File - PCB

St. Louis - General Offices

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PCB's DISCUSSION WITH
JOHN LANNON, SCIENCE EDITOR
WASHINGTON EVENING STAR
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E. J. Bock
Sam Pickard, Washington, D.C.
E. V. John
H. S. Bergen
J. E. Sprinkgate
W. B. Papageorge

FILE

John Lannon contacted Sam Pickard in Washington on PCB's and he was referred to me in St. Louis.

Lannon is preparing to write an article on this subject based on the press release and Congressional speech of Representative Ryan. He is obviously a well informed individual who has good contacts in the various government agencies and was quite knowledgeable on the subject.

He subjected me to a long list of well-informed questions and I hope that I was able to give him a balanced view of the problem.

Major items covered were:

- Is Monsanto the only U.S. producer? -- Yes.

- Are all Aroclors PCB's and are all PCB's Aroclors? -- It was explained that only a limited number of the Aroclor range can be classified as PCB's and not all of these have been found in the environment.

- What action is Monsanto taking to control the problem? -- He was given broad information on our policy, i.e. control of emissions from our plants, pick-up of spent fluids for regeneration and incineration.

- Are PCB's bio-degradable? -- He was given limited information on this subject and it was also pointed out that we were doing work in this area aimed at producing more bio-degradable products.

I was challenged with the question, "Is it true that Monsanto produces some 60 M pounds of PCB's annually?". He was told that we had not discussed figures on our production for obvious reasons and we would only do so to a responsible government organization who would guarantee us confidentiality.

Several questions were asked on end uses for Aroclors and it was emphasized that closed systems such as transformers, capacitors and heat exchange systems were the major markets for our products. Fire resistance was emphasized and the need to take a balanced attitude on this problem.

Lannon advised me that the article he proposed would probably be published either the end of this week or early next week and he refused to allow

us to review the article prior to publication as this was against his paper's policy.

He assured me that the article would be a balanced one and that Monsanto would receive fair treatment recognizing that we were taking definite actions to minimize the problem to the environment.

JOHN MASON

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