12 Derby Place
Kings Park, N. Y. 11754
May 17, 1972

Mr. Dan Forrestal
Monsanto Chemical
800 N. Lindbergh Blvd.
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Mr. Forrestal,

This letter is being directed to you in the hope that you can help us solve a problem.

During football season last year our fourteen year old son started playing football with school issued equipment. Shortly after the season began he developed an increasingly serious skin eruption on his face, which we assumed was the natural reaction of his age combined with masks and perspiration. Upon reading about PCBs we became interested in the possibility of its presence in mouth pieces or chin straps. Our dermatologist prescribed increasing doses of medication, ending up with cortisone to try to keep it under control. On several occasions the boy's eyes were closed with swelling of cysts. He also has a sympton of sweating of palms and extreme weakness. We are taking into consideration his age, rapid growth and activities. However, in spite of his age and the fact that he had to be taken off all medication because his hair was thinning his skin is now improving. The cysts do not appear to be erupting or forming, which makes us wonder if he was affected by some factor that has now worn itself out in his system.

Could you please help us find out if there would have been any PCB in the football equipment he wore. We find it listed as an ingredient in many plastics, paper and apparently anything that needs flexibility, strength and durability. We have the mouthpieces used, one of which comes from the Mill-Mont Company in California. The helmet he wore came from the Rawlings Company and I believe was a reconditioned one by Raleigh. These are all just names to us. I'm hoping that you will be able to tell us if your company supplies any PCB product to manufacturers in the sports goods business.

The big reason we need to know is that Paul definitely wants to play football again. If we can find out what is bothering his system we will try to get equipment that does not have it. He does well enough in football so that the coaches say they will try for leather or something else suitable to his particular condition. We feel it might be the mouthpiece or chin strap because his first cyst was a tremendous hardening and swelling of his entire chin. He had to wear cotton to ease the pain of contact.

We are comparative newcomers to New York, having been here for 4½ years. We have taken note of the amount of usage of courts here and that is not our reason for writing. We are not trying to place blame, but we arevery interested in the future protection of health and prevention of further skin problems.

Please let me hear from you soon, as we are very concerned parents.

Yours truly,

Mrs. Hans Jensen

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