Translation
from an article appeared in "Hamburger Abendblatt"
October 6, 1971 (circulation 3o8,ooo)

Warning of "Plasticizer"

Was there a new poison raw scandal filibustered in the Federal Republic for the right time? The chemical companies both Farbenfabriken Bayer and Monsanto (USA) surprisingly announced to stop production of PCB plasticizer immediately and to go off the market.

Federal Health Minister, Mrs. Käthe Strobel, ordered to be reported on the situation immediately yesterday, according to a ministry spokesman. She is waiting for further tests on damages by this substance.

The chemical product based on highly chlorinated biphenyls (PCB) seems to be more dangerous than the pesticide DDT: it is not decompositable.

PCB has a big range of applications and is used as an additive in most of plastics and many paints. It is also used as an insulation fluid in transformers and as a cooling fluid in machine construction. A first estimation says that the world production of PCB is about 5o,ooo tons per year of which West Germany uses about 2,5oo tons.

A first indication to the danger of PCB for human beings was given in June on the occasion of a WHO symposium in

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Kiew. Experts reported that not DDT but PCB at first contributes to contamination of the water, first of all the Baltic Sea. After that it was found that sea eagles in Sweden were not killed by DDT substances but by PCB residues. DDT is decomposited within 1o years; PCB not at all.

The Federal Institute of Milk Economy started handling. It directed attention to PCB residues in men's tissue and also to substances in low quantities in mother's milk. They reminded of PCB residues identified in the smog over Hamburg and London in 1965. Now in Kiel cow milk will be tested systematically. It is still unknown whether PCB is going into men's tissue via air and food.

The environmental authorities in the USA indicated PCB residues in men's blood plasma. Near New York it is said that about 14o,ooo chickens were poisoned by PCB. First animal tests abroad showed that PCB residues could cause deformations but there is no scientical basis so far that this applies to human beings as well.

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