Monsanto

JAN 10 1975

FROM (NAME & LOCATION): P.L. Wright - A2SC

DATE: January 9, 1975

cc G.J. Levinskas - A2SC

SUBJECT: MCA Toxic Substances Control Group Committee

REFERENCE:

TO:

O. DeGarmo - B3NA
R. Dunlap - 1870
W. Easley - 1920
W. McDonald - E3SH
J. Metcalf - B2NC
P. S. Park - A3SC
W. B. Papageroge - B2SK
A. J. Speziale - C3NA
R. L. Walter - C3SA
J. C. Weber - B3SC

The Senate and House conferees were unable to resolve their differences and as a result the "Toxic Substances Control Act of 1974" was not passed.

Glen Schweitzer continues to head the Office of Toxic Substances (OTS) and the staff currently numbers 40 persons. Schweitzer has indicated that EPA has no immediate intention of reducing this staff. There is concern that the staff may seek other positions if legislation is not enacted soon.

Three possibilities are discussed for future Congressional activity in this area. These are:

1) Both the Senate and House Subcommittees will pick up where they left off and resolve their differences, maintaining the basic 1974 proposal. The 1975 Senate Subcommittee will be quite similar to last sessions. Major changes may occur in the House Subcommittee.

2) New legislative proposals may be drafted in both the Senate and House. This is considered to have a low probability because of the major effort expended on the present proposals.

3) An Omnibus bill to include the activities of all the currently existing and proposed regulatory agencies (food, drug, air, water, pesticide, consumer protection, etc.) is being considered. There are many obstacles to this type of proposal. However, if properly implemented, it could offer a vastly improved situation over the presently fragmented and inconsistent activities.

The MCA Governmental Affairs personnel active in this area predict a 50/50 probability that some form of Toxic Substances Legislation will be enacted within 6 months. They recognize the major uncertainty raised by the present economic conditions.

Attached for your review is a "Summary of Governmental Activities

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with 50 High Volume Substances" compiled by the OTS. These activities are evidence of the involvement of regulatory agencies in the chemical industries operation.

Paul L. Wright

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