PCB Article

increments if more than the minimum amount of juice is used.

The third proposal, by the Florida Canners Association, would give one name to the product—either "orange drink" or "diluted orange juice drink"—and allow labeling of orange juice content in increments of 10 percent for any orange drink product containing at least 10 percent orange juice. The proposal also provides for products in the 2 percent to 10 percent range and for those below 2 percent orange juice content. It would apply, in addition, to frozen concentrated and dehydrated orange juice drink products.

All three proposals would revise the proposed standards of identity for diluted orange drink products that were stayed by FDA in 1968 pending the outcome of an industry compromise. Last June an agreement was reached on basic labeling changes among East and West Coast citrus growers following a meeting in Washington called by FDA.

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Six Federal agencies have agreed to establish an interdepartmental task force to coordinate a government-wide investigation into contamination of food and other products by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's).

PCB's are a family of chemicals widely used for industrial purposes. For at least 40 years these substances have been used in the manufacturing process or as actual components of many products, including some plastics and adhesives, printing inks, electrical and building materials, heat exchange mechanisms, and paper products (See FDA PAPERS, September 1970).

The task force will be coordinated through the Office of Science and Technology and the Council on Environmental Quality. Other members are the Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The task force was created at a meeting called September 1, 1971, by the FDA to share information gathered by that agency and by USDA. Both agencies have been involved for some time in follow-up investigations of several industrial incidents which have resulted in low level PCB adulteration of various food products.

The PCB Task Force will have two objectives:

- To insure maximum, effective coordination of government response against specific and preventable PCB contamination as such problems may arise;
- To develop a long range strategy for coordinating scientific resources to better define the PCB problems and its possible implications for human health.

Based on current scientific knowledge, the government sees no imminent threat to the safety of the food supply or to the public health from this broadly used family of industrial chemicals. Enforcement activities by FDA, the USDA, and other agencies of government are adequate to protect the public health from the occasional accident which can result in short term but controllable human exposure to PCB's in the food supply. Still unknown, however, and more difficult to assess on the basis of current information is the size and significance of long-term low level human exposure to PCB's.

The PCB Task Force is intended to expedite the search for answers and solutions by bringing together the combined resources and authorities of cooperating government agencies.

Campbell Soup Acts to Recall Product Lot With Faulty Cans

FDA announced August 31 that Campbell Soup Company was recalling vegetarian vegetable soup manufactured in the company's plant in Paris, Texas.

The action was taken by the company at the request of the FDA as a precautionary measure. FDA inspectors discovered abnormal cans of the soup during an inspection of the company's warehouse. The lot, carrying the code 15CT–7B1X was produced at the Texas plant last July 2.

A total of 1,110 cases was shipped to 13 consignees in nine States: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Missouri, Tennessee, and Texas. All consignees were immediately notified of the recall and were asked to retrieve the product from retail sale.

Child-Resistant Packaging Proposed By FDA for Certain Furniture Polishes

Furniture oil polishes containing 10 percent or more of petroleum distillates would be required to be marketed in special child-resistant packages under regulations proposed September 9 by the Food and Drug Administration.

This is the second class of hazardous substances acted on to protect children from accidental poisoning under the Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970. On September 1, FDA proposed special packaging for aspirin preparations.

Commissioner of Food and Drugs Charles C. Edwards, M.D., said approximately 15 percent of fatal poisonings of children under five years of age in the United States are caused by accidental ingestion of petroleum distillate products. Between 1965 and 1970, 54 children under five died from accidental ingestion of furniture polish.

"Although furniture polishes containing mineral seal oil represent only a small proportion of petroleum distillate products ingested by children, they cause the highest percentage of pulmonary complications," Dr.

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