FOOD DATING legislation support from USDA was sought last week by Chairman Rosenthal (D-N.Y.) of the House Consumer Inquiry subcommittee. He wrote to USDA Secretary Hardin to request the Department to conduct a survey "to determine whether a statistically significant number of over-age perishable and semi-perishable food items are being sold by retail stores" and "whether the institution of expiration dates, or, in the alternative, the establishment of uniform codes known to consumers, would be effective in preventing the sale of old merchandise."

FATTY ACID labeling "statement of policy will issue shortly," FDA's M. J. Ryan, Director of Legislative Services, said in a letter to Rep. Yates (D-Ill.) (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, July 13, Page 2). Ryan noted that FDA-ers have recently met with representatives of the National Heart and Lung Institute and of FTC to discuss the problem but said, "We are still not in a position to announce a formal policy." Yates had asked why "coconut oil could not be labeled as coconut oil rather than as vegetable oil."

THE CHEMICAL FEAST, James Turner's book criticizing FDA food regulation, has been published in paperbound, selling for 95 cents.

W. DONALD GRAY, who spearheaded many investigations of FDA as a member of the staff of Rep. Fountain's (D-N.C.) House Intergovernmental Relations subcommittee, is becoming an investigator for Sen. Magnuson's (D-Wash.) Senate Commerce Committee. For the past nine months, Gray has been a legislative assistant to Sen. McIntyre (D-N.H.

SAIB was formally cleared by Canada's Food and Drug Directorate for use as a density adjusting agent for citrus-flavored beverages up to 50 p.p.m., in a Trade Information Letter (No. 336). A food standard proposal was submitted to FDA last week to clear optional use of sucrose acetate isobutyrate, and a Food Additive Petition has been submitted (See story, Page 27). SAIB is being considered as a substitute for brominated vegetable oils, which FDD last week formally limited to 15 p.p.m. in citrus-flavored beverages.

POLYCHLORINATED biphenyls surveillance program of FDA is being directed towards support of State efforts on PCBs (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, June 29, Page 29) The agency has adopted administrative guideline levels for PCBs of 5 p.p.m. in fish and 0.2 p.p.m. in whole milk. FDA's surveillance for PCBs actually started last year; before seizing Coho salmon the agency analyzed for PCBs to see if the residues were DDT or PCBs (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, March 31, 1969, Page 18). Milk containing PCBs has been found in Ohio and in Maryland, but these have been isolated instances, and in one case the PCBs were traced to a silo paint.

FDA budget for fiscal year 1971 was reported by the House Appropriations Committee at $89.5 million, the amount of the Administration request.

FOOD ADDITIVE Petition filed by Geigy and noted July 17 would amend §121.2566 for antioxidants and/or stabilizers for polymers to clear use of 2-(3'-tert-butyl-5'-methyl 2'-hydroxyphenyl)-2H-5-chlorobenzotriazole in the manufacture of olefin polymers.

FDA'S Morton M. Schneider is switching from a Congressional relations post to the Office of Product Safety.