THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Sept. 22, 1971

Copies to:

Cunningham
Corey
Mason
Bergen
Papageorge
Park
Wheeler
Pickard
Forrestal
P. J. A. Marsh-Brussels

E. V. John 9/24/71

PCB'S: THE NEED FOR CONTROL

(Mr. RYAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute, to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous matter.)

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with grave concern that I bring to the attention of the House the fact that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has discovered that a large number of turkeys in the State of Minnesota have been contaminated with a highly toxic DDT-like chemical—polychlorinated biphenyl—PCB. I am informed that some 50,000 turkeys are now under retention and that PCB levels up to 360 parts per million in fat have been found. That is significantly above the Food and Drug Administration's interim guideline of 5 parts per million in edible tissue.

For 2 years, I have urged the appropriate Federal agencies to take certain specific measures that would have forestalled such an occurrence. During that time, I have called upon the Food and Drug Administration, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, the Council on Environmental Quality, the President's Commission on Product Safety, and the Environmental Protection Agency to undertake preventive measures that would have safeguarded the public from the hazards of PCB's. Yet in an almost unprecedented display of callous disregard for the welfare of our citizens, that action was not forthcoming.

The results are now tragically apparent.

Nor is this incident in Minnesota the first such occurrence of food contamination from this deadly chemical. On July 26, I brought to the attention of the House the fact that a significant proportion of poultry raised in 12 Southeastern States had been contaminated

[illegible] PCB's. Subsequent investigation has [illegible]town that this contamination was not [illegible]mited to poultry, but affected swine, [illegible]ull eggs, broken egg products, and cat[illegible]sh as well.

Previously, I have alerted this body to [illegible]CB contamination of poultry in New [illegible]ork State—contamination resulting in [illegible]e slaughter of 146,000 chickens. And [illegible] have made known the contamination of [illegible]iry milk in the State of Ohio.

Perhaps the most startling aspect of [illegible]ds most recent contamination in Minnesota is that despite 6 weeks of effort, [illegible]e government has been unable to as[illegible]rtain the source of the contamination. The implications of this and previous [illegible]cidents are clear. As long as PCB's are [illegible]lowed to be used unfettered, our en[illegible]ronment, our food supply, and our [illegible]alth will be increasingly threatened. [illegible]e cannot continue to attempt to meet [illegible]ch incident of PCB contamination as [illegible] occurs; we must insure that this con[illegible]mination does not take place at all.

Therefore, I have introduced legisla[illegible]on—H.R. 10085—which will insure that [illegible]e public will be safeguarded against [illegible]ch future contamination. That legisla[illegible]on will do what is necessary in view of [illegible]e dangers of PCB's: Ban them entirely.

It is important that hearings be held [illegible] this legislation at the soonest possible [illegible]me and that they consider not only the [illegible]ed to control this deadly chemical, but [illegible]e unconscionable failure of the Federal [illegible]encies to take the necessary adminis[illegible]ative actions that might have pre[illegible]nted widescale contamination of our [illegible]od supply and our environment with [illegible]B's as well.

DSW 334123

STLCOPCB4080700