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White Plains Reporter Dispatch
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Thanksgiving Turkeys Tainted?

By DON KENDALL

WASHINGTON (AP) — Government inspectors are checking 50,000 Minnesota turkeys slaughtered for Thanksgiving tables to see how many contain harmful residues of an industrial chemical [illegible] also [illegible] discovered in chickens [illegible] summer.

The turkeys were impounded over the past six weeks at Swift Dairy & Poultry Company in Detroit Lakes, Minn., a subsidiary of Swift [illegible] Company, the nation's largest meat packer.

Dr. Kenneth M. McEnroe, [illegible] of Meat and Poultry inspection for the Agriculture Department, said Thursday the turkeys were from "six or seven flocks" grown by producer Peterson-Bidding, of Wadena, Minn.

There was no indication of the source of the chemical PCB contamination, McEnroe said. Not all the turkeys were thought to be tainted, but to be sure he said, all were held at the plant for further tests.

Comparatively little is known [illegible] the PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenals, chemi[illegible] similar to the pesticide [illegible] Laboratory tests have linked them with skin disease, liver damage, and birth [illegible].

[illegible] said [illegible] & Co. voluntarily kept the suspected turkeys from the market after "a number" of the 50,000 birds showed PCB residues larger than the five parts per million allowed by the Food and Drug Administration.

Swift said it notified the government on Aug. 6 that a PCB problem existed. The Agriculture Department did not announce it until a week [illegible] did not identify the [illegible].

[illegible] if the [illegible] to hide the [illegible] from the public [illegible] long, McEnroe replied.

"This is totally wrong. We didn't deliberately withhold anything from the public. We wanted to find out first [illegible] had a problem."

The department was involved in another PCB [illegible] in July when 58,000 [illegible] chickens, thousands [illegible] and tons of feed were destroyed. At that [illegible] source of contamination was a PCB leak into fish meal at a feed plant in Wilmington, N.C.

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