Conservationists have another chemical to worry about, one that apparently accumulates in fish, birds, animals and people much like DDT. Called polychlorobiphenyl (PCB) in Sweden where its presence in nature was first discovered, the chemical is known as chlorinated biphenyl in the U.S. Though not made in Sweden, the chemical is used worldwide in transformer oils, lubricants, paints and solvents.

A Swedish scientist says PCB first appears in museum-preserved sea eagles dating from 1944, and that it is now present in high concentrations in fish, fish spawn, birds, seals, and human adults and children. The Swedes attribute widespread distribution of PCB—it has been detected in the air of London and Hamburg, and in seals off Scotland—to air pollution resulting from industrial uses and from incineration, which does not destroy the chemical. The extent of the hazard, if any, is not known. And U.S. sources say they are not aware of any such problem in this country.

"Take me to the moon" remains a wish in song only for most women, except for the dozen or so who joined about nine hundred men in answering the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) latest call for scientists-astronauts (*Chementator*, Sept. 26, 1966, p. 59). At the deadline, Jan. 8, only 939 doctorate engineers and scientists had filed applications out of an estimated 20,000 qualified persons in the country. Engineers comprised 27% of the applicants.

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) will pre-screen the applicants for NASA, which will select twelve of the survivors before August 15. No estimate of the women applicants' chances of selection is available.

Even as the United Steelworkers asked the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn an injunction that forced striking members back to work at Union Carbide Corp.'s Kokomo, Ind., plant (*Chementator*, Jan. 16, p. 81), the company appealed last week to a W. Va. court to set aside an unemployment compensation award to its Alloy, W. Va., employees. The W. Va. Dept. of Employment Security said on Jan. 6 that 1,060 Alloy employees were entitled to compensation for the nearly three months the plant was shut down between July 2 and Sept. 22, 1966. The National Labor Relations Board had branded that shutdown as an illegal lockout (*Chementator*, Nov. 7, 1966, p. 97). When Carbide reopened the plant, the employees struck. They are still striking.

Power plants and the state of New Jersey got most of the blame for high sulfur dioxide (SO_2) levels in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area—the power companies because they produce most of the pollutant, and New Jersey because it has no rules to cope with the problem.

These were among the conclusions of the lengthy N.Y.-N.J. Interstate Air Pollution Abatement Conference held in New York this month (*Chementator*, Jan. 16, p. 82). The Conference, though recessed, technically remains in session until a permanent body is established. Among the recommendations were these:

- Federal representation, with a vote equal to the states, on the interstate body. The U.S. wants an entirely new agency, while the conferees prefer to expand the authority of the existing Interstate Sanitation Commission.
- Application of New York's ambient-air quality objectives to the entire area.
- Power plants not to burn fuel exceeding 1% sulfur after Oct. 1, 1969, unless the plants are equipped to deal adequately with SO_2 emissions.
- No new generating plants to be permitted unless a 20-yr. supply of low-sulfur fuel can be guaranteed.
- New sources of SO_2 emission to be limited to 500 ppm., and existing sources limited to 2,000 ppm.

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