National Electrical Manufacturers Association
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Bernard H. Falk
Vice President
Government & Membership Services

August 2, 1971

TO ALL REPRESENTATIVES OF
MEMBER COMPANIES IN THE
TRANSFORMER SECTION AND
CAPACITOR SECTION

Subject: H.R. 10085 - A Bill to Prohibit PCB

Gentlemen:

Congressman Ryan has introduced H.R. 10085, a bill to prohibit the introduction or delivery for introduction into commerce of the chemical compound known as polychlorinated biphenyl. A copy of the bill, as well as Congressman Ryan's statement in the Congressional Record of July 26th, is enclosed for your information.

You will recall that on May 19th, Congressman Ryan introduced H.R. 8576, which would have banned PCB, except for use in certain applications such as the dielectric fluid in capacitors and the coolant in transformers. Apparently, Congressman Ryan now feels that PCB's are even a more serious threat than he thought at that time and for this reason is seeking a total ban.

We will keep you posted on developments. In the interim, we will still appreciate receiving comments from those of you who have not yet expressed their views on this matter.

Sincerely,

Bernard H. Falk

BHF:mg
Encls.
cc: Committee on Use and Disposal of
Askarel, Power Equipment Division
Board of Directors
Joseph F. Miller - President, NEMA
A. M. Salazar - Secretary, S-TR
C. A. Parris - Secretary, S-CP
H.P. Michener - Technical Director and Manager
Engineering and Safety Regulations Dept.
J. J. Kark - Engineering & Safety Regulations Dept.

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92D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 10085

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 26, 1971

Mr. RYAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce

A BILL

To prohibit the introduction or delivery for introduction into commerce of the chemical compound known as polychlorinated biphenyl.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That for the purposes of this Act—

(1) The term "commerce" means commerce between any State and to or through any place outside thereof; or within any territory or possession of the United States or the District of Columbia; or from a foreign country to any State.

(2) The term "State" means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,

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the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the Canal Zone, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

(3) The term "person" means any private person or entity, any officer, department, agency, or instrumentality of any State or local unit of government, and any officer, department, agency, or instrumentality of the Federal Government.

SEC. 2. It shall be unlawful for any person to introduce or deliver for introduction into commerce any of the chemical compound known as polychlorinated biphenyl.

SEC. 3. (a) Any person who knowingly violates section 2 of this Act shall be fined not more than $5,000 or be imprisoned not more than one hundred and eighty days, or both.

(b) Whenever any corporation knowingly violates section 2 of this Act, such corporation, and any individual director, officer, or agent of such corporation who knowingly or willfully authorized, ordered, or performed any of the acts or practices constituting such violation shall be fined not more than $5,000 or imprisoned not more than one hundred and eighty days, or both.

SEC. 4. The provisions of this Act shall first take effect thirty days after the date of its enactment.

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ple gathered at Andrews Air Force Base that—

Deep differences in political philosophy cannot permanently divide the peoples of the world.

What is most important for the United States is that these differences in political philosophy should not be used like a vise to crush the independent, nationalistic course which the Romanians have chosen for themselves. This will not occur so long as America recognizes that independence and actively encourages it.

President Nixon has recognized that independence, and now has urged the Congress to act to foster it. As with the ping-pong tournament in China, the ball is now in our court. If we in Congress are to fulfill such responsibility in the determination of national policy, then hearings should be held on our Eastern European trade policy at an early date.

The two bills I am introducing today would provide the focus for those hearings.

The general bill I today introduced would permit the President to extend MFN to any country with which the United States has diplomatic relations and which is a member of GATT—General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade—if the President determines such to be in the national interest.

PCB'S—ENVIRONMENTAL POISON

The SPEAKER. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. RYAN) is recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, July 23, the U.S. Department of Agriculture revealed that a significant proportion of chickens raised in 12 States have been contaminated with an extremely dangerous chemical—polychlorinated biphenyl—PCB.

This occurrence tragically illustrates the failure of the Federal Government to take preventive action against the uncontrolled use of this deadly chemical. During the past 2 years I have attempted to get the appropriate Federal agencies to take the necessary protective actions that would have forestalled such an occurrence and would have guaranteed the health and safety of the public. But in an almost unprecedented display of disregard for the public health and welfare, that administrative action has not been forthcoming.

Therefore, I am today introducing legislation to totally ban the distribution of PCB's in interstate commerce, thus insuring that our health and environment are safeguarded from the hazards of this chemical.

Manufactured in the United States solely by the Monsanto Co., polychlorinated biphenyls are a serious threat to our health and to our environment. Like DDT—their chemical cousin—PCB's and their residue are extremely toxic to animal life, cause birds to lay eggs with shells too thin to protect the embryos they enclose, and have a deleterious effect on the reproductive capacity of animals.

But by far the most frightening hazard is the effect of PCB's on human beings. Polychlorinated biphenyls may be taken into the body by direct action upon the skin or as a vapor through the respiratory tract. The effect on the skin is chloracne: the early symptoms of which are pimples and dark pigmentation; later, more serious eruptions. Persons who have been continuously exposed to PCB's may suffer nausea, vomiting, loss of weight, edema and abdominal pain, increased respiration, lowered blood cell count, and inhibition of the carbohydrate metabolism. More serious effects are those on the kidneys. The principle effect, however, is on the liver—possibly leading to atrophy, followed by death.

PCB's are very persistent in the environment thus making them a long-term threat. They are not soluble in water and resist biological breakdown.

In the past, PCB's have been sold by the Monsanto Co. for use in plasticizer applications; in closed system applications, such coolants in transformers; as hydraulic fluids; and as an extender in pesticides.

When I first brought the potential dangers of PCB's to the attention of the appropriate Federal agencies in April 1970, I requested that certain specific actions be taken to protect our health and environment from the hazards of PCB's.

I urged the Secretary of Agriculture to ban the use of polychlorinated biphenyls in pesticides. The Department of Agriculture agreed to discontinue the use of PCB's in pesticides and to cancel registrations for pesticides containing PCB's.

I urged the Food and Drug Administration to set food tolerance levels for PCB's, to require the labeling of all products containing PCB's, and to determine whether this chemical should be banned completely. In replying to me, the FDA advised me that it was undertaking a survey to determine the extent of food contamination from PCB's—the results of which I still have not received. FDA refused to set food tolerance levels and to require labeling.

I urged the Secretary of the Interior to act to protect fish and wildlife from this hazard. He replied that investigations were being carried out by various agencies of the Federal Government and the results of these studies would be funneled to the staff of the Council on Environmental Quality.

I urged the Commission Product Safety to determine the nature and extent of the threat to our environment. The Commission replied that it was not possible for them to conduct an in-depth investigation of the hazards of PCB's at that time.

And I urged the Council on Environmental Quality to coordinate the efforts of all appropriate Government agencies, so that the public might know the sources and the seriousness of the PCB danger, and that it take steps to eliminate this hazard as soon as possible. The Council advised me that it was working with other Federal agencies to determine what course of action was available to the Federal Government.

Earlier this year I renewed by call for administrative action by requesting the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to place an immediate ban of the importation, manufacture, and sale of all products containing PCB's with the possible exception of certain closed system applications. I urged that he require that any product containing PCB's not included in such a ban be labeled with a warning as to their detrimental environmental effects. I requested that he obtain from Monsanto those production and sales figures necessary to determine the extent of possible PBC contamination—data which Monsanto has refused to provide me. And I urged that the Environmental Protection Agency coordinate all appropriate governmental agencies in dealing with this hazard.

In replying to me, EPA ignored all four of my requests and in no way responded to them.

In short, except for the action of the Department of Agriculture in banning PCB's in pesticides, the Federal Government has not taken any of the necessary steps which I have requested over the past 2 years to combat this very serious environmental and health hazard.

The results of this Government inaction are now tragically apparent. Large amounts of poultry and hogs in a 12 State area may now be contaminated with this toxic chemical.

For nearly 3 months PCB's have been leaking into fish meal processed at the East Coast Terminal, Inc., plant in Wilmington, N.C. The meal has been sold to 64 poultry producers in Virginia, Delaware, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Indiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, and Mississippi.

According to the Department of Agriculture, 16,000 tons of fish meal had been produced at the Wilmington plant between April 30 and July 16—when the plant was closed down.

This contamination would yet be unnoticed if it were not for the fact that a commercial poultry processor became alarmed at the low rate of hatching of eggs in his broiler breeding chickens.

I can see no way that all the poultry and hogs subjected to this chemical can now be traced. The potential results could be disasterous.

And this is not the sole instance of widespread PCB contamination in the food chain.

In December 1970, the Campbell Soup Co. discovered that fat samples taken from slaughtered chickens contained a high quantity of PCB residue. Upon being notified of this finding and recognizing the potential danger of this occurrence, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets immediately stopped the movement of all poultry from the area in Sullivan County, N.Y., where the chickens had been raised.

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets then began a full-scale investigation into the extent of possible PCB contamination in poultry. Their laboratory confirmed the findings made by Campbell Soup Co. of high levels of PCB's, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture established a continuing restraint on the movement of all poultry for slaughter in Sullivan, Ulster, and

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Orange Counties, N.Y., until it was found to be safe through a special screening test operation.

As a result of their investigations and in conjunction with USDA, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets ordered that 140,000 PCB-contaminated chickens be buried under close supervision to make absolutely sure that they would not reach the marketplace.

The Campbell Soup Co., USDA, and the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets all took prompt action to deal with this serious problem, and that is reassuring. However, the potential damage which could have resulted if this incident had not been discovered in time cannot be ignored. And I must stress that this is not an isolated example.

In January 1970, samples of milk collected by the State of Ohio Department of Agriculture revealed residue of a product closely resembling DDT and DDD. On February 19, a dairyman, George Schwartzwalder, was issued a notice by the division of food, dairies, and drugs to discontinue the sale of milk until such time as the residue found in his milk was below the actionable level. On February 27, another dairyman, Franklin Humphrey, received a similar notice.

Subsequent samples from individual cows and the bulk tank on these farms submitted to agriculture laboratories and the pesticide laboratory at Ohio State University revealed that the residue was not DDT but PCB's. The Ohio State Department of Agriculture found the contaminating substance to be AROCLOR 1254, manufactured by the Monsanto Co. Apparently, the dairymen's silos were lined with a product called Cumar which included AROCLOR in its content. The PCB's were then absorbed by the silage which in turn was fed to the milk cows, resulting in PCB-contaminated milk.

Although I have been assured by the Ohio State Department of Agriculture that this problem is now under control, the harm that might have resulted is obvious.

In view of the lack of administrative action even after these incidents were brought to the attention of Federal agencies and in light of the obvious threat posed by PCB-contamination in milk and poultry, on May 19, I introduced legislation (H.R. 8576) to ban the distribution of polychlorinated biphenyl in interstate commerce. However, this legislation gave the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, the authority to exempt from this ban PCB's for use in certain closed-system applications; namely, as the dielectric fluid in capacitors, the coolant in transformers, or as a fire resistant in heat transfer media, provided that he found such uses would not adversely affect the public health and welfare.

It is now apparent, however, that PCB's are a serious threat even in these closed system applications, as evidenced by the current incident of poultry feed contamination. Therefore, I am today introducing legislation to totally ban the interstate distribution of PCB's. And I am calling for congressional hearings into this matter.

Further, I am reiterating my call for the Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency to commence immediately a full and exhaustive investigation in to the extent of PCB contamination. And I am calling for an immediate administrative ban on the manufacture, shipment, and sale of all PCB's.

The problem of PCB's is indicative of a much larger problem—that of the almost unrestricted influx of harmful chemicals into the marketplace. A system must be established to insure the safety of a chemical before it can be sold and then only for specific uses.

But in the meantime, everything possible must be done to protect the public from known chemical dangers. We know the hazards of PCB's. We know what can and must be done to combat these hazards. And we must undertake those actions now.

At this point I include in the Record two articles by Hank Burchard which appeared in the Washington Post on July 24 and July 25 respectively, and a July 24 New York Times story by William Blair.

The articles follow:

[From the Washington Post, July 24, 1971]

CHEMICAL FOUND IN CHICKENS—CONTAMINATED FOWL FOUND IN 12-STATE AREA

(By Hank Burchard)

A "significant proportion" of the chickens raised in 12 states have been contaminated with a DDT-like compound, the Department of Agriculture announced yesterday.

USDA said it has "no evidence" that any of the birds have reached consumers and has taken steps to make sure none do.

The contaminant is poly-chlorinated biphenyls, known as PCB. For nearly three months it had been leaking into fish meal processed at the East Coast Terminal, Inc., plant in Wilmington, N.C. The meal has been sold to 64 poultry producers in Virginia, Delaware, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Indiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas and Mississippi.

PCB, like DDT, is a persistent compound that accumulates in fatty tissues and is said to cause low fertility and birth defects in animals. Its effects on humans are uncertain, but USDA has set the maximum acceptable level of PCB in marketed fish at 5 parts per million, the same as for DDT.

Tests of poultry in markets in the South and East during the past week have found none that have as much as 5 p.p.m. of PCB, according to Dr. Fred J. Fullerton of USDA's consumer and marketing service.

"In my opinion, there would be no problem in stores above the tolerance," Fullerton said. The agency does not regularly test for PCB.

In poultry not yet slaughtered, USDA found PCB concentrations as high as 22 p.p.m., and one poultry producer reported levels as high as 60 p.p.m.

The contamination of fish meal in the Wilmington plant was caused by leakage of PCB being used as the heat exchange mechanism in a sterilizing machine.

The accidental leakage, which may have begun around April 30, was brought to the attention of the Food and Drug Administration last week by the Monsanto Corp., sole U.S. producer of PCB compounds. FDA in turn alerted USDA on July 16.

PCB, which stands for a dozen related compounds, has been long and widely used in the U.S. as a solvent in the production of paint, pesticides plastics and resins and such items as "carbonless" carbon paper, as well as in heating and cooling machinery. Monsanto now recommends its use be limited to heat exchange systems as FDA spokesman said.

PCB contamination of the tissues of poultry produced in New York State last year resulted in the seizure and destruction of more than 165,000 birds. The source of contamination in that case has not been pinpointed.

Although PCB has been in use worldwide since before World War II, it was not until 1966 that its presence in soil, water and animal tissues became known.

"Environment" magazine, which first brought the PCB problem to national attention, reported that concentrations of PCB were overlooked in chemical analyses because it is so similar to DDT.

Dorsa Cohen, the magazine's scientific director, recently charged the government's measurements of toxic substances in the environment "support PCB contamination may be quite widespread," he said in a telephone interview from St. Louis, Mo.

"We were told to check birds from the South more than two months ago, but haven't yet been able to track it down," he said.

Dr. Joseph Blair of USDA said the agency had "been checking chickens in the South during this period and have found nothing to lead us to suspect contamination of marketed birds."

Scientific opinion on the dangers presented by PCB is divided. USDA researchers, a spokesman said, regard the outcry over PCB (and DDT) as exaggerated.

An FDA spokesman said the agency forbids use of PCB in food or in the production of food containers. "Its effects are not known in detail," he said. "But to us it's an adulterant and impermissible."

Dr. Robert Risebrough, of the University of California at Berkeley, discovered while doing research on the brown pelican that PCB was endangering the species. Since then he has reported finding PCB residues widespread.

[From the Washington Post, July 25, 1971]

LAW SOUGHT TO BAN DDT-LIKE CHEMICAL

(By Hank Burchard)

A New York congressman said yesterday he will introduce a bill to ban all use of a DDT-like compound that has contaminated human and wildlife food chains in the U.S. and around the world.

The announcement by Rep. William Fitts Ryan (D. N.Y.) came after it was revealed Friday that high levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) has been found in fish meal fed to poultry in 12 states, including Virginia and Delaware, over the past three months.

A Department of Agriculture spokesman said yesterday that fish meal from the same Wilmington, N.C., plant had also been fed to an unknown number of hogs. The department said it does not believe any of the poultry or pork involved has reached consumer markets and is moving to prevent them from being sold.

Fish meal produced by East Coast Terminal, Inc., of Wilmington, was contaminated from about April until the plant was ordered closed Friday. The PCB, being used as the heat transfer medium in sterilizing vats, leaked unnoticed into the meal.

The contamination was not discovered by any government agency. It came to light when a customer of the Monsanto Corp., the sole U.S. producer of PCB complained that his chickens were being stunted and their eggs were of low fertility.

Monsanto traced the problem to the chicken feed and the feed to the Wilmington plant, then notified the U.S. Food and Drug

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Administration, which notified USDA, which a week later made the first public announcement.

GROSS NEGLECT

Ryan, whose office has been investigating the PCB problem for two years, said the case "graphically illustrates the gross neglect of the federal government to take preventive action against the uncontrolled use of deadly chemicals by American industry."

He said his bill would be introduced Monday. It will replace his HR 8578, introduced May 19, which would permit the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare to exempt certain uses of PCBs from the ban.

"The latest case convinces us there is no safe way for the stuff to be used," said Ryan aide Clay Edwards.

USE LIMITED

A spokesman for the Monsanto Corp. said yesterday the use of PCBs is "absolutely essential" for heavy electrical equipment and that the company has taken "very stringent measures" to control use of the compound.

Since last August, he said Monsanto has withdrawn PCBs from sale for any purpose other than as the insulating fluid in electrical capacitors, as a coolant in transformers or as a fire-resistant ingredient in industrial heating and cooling systems. The embargo also applies to the United Kingdom, in which Monsanto also has a monopoly in PCBs.

For more than 40 years before the Monsanto action, PCBs, which are a group of a dozen chlorinated hydrocarbons, had been widely used as plasticizers (softeners) in paints, sealants, adhesives and other surface coatings, with miscellaneous applications in thermostats, food, pharmaceuticals and hydraulic fluids, according to the April, 1971, "New Scientist and Science Journal."

A spokesman for the National Paint, Varnish & Lacquer Association, Inc., said yesterday that PCBs "never have been 'widely used' in paints. They had certain limited industrial applications and are no longer used. Any paint buyer may be assured the products contain no PCBs."

EFFECTS LIKE DDT

The effects of PCBs in animals are similar to those of DDT, and before 1966 the presence of the compound in the biological chain was not suspected because it was mistaken for DDT in laboratory analyses.

There is no consensus among scientists about how dangerous the compound is. Their concern centers on the fact that PCBs, like DDT, is a highly stable compound that breaks down slowly. A worldwide ban on PCBs and DDT will be proposed at the United Nations [illegible] year.

It is insoluble in water but soluble in fats, a factor which causes it to become concentrated in the tissues of progressively larger animals in the food chain. Residues of up to 3000 parts per million (p.p.m.) have been found in the tissues of American seabirds. The USDA Rules do not permit sale for human consumption of feed containing more than 5 p.p.m. Some chickens fed on the contaminated fish meal have been found to contain up to 40 p.p.m.

Last December a Campbell's Soup plant in New Jersey discovered impermissible levels of PCBs in chickens purchased from New York growers. Again the discovery was made in private tests, since the federal government does not regularly test for PCBs in marketed foods.

CHEMICAL TRACED

New York State officials traced the contamination to chicken feed produced in a plant that uses scale bakery goods (which may have been wrapped in plastic made with a PCB). Some 140,000 chickens were destroyed and buried.

Earlier, milk from two Ohio dairy herds was found to contain PCBs derived from silage stored in silos painted with PCB-treated epoxys.

Government regulation of PCBs has been limited. The USDA recently banned their use in pesticides, and the FDA does not permit them to be added to food products. A half dozen other agencies say they are considering regulations.

Monsanto's recognition of PCBs as an ecological hazard and its voluntary ban on their use except in "closed-system" equipment is very nearly unique in industry, according to the scientific journal.

The company also collects used PCBs from its customers and destroys them in a special incinerator in Illinois.

MONSANTO TESTS

Recently completed Monsanto tests, conducted over two years, showed that rats fed feed containing up to 100 p.p.m. showed enlargement of the liver but suffered no other effects the company spokesman said. Dogs showed no ill effects, he said.

Rep. Ryan said he was skeptical of tests ordered by the company for its own products.

Edwards, his aide, said "It's ridiculous to have to introduce a bill every time another family of dangerous compounds turns up in our bodies and throughout the environment, but, given the repeated failure of government agencies to act, there's nothing else we can do."

[From the New York Times, July 24, 1971]

UNITED STATES FREES POISON IN SOME CHICKENS—SEARCH ON IN 13 STATES AFTER FEED IS FOUND TAINTED

(By William M. Blair)

WASHINGTON—The Department of Agriculture announced today a search in 13 states for broiler chickens and chicken feed that may be contaminated by an industrial chemical.

The toxic substance is of the chemical family of polychlorinated biphenyls. Spokesmen for the Agriculture Department and the Food and Drug Administration said that the PCB, as the chemical is known, had leaked from heating machinery used to pasteurize fish meal at the East Coast Terminal, Inc., Wilmington, N.C. The meal was sold for use as an ingredient in poultry feed and may have found its way into some hog feeds, officials said.

They said that the meal had been sold to at least 64 feed processing plants. These included plants that raise and process poultry for retail markets. The officials said that the Wilmington plant had recalled all fish meal shipped since April 30, the indicated date of the beginning of the problem. The plant closed voluntarily a week ago, they said.

The toxic substance causes digestive disturbances, nausea, fever and other upsets in humans, officials said. The Food and Drug Administration said it had a guideline of 5 parts per million for the PCB substance. Agriculture scientists said that 15 to 20 parts per million had been found in fish meal still at the North Carolina plant.

ALARM OVER EGG-HATCHINGS

The contamination was disclosed by an unnamed commercial poultry processor who became alarmed at the low rate of hatching of eggs in his broiler breeding chickens. Using private laboratory tests, he found up to 40 parts per million in the fat of some of his chickens. Agriculture officials said. He traced the meal to the Wilmington plant, they said.

The meal was said to have gone in Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

The F.D.A. set a guideline of five parts per million for the substance after it had been found in feed from an Agway, Inc., plant in Sullivan County, N.Y., early this year. Higher concentrations were found in chickens fed the feed and shipped to a processing plant in New Jersey.

Federal officials said that 1,16,820 chickens had been destroyed in Sullivan, Orange and Ulster Counties, N.Y., as a result of the finding.

10,000 TONS OF MEAL

An Agriculture Department spokesman said that about 10,000 tons of fish meal had been produced at the Wilmington plant between April 30 and July 16. Normally, fish meal makes up only a small portion of mixed poultry feeds.

A spokesman for Representative William F. Ryan, Democrat of Manhattan, said that Mr. Ryan has been trying for a year to get the shipment of PCB prohibited in interstate commerce. He introduced legislation to that effect but it has languished in the House Interstate Commerce Committee, the spokesman said.

He said Mr. Ryan had warned of "widespread" contamination of foodstuffs particularly poultry, before the New York case. He had looked into the toxic effects of PCB after reading a study by California scientists on the chemical and finding that it was not soluble in water and could be taken into the human system by physical contact, the spokesman said.

PCB had a wide range of industrial use, including paints and resins and in the manufacture of plastics and other materials. In the North Carolina case, the substance was used in a heat exchanger to cool liquid. In the New York chicken case, the PCB was believed to have been in paint that flaked off a storage bin or to have been absorbed by the feed from the paint.

The SPEAKER. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ROY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

THE PEOPLE OF UTICA, MISS., ACT TO HELP POW-MIA'S

The SPEAKER. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia, Mr. GRIFFIN is recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Mr. Speaker, in early June, the people of Utica, Miss., my hometown, undertook the task of sending two representatives to Paris, France and Rome, Italy to express their support and concern for all the American POW-MIAS presently being held in North Vietnamese prisons. Air Force Maj. Thomas E. Collins III, has been a prisoner since October 18, 1965. He is a native of Utica.

The representatives were Mayor John F. Tillman and Postmaster F. L. Scott, both noted and well-respected members of the community. The mission proved successful beyond the hopes of all of us who supported and encouraged the effort.

It is a source of enormous pride to me that citizens in and around a small town like Utica, 1,633 population, should undertake such a project with logistical and financial problems to be overcome. Overcome they were, Mr. Speaker, for, within a remarkably short time after the effort began, the money was raised and arrangements made for Mayor Tillman and Postmaster Scott to embark on their mission.

It was a community project, and one in which people of all walks of life participated. Its motives were of the noblest order and its intentions [illegible] humanitarian. They went to express the [illegible] heartbreak and concern and love of millions of

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