B.V.A., Hyde, London

23rd February, 1968

FF

JWMH/GS

W.M. Richard, St. Louis

J.F. Garrett — Tender
B. Wood — Brussels
H.L. Baxter — Swanton
H... Kelly — St. Louis
J. Keller — J.F. Queeny ✓
C. Eaton — St. Louis
L. Parks — St. Louis
C. Wilde — St. Louis

With reference to your letter to Dr. Baxter we note that your available quantities of di- and trichlorobiphenyl isomers are very small indeed. As you know we have already provided samples for Jensen and Widmark (Stockholm), Richardson (Shell, Scotland) and Hutton (Government Laboratory, England), and the residual quantities are now to be reckoned in terms of milligrams. We assume you will be writing appropriately to the Syracuse University Research Corporation.

On your request for information concerning the tests made by the above workers on our samples I can summarise as follows:-

(a) Jensen and Widmark — I have seen no development since Widmark's letter of February 27th 1967 addressed to Gene Wilde.

(b) Hutton — Reader of a paper entitled 'Chlorinated Hydrocarbons in British Wildlife' by P.G. Watson, J.L. Simmons and J.G.C. Hutton, Nature Vol 216, pt II, 1967 pp. 897-899 were passed to Messrs. Wilde and Cochran with my letter of 4th November, 1967. This paper confirms the work of Jensen and in particular shows a close similarity between non-liquid chromatograms of (a) extracts of Kestrel liver oil and (b) a commercial polychlorobiphenyl resin.

(c) Richardson — Richardson has not published anything so far, but J. Robinson, also of Shell Research Ltd., Woodstock Laboratory, Sittingbourne, Kent has published a paper entitled 'Poisons of Organochlorine Insecticides in Wild Birds in the United Kingdom' Chemistry and Industry 1967, p. 1974-1986. This is a comprehensive review but as far as I can see it does not suggest that any of the residues contain chlorinated polyphenyls.

However, I was in correspondence with Richardson in November, 1967 (copies herewith) which showed that he was satisfied that octochlorobiphenyl was present and that his results were substantially in line with those of Hutton et al. You will note also that he believes that the contamination of bird life is in the vicinity of our river Witham.

I have [illegible] followed up this clue with a view to locating the source of the contamination. There appears to be no operation of any size involving residues within the River Witham Valley. The nearest is at Lops Lynn with whom we have no connection whatever. As Shell are known to be the largest off-takers of Aroclor [illegible] there is likely to be at least some [illegible] in the processing by our fellow [illegible] which [illegible] or possibly in dealing with the waste that the [illegible] produces.

[illegible] Yours sincerely,

[illegible]

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