PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

PRESS QUERY

(x) Divisional
( ) Financial
( ) Corporate

Date Time

Aug. 6, 1971, 2:30 p.m.

QUERIED BY: (REPORTER AND MEDIA)

Stan Benjamin, Associated Press
Washington, D.C.

TO:
(x) St. Louis Bulletin Board
(x) New York Public Relations
( ) New York Textiles Public Relatio
( ) West Coast Public Relations
(x) Brussels Public Relations
(X) Lloyd R. Cole
(X) John R. Eck
(X) William B. Papageorge
(X) John Mason
(X) Howard S. Bergen
(X) Elmer P. Wheeler
(X) Phocion S. Park
(X) John J. Spano
(X) Sam Pickard

Q: I am doing a rather broad story on ocean pollution and in the long list of pollutants is PCB. Could you answer a few questions for me?

A: We have recently established a policy of not commenting on the PCB issue for several reasons. (Prepared statement read to Mr. Benjamin.) For this reason I may not be able to be very specific.

Q: Is Monsanto the sole producer of PCB in the U.S.?

A: Yes.

Q: Why has Monsanto taken a position of not publicizing production and sales figures?

A: For competitive reasons, although we have offered to make this information available to appropriate government agencies.

Q: What then is the rationale for not releasing production figures when there is no competition?

A: There may be no competition today, but this doesn't mean the situation will always be this way.

Monsanto is not unique in holding to this policy. There are literally thousands of proprietary products on the market for which you and I could not get production and sales figures. I am sure even Associated Press has such figures they would not reveal.

SOURCE OF ANSWER (List All Sources) NAME (Staffer Handling Query)

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