Yettler said the public "should not be unduly alarmed" over the PCB case. "It is not worthwhile to worry the consumer now about something he ate a few weeks ago. It hasn't affected my consumption of chickens. As far as we know every chicken sitting on every shelf is safe and wholesome."

Rep. William Pile Ryan (D-N.Y.), who Monday filed a bill that would outlaw all production or use of PCB in the United States, said yesterday he was "shocked and outraged" by the government's handling of the case.

"They're just playing guessing games," he said. "The setting of the 5 parts per million standard was purely arbitrary in the first place. From all we can find, the action of Agriculture and FDA (Food and Drug Administration) has been insufficient to say the least."

"They've hushed up earlier PCB contamination cases and delayed announcement in this case until the chickens had been sold. This is unconscionable neglect in a situation of staggering potential harm."

Rep. Ryan said he would call for hearings not only on his bill but "into Agriculture and FDA's conduct."

Used since before World War II until recently in a wide range of products, PCB has made its way into the worldwide web of life and has been found in fish, wild birds (up to 1,000 p.p.m.), human fat and human mother's milk (up to .06 p.p.m.).

Monsanto Corp., sole producers of PCB in the U.S. and in the United Kingdom, last year stopped all sales of the chemical except for "closed-system" uses in heavy equipment and industrial heating equipment such as the stiller in the Wilmington plant where the fish meal was contaminated.

In that case, PCB leaked from the machinery into the fish meal undetected for about 18 weeks. The discovery was made only after one of the plant's customers found that his chickens were sickening and becoming infertile.

The customer, Holly Farms, Inc., a major supplier of chickens to Washington markets, tested the feed, then notified Monsanto, which traced the source and alerted FDA. Holly Farms destroyed 17,000 chickens.

The contamination went undetected until that time because no agency of the government regularly tests marketed fish for PCB.

[From the Washington (D.C.) Evening Star, July 29, 1971]

FISH MEAL GULP: FIRM IS CUBING SUBJECT

By (John Flakka)

PCB is the shorthand name of a family of 210 chemical substances, some of which have had widespread use in the United States since the early 1930s.

Because of mounting evidence that the PCBs are toxic to animals and, like DDT, do not easily break down in nature, the Mon-

santo Company, the nation's sole manufacturer of PCBs, has been quietly moving various products containing it off the market.

By last August, according to William B. Papageorge, manager of environment protection for Monsanto, the company had stopped selling it except for use in closed systems, such as in large electric transformers, heat transfer units and in electric capacitors.

It was felt that it would be highly unlikely that the chemical could pose a danger when its use was restricted to such closed systems, Papageorge explained.

NORTH CAROLINA LEAK

But in mid-July a heat exchange unit, used in a plant in Wilmington, N.C. in a process designed to remove the bacteria from imported fish meal, was found to be leaking.

The result was the possibility that millions of chickens and other livestock may have been eating contaminated feed.

According to Rep. William F. Ryan, D-N.Y., who has been studying the effects of the chemical for two years, the possibility of such a danger has been known for many months. Ryan introduced a bill Monday which would ban the sale of PCBs in the United States. He told the House that he has urged the Department of Agriculture, the Secretary of Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration repeatedly to ban PCBs.

Today, he called for hearings on his bill and the inaction by the federal agencies. The leakage in Wilmington, he said, "tragically illustrates the failure of the federal government to take preventive action against the unconscionable use of this deadly chemical."

ADMINISTRATION BILL

The Nixon administration meanwhile, is pushing for legislation that could lead to tight regulation of industrial chemicals like PCB.

Warren Muir of the Council of Environmental Quality said today that the PCBs are a good example of toxic substances not adequately covered under existing law.

Under the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act, the federal government could draw up standards that might regulate the discharge of PCBs into the air or water. This has not been done.

The administration's Toxic Substances Act, due for hearings next week before the Senate Commerce Committee, would permit the government to regulate the manufacture and everyday use of such chemicals as well as regulating them as pollutants.

The evidence that PCBs, like DDT, can concentrate and travel through the food chain was discovered by Swedish scientists in 1969, when they found the chemical in the carcasses of large birds of prey, primarily eagles. Later they found it in other birds, fish and even green needles. Since then it has been found in man.

In tests on mice, it causes liver damage and birth defects.

TWO EARLIER CASES

According to Rep. Ryan, federal authorities have already had notice of two instances where state authorities, alerted by PCB contamination, have had to remove large quantities of food from the market.

In 1970, he stated, the Campbell's Soup Company discovered that shipment of chickens it received from New York state contained a high percentage of one type of PCB.

The New York State Department of Agriculture ultimately destroyed 146,000 chickens and traced the chemical to a farm trying to use to package chicken feed. Rep. Ryan said.

That, same year, Rep. Ryan said, the Ohio

State Department of Agriculture found a residue of PCB in milk. They removed a large quantity from the market and traced the chemical to a material used to line silos, where cattle feed was stored.

Exactly how much PCB is still being produced is a secret which Monsanto, the sole manufacturer, refuses to disclose.

SAVED FOR 1970'S

According to Papageorge, a chemical engineer, PCB, or polychlorinated biphenyl, was first developed in the early 1920s by the Swann Chemical Co. in Anniston, Ala., and marketed by Monsanto.

Until, recently, PCBs were marketed in some industrial paints, coatings, inks, and in some plastics.

Now, because of Monsanto's change in marketing policy, it is produced only for use as an insulator in capacitors, an electric device found in home air conditioners; as a coolant in transformers; and as a fire retardant medium in heat exchanger units.

According to Papageorge, total removal of PCBs from some of these closed system uses will be "next to impossible."

He pointed out that large cities in the U.S. and many other countries use electric transformers containing PCB because it is an explosion proof coolant, allowing the transformers to be safely used in densely populated areas.

There is no substitute chemical with the same properties and switching to a different cooling system, such as air or gas, would mean drastically redesigning the transformers in use, he said.

"Our entire electrical system depends on it," concluded Papageorge. "Believe me," he added, "if we could get out of this business, we would."

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted as follows to:

Mr. ASPINALL, from 3:30 p.m. July 30, 1971, to noon, August 2, 1971, on account of official business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN), to revise and extend their remarks, and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. FINDLEY, today, for 5 minutes.

Mr. MILLER of Ohio, today, for 5 minutes.

Mr. HARVEY, today, for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOAGAN, on July 30, for 10 minutes.

Mr. CANNON, on August 4, for 1 hour.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BOGGS), to revise and extend their remarks, and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. FRASER, today, for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRISBY of North Carolina, today, for 10 minutes.

Mr. CANNON, today, for 10 minutes.

Mr. FUQUA, today, for 10 minutes.

Mr. REUSE, today, for 10 minutes.

Mr. ST. GERMAIN, today, for 10 minutes.

Mr. DORN, on August 5, for 60 minutes.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

Mr. BENNETT, to revise and extend his