MAY 22 1970

Box 625B Donlon Hall
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York 14850

Mr. Edward J. Bock, President
Monsanto Chemical Company
800 N. Lindbergh Blvd.
St. Louis, Mo. 63166

Dear Mr. Bock:

I am writing to you in my deep concern over the deterioration of our natural environment, specifically the poisoning of wildlife by the Polychlorinated hydrocarbons that are more commonly referred to as PCB's. I wish to suggest that the Monsanto Company plan an immediate and complete abandonment of PCB in the manufacturing of synthetic plastics and rubber, plasticizers, waxes and other products. This is the only alternative if there is any hope of saving wild birds, fishes and eventually even the human race.

I hope that your company has made itself aware of these four points relating to PCB but they are listed here so that you can be aware of the information that is available to the public. First, it is known that PCB's have been detected in the bodies of fish and birds in Europe and North America. Secondly, at Cornell University an investigation of the effects of PCB on pigeons indicated that the results of PCB poisoning are very similar to those of DDT and in many cases are even more lethal. Third, like DDT, PCB is very persistent in the environment and tends to increase in concentration in the animals higher up in the food chain. Lastly, concerning the role of Monsanto and PCB, it is known that your company is the chief manufacturer of PCB in this country. Some PCB's enter the environment when mixed with pesticides, but more often the source of PCB is from industrial wastes at Monsanto plants and the disposal of PCB products after use.

As president of Monsanto Company, you should concern yourself with this problem and how it can be solved. Government agencies usually have the legal means to prevent the destruction of wildlife such as that caused by PCB, but as has been indicated in the controversy over the new restrictions on DDT, the manufacturers file appeals and the full use of DDT will continue until those lengthy appeals have been exhausted. The possible solution is for the manufacturers to become sufficiently enlightened that they will place restrictions on their own production. This is a very immediate problem, Mr. Bock, so it is directly up to your company to help save our natural environment by halting the use of PCB's in manufacturing. I sincerely hope that you will seize this opportunity to help improve the quality of life on earth.

Yours truly,

Kevin Harris

Kevin Harris

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