LAS VEGAS, NEV.
SUN
D. 33,500 S. 32,000

JAN 27 1976

Monsanto To Quit Producing PCBs

ST. LOUIS (UPI) — Monsan- Co. Monday sought to head environmentalists' efforts to n a group of toxic chemicals own as PCBs by announcing will phase out production of em.

Monsanto is the sole maker of PCB, or polychlorinated biphenyl, which is used primarily as a nonconductor of direct electrical current. The chemical has been a necessary ingredient in most power-generating equipment.

Environmental groups had petitioned the federal government to lower the permissible levels of PCBs in food on grounds the chemicals are a cancer hazard.

Federal officials have said PCBs had been responsible for liver cancer and reproductive failures in laboratory animals, and some workers using the chemicals have complained of allergic reactions.

F.J. Fitzgerald, a Monsanto vice president, said no timetable has been set for the phase out, but "it would be in a planned and orderly manner."

"As soon as we are satisfied that the electrical power supply industry's needs for usable, acceptable alternate dielectric fluids have been met, by whomever, Monsanto will voluntarily shut down its PCB manufacturing unit," he said.

PCBs have been used in manufacturing processes since 1930, but their presence as toxic substances in the environment was not detected until 1966 because they were confused with DDT, with which they have a similar chemical structure.

At a three-day conference on PCBs last November in Chicago, Assistant Secretary of the Interior Nathaniel P. Reed recommended the federal government impose a nearly total ban on the chemicals.

Reed said he was "deeply shocked by the pervasiveness of PCBs; they are literally everywhere."

He said exceedingly high levels of PCBs were found in fish from all parts of the country, indicating the nation's rivers and lakes were "in mortal danger."

MONS 032124

Panel Blasts Navy Contract

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The House Government Operations Committee charged Monday that the Navy was "in bed" with a private firm which got a $2 million contract cancelled later under pressure from the General Accounting Office.

The panel said the Navy showed favoritism toward Murphy Pacific Marine Salvage Co., Emeryville, Calif., in the 1974 contract award for salvage operations.

It said this came at a time when the West Coast Navy supervisor of salvage had his of-



Erotic Ads Eliminated By Playgirl

CHICAGO (UPI) — Playgirl magazine said Monday it is giving up $1 million in revenue by eliminating erotic advertising effective with its June issue.

Ira Ritter, vice president and

MONS 032125