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Chickens Are Destroyed Because Meal Is Polluted

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration says that thousands of chickens have been destroyed and many more may be because a Ralston Purina Co. subsidiary distributed contaminated animal meal last year.

The feed was contaminated by polychlorinated biphenyls during a warehouse fire in Puerto Rico in early February 1977. It is believed that the fire caused pressure sensitive valves in two electrical transformers to leak PCB coolant into the leased building. The feed was stored in bags in the warehouse.

Ralston Purina, in a statement released Wednesday, said that "an isolated amount of contaminated fishmeal was inadvertently shipped in June and July, 1977," from the Puerto Rico subsidiary to several feed distributors.

The fishmeal, an ingredient used in animal and poultry feeds, has all been destroyed or withdrawn from the market, Ralston said. None of the fishmeal was used in Purina Chow animal feeds, the company added.

A spokesman for the FDA, however, said it was not clear whether any of the contaminated fishmeal was mixed in swine or other animal feeds. Nancy Glick of the FDA also said she did not know if any pet food was involved.

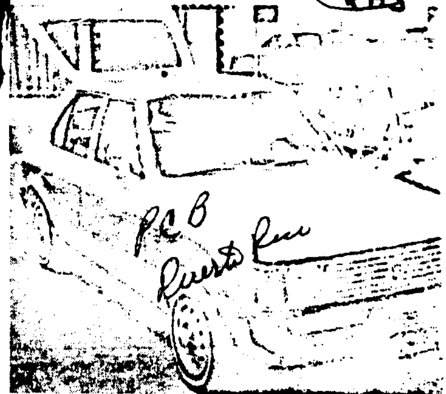
Ralston said that as soon as it became aware of the PCB contamination in early February, 1978, it voluntarily notified the FDA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture and began procedures to locate and dispose of the affected fishmeal. "Corrective measures were immediately taken to alleviate any potential problems and all affected customers have been contacted."

The customers were served by feed brokers and distributors primarily in Texas, Arkansas and Iowa. Isolated shipments were also made to southwestern Missouri, California, Mississippi, Alabama, eastern Oklahoma, Minnesota and Idaho.

"We don't know how many chickens or eggs were sold before it was discovered", she said. "We know several hundred thousand chickens containing excessive PCB levels have had to be destroyed and eggs from contaminated laying hens are being destroyed daily."

Polychlorinated biphrenyls are highly stable chemicals that were used extensively for many years in insulators and other electrical equipment. As a result of their heavy industrial use they have become persistent environment contaminants that get into the food chain and turn up in the fat tissues of many animals, especially fish.

Consumption of large doses by humans can cause acne-like skin eruptions, darkening of the skin and nails, excessive discharge from the eyes and swelling of the eyelids, the FDA spokeswoman said. But such symptoms should not be experienced by people who have consumed the contaminants in the quantities found in poultry and eggs so far, she added.


PCB
Puerto Rico

PRODUCTION INCREASE: Chrysler Corp. announced it boost production of its new Dodge Omni and Plymouth (above) models by nearly 17 percent next week to creasing demand. Meanwhile, an industry publication that auto production in U.S. Plants is expected to hit units this week, the second highest weekly output it

First National Charter Profits Climb

First National Charter Corp., Kansas City-based bank holding company, reported record net income for the first quarter of 1978.

Net income after securities transactions for the three months was $3.2 million, or $1.71 a share, up 12 percent from $2.86 million, or $1.53 a share, in the year-ago period.

Net income in the quarter was up 16.4 percent before securities losses of $15,000 in the 1978 period and securities gains of $97,000 in the same 1977 period.

At March 31, assets totaled $1.42 billion versus $1.37 billion on that date last year; deposits were $1.08 billion versus $995 million and loans increased to $657.9 million from $556.2 million.

First National Charter is parent company of Webster Groves Trust Co., Charter Bank of Jennings, Charter Bank of Ladue and Charter Bank of Overland.

Oil, Gas, Coal Depende[illegible] To Continue, Experts S[illegible]

HOUSTON — The United States, for the next 30 to 40 years, must depend on oil, gas, coal and uranium for its energy requirements, a panel of energy experts said at a national meeting here of electric utility executives.

Speaking at the annual convention of Edison Electric Institute, E. R. Phelps, vice chairman of St. Louis-based Peabody Coal Co., pointed out that "Eighty percent of U.S. energy requirements are now being served by oil and gas, while 80 percent of our known reserves of energy are coal."

Phelps said that even though the coal supply is "there to be used," new government regulations may force delay in its development. Delays result from indecision of regulatory agencies, public hearings and the public's right to intervene, he said.

On uranium, Dr. David S. [illegible] an energy consultant, pred[illegible] although the U.S. has a subst[illegible] nium reserve, "The U.S. su[illegible] for uranium enrichment w[illegible] 30,000 tons in 1981.

A third panelist, W. T. Slick[illegible] vice president of Exxon Co., [illegible] oil, even in a declining role i[illegible] energy future, still would rem[illegible] the nation. He predicted that oil production will continue [illegible] until the early 1980s when "di[illegible] coveries should turn produ[illegible] ward."

There is substantial potentia[illegible] discoveries, both inland and [illegible] And in 1990, he predicted, [illegible] percent of our domestic produ[illegible] have to come from those no[illegible] yet discovered."

local notes
by bill balota

Electronics and Space Division of Emerson Electric Co. announced that Merle L. Engle had been promoted from vice president, marketing to senior vice president, marketing.

Technique Inc. reported that James R. Yust, former project engineer for the Busch Gardens Division of Anheuser-Busch Inc., had joined its staff as assistant to the president.

Vicki M. Whiteside has been promoted to personnel manager from personnel secretary at Hunter Engineering Co., Bridgeton.

J.C. Penney Co. Inc. announced that Dave Winter was promoted to general merchandise manager at its Hampton Village [illegible]

Ronald L. Watson, formerly with National [illegible] yards National Bank, has joined Belleville [illegible] Savings Bank as a vice president.

S.J. Byrne & Co. Inc. said Jean L. Mowery [illegible] the firm as a registered investment adviser.

Shoe Factory Supplies Co., St. Louis-based [illegible] er to the shoe and leather industry, has chan[illegible] name to SFS Associates Inc. SFS Associates [illegible] sents [illegible] of shoemaking and [illegible]

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Rayfield executive vice president [illegible]