

NOV 6 1972

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CABLE ADDRESS: "KELMAN"

November 2, 1972

Dr. Karl A. Hochschwender
American Hoechst Corporation
Route 202-206 North Bridgewater
Post Office Box 2500
Somerville, New Jersey 08876

Re: The Society of the Plastics
Industry, Inc. Food, Drug and
Cosmetic Packaging Materials
Committee Meeting; December 15,
1972

Dear Karl:

I am very pleased to advise you that, immediately after our telephone conversation today, I was in touch with Dick Ronk, the Director of the Division of Petitions Processing of the Food and Drug Administration, who just as promptly accepted my invitation to attend the next meeting of our Food, Drug and Cosmetic Packaging Materials Committee.

By means of their copies of this letter, I am advising all of the members of the Committee that Mr. Ronk will be with us. I might add that I feel reasonably certain they will find a discussion of his plans for improving FDA's processes and any other comments he makes most refreshing. George Ingle and I recently had occasion to appear on a program with Mr. Ronk in Philadelphia, were with him for quite some time thereafter, and fully believe that he has the desire and the capability to bring about real improvements in the overall indirect food additives regulatory area. This is why we thought it would be a good idea to invite him to our next session which we hope will be well attended.

Incidentally, I realize full well that the Committee has been subjected to "Promises, Promises" by other FDA officials in the past but I am sure all

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would agree that we must continue to try for something definitive to alleviate the present burdens imposed by the Food Additives Amendment. We are hopeful that Mr. Ronk may at least point us in some new directions towards this end.

As you are also aware, but simply so that the other members of the Committee will be informed, work is under way to complete the full Agenda for the December 15 session. It will probably be one of the longest ones we have ever had because of the many FDA and related legislative and agency actions that have been taking place since our last meeting. In any event, we hope this letter will serve to let the Committee know that you and we are preparing the Agenda so that it can be sent out within the next two or three weeks.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Samuel H. Wickman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Samuel H. Wickman".

cc: SPI Food, Drug and Cosmetic Packaging
Materials Committee

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November 2, 1972

Mr. Richard J. Ronk
Director
Division of Petitions Processing
Office of Compliance
Bureau of Foods
Food and Drug Administration
Room 5827 (BF-330)
200 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20204

Re: The Society of the Plastics
Industry, Inc. Food, Drug
and Cosmetic Packaging
Materials Committee Meeting;
December 15, 1972

Dear Mr. Ronk:

Following up on our telephone conversation of today, I am very grateful to you for accepting our invitation to attend the referenced meeting of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Packaging Materials Committee of The Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc.

I believe I neglected to mention the point when we talked so let me note here that, as has become customary in connection with previous sessions of our group attended by FDA Staff members, you can certainly feel free to bring any of your associates you would like to have present. All that I ask in this respect is that you give me a little advance notice about who will be on hand so that we can make certain the luncheon and seating arrangements are satisfactory.

The meeting will be held at the Shoreham Hotel and we would hope that you might perhaps be on hand by about noon so that you could have lunch with the group and give us the benefit of your thinking on current FDA policies and problems relating to the regulation of indirect food additives. As a result of our recent joint appearance at the industry meeting in Philadelphia and our subsequent personal conversations, I suspect that you are well aware of the areas within

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your expertise which would be of primary interest. Incidentally, please understand that we will in no way be expecting a formal presentation of any type. What is desired is the benefit of your informal views on what is being done, and what more can be done to improve the regulatory processes bearing on indirect food additives.

Among other things, I am sure the membership of the Committee would like to know about the prospects for reviving activity which might bring about adoption of some version of the so-called "Ramsey proposal." Also, everyone would certainly be interested in having your thoughts about the status and outlook as regards the outstanding prior sanctions listing, generally recognized as safe, and colorants for plastics rule-making proposals. You might also want to mention any difficulties you and your Staff are encountering with the new burdens placed upon you as a result of such statutory provisions as the Freedom of Information Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

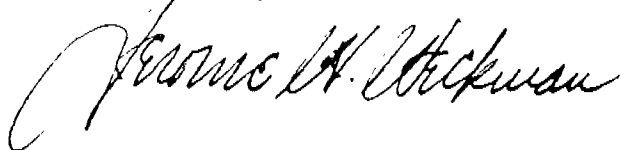
I hope you will realize that I have listed these topics only to give you some idea of the explicit interests of our Committee. It certainly is not my intention to try to limit anything you might want to discuss, nor to impose a burden upon you to cover subjects which you do not feel can be commented upon appropriately. It is our hope, however, that there will be a mutually beneficial exchange of ideas on some or all of these matters.

If past indications can be relied upon, there will probably be sixty or so members of our Committee on hand, representing all of the member plastics resins companies, and a great many end-product producers of food packaging materials. We will see to it that there are self-introductions at the luncheon so that you will know precisely who is in your audience. I can tell you that this SPI Committee has now been in existence for more than fifteen years and is rather well informed about the regulatory scene so you will not have to be concerned about any backgrounding on the basics.

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As the time for the meeting draws a bit closer, you can be sure that I will be in touch with you to inform you more specifically about our plans, and to make any special arrangements you would like. In the meantime, thanks again for accepting the invitation so promptly and please feel free to call me at anytime if you have any questions about the nature of our group, or any other aspect of the meeting.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jerome H. Hickman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Jerome H. Hickman".

Nader Study Group Runs Into Delay

By
Mike
Causey



If some future president decides to nationalize the much-criticized auto repair industry, let us hope the damage claims estimating section is not lodged in the Food and Drug Administration.

FDA recently pondered a request for technical data from a Ralph Nader study group. After a delay of almost five months, it was not exactly what Nader's raiders wanted. Further, FDA said finding out what Nader wanted, depending on what it was, could take several additional months and cost as much as \$20,000, or more.

Dr. Ellen K. Silbergeld, Baltimore, a Nader researcher, asked FDA for information on the chemical composition of plastic cooking bags used for everything from boiling car-

rots to baking chickens. She is concerned that they might contain a toxic extract (phthalate ester) which is used to make plastic more elastic.

Dr. Silbergeld said that some plastic bags used to store human blood were found to contain the phthalate, which, "like certain pesticides, seeps out fatty material" and lodges in it. She said this could be a problem, for instance, in cooking bags that contained corn and fatty material like butter, especially if the phthalate is dangerous to humans. Preliminary FDA research, the agency says, indicates that phthalates have no known effect on humans and "metabolize when eaten."

At the moment, FDA says, a number of petitions for plastic cooking-baking bags are under study, and are not available as public information until FDA issues regulations on them. Manufacturers of the bags are also leaning on FDA not to release chemical make-up data, because trade secrets would no longer be secrets in the plastic bag-making trade.

The Oct. 12 letter from FDA to Dr. Silbergeld concluded:

"If you need to know all toxicological information on

phthalate plasticizers, numerous petitions are involved received by Dec. 29 will be tested on Feb. 10 and those postmarked by Jan. 26 will be tested March 10. Applications received after Jan. 26 will not be considered.

"If you desire toxicological information of plasticizers generally, this information is distributed within a number of individual regulations . . . which would require extensive searching of hundreds of petitions and many months of effort.

"If you desire extraction/migration data from all of the above, this would magnify several fold the required effort of screening through the many petitions. We are unable to make an estimate of the time and cost of this magnified request. It is possible that the cost of your request may range from approximately \$200 for limited information to as high as \$20,000 or more."

Summer Jobs: Civil Service Commission has announced three test dates for high school and college students who want to work for Uncle Sam next summer. Applications received by Nov. 24 will be scheduled

Interested students should pick up CSC announcement No. 415 at college placement offices, federal job information centers or from CSC here at 1900 E St. nw.

Dean B. Bierley has retired from Housing and Urban Development after 43 years of federal service. Bierley, a communications specialist, spent 20 years with Civil Service Commission and predecessor agencies of Federal Aviation Administration.

Language Barrier: U.S. Postal Service's employee newspaper, Postal Leader, unearthed this "authentic example of foggy jargon" in a postal publication:

"It is important that post office boxholders are not given the erroneous impression that the U.S. Postal Service is increasing post office box rentals, when post office box charges are increased pursuant to section 169.2, Postal Service Manual."