BERKSHIRE EAGLE - 8/9/75

In Brief . . .

A local break is reported in the national shortage of canning jar lids which is plaguing those trying to put up produce. One Pittsfield store with a waiting list of lid-seeking households is doling out its scant supply in small packets concealed by plain brown wrappers.

*

The drive which has financially bailed out the Berkshire Theatre Festival under the leadership of Senator and Mrs. Fitzpatrick shows various signs of becoming a reincarnation of the community spirit which sustained the old Berkshire Playhouse. Happily, too, even the name *Playhouse* again is in vogue. With two banks helping through a mortgage refinancing, and some 50 individuals engaged in fund raising and special events, the good momentum of the effort speaks well for its continuation.

*

By all the present evidence, GE's record here in the handling of toxic wastes, though yet imperfect, is one which should be emulated by others, including GE installations now suspected of contributing to the poisoning of Hudson River fish. Since 1971, when the chemical PCB — used in transformer oil — was found in fish in the Housatonic, the local plant has pioneered in waste disposal through an incineration process hailed as a model. Unfortunately, Massachusetts state agencies have lapsed over the past four years in their checkups on toxins still leaching into the river, over the past four years, a matter which Berkshire legislators should look into immediately. If the state cannot handle what is clearly a public-health concern, there are federal agencies only too eager to intervene — perhaps even by withholding grants for sewage-disposal improvements.

*

A British survey revealed that 621,000 women claimed they were engaged or about to be married. Unhappily for a quarter of them, the same survey showed that only 476,000 men felt themselves to be in the same position.

—*Financial Times* (London).

MONS 030605