

(VINYL CHLORIDE)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION SAID TODAY IT IS STILL TRYING TO PUT TOGETHER A LIST THAT MAY HELP CONSUMERS GET THEIR MONEY BACK FOR MILLIONS OF CANS OF HOUSEHOLD AEROSOL SPRAYS CONTAINING THE NOW BANNED CHEMICAL VINYL CHLORIDE.

THERE MAY NEVER BE A MASTER LIST OF THE PRODUCTS AS SUCH, COMMISSION OFFICIALS SAID, BUT AN EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO PUT TOGETHER INFORMATION WHICH WILL ASSIST THE PUBLIC IN A GENERAL WAY.

INVOLVED ARE CANS OF SPRAY PAINT, SOLVENTS AND OTHER PRODUCTS UNDER THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION FOR WHICH VINYL CHLORIDE GAS WAS USED AS A PROPELLANT. THE COMMISSION HAS BANNED THE GAS IN SUCH SPRAYS AND ORDERED THE INDUSTRY TO GIVE REFUNDS TO CONSUMERS WHO BRING PARTIALLY USED OR UNUSED CANS BACK TO THE STORE WHERE THEY WERE BOUGHT.

IT IS UP TO THE COMPANIES TO POST LISTS ADVISING BUYERS OF WHAT PRODUCTS ARE INVOLVED, BUT THE COMMISSION SAID IT HAS NO WAY OF KNOWING IF THIS IS HAPPENING. IN THE MEANTIME PEOPLE WHO MAY HAVE SOME OF THE PRODUCTS AROUND THE HOUSE ARE IN THE DARK BECAUSE THE LABELS USUALLY DO NOT SPECIFY THAT VINYL CHLORIDE IS IN THE CAN.

DR. LAWRENCE KUSHNER, A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION, TOLD A BRIEFING THE COMMISSION WOULD SIGN A \$100,000 CONTRACT WITH THE ARMY'S EDGEWOOD ARSENAL IN MARYLAND TO CONDUCT ANIMAL STUDIES ON THE EFFECTS OF VINYL CHLORIDE.

HE SAID THE STUDY, EXPECTED TO TAKE 18 MONTHS TO TWO YEARS TO COMPLETE, WOULD INVOLVE RATS AND MICE, IN BOTH SINGLE AND MULTIPLE GENERATIONS.

"THE VINYL CHLORIDE ISSUE IS GOING TO BE A LIVE ONE FOR QUITE SOME TIME," KUSHNER SAID. HE SAID THE COMMISSION NEEDED THE INFORMATION TO MAKE SURE VINYL CHLORIDE IN CONSUMER PRODUCTS IS AS BAD AS PRESENTLY FEARED, AND TO BROADEN KNOWLEDGE ON POLYVINYL CHLORIDE -- THE SOLID FORM OF THE CHEMICAL WHICH TURNS UP IN HUNDREDS OF CONSUMER PRODUCTS RANGING FROM SUITCASES TO CLOTHING.

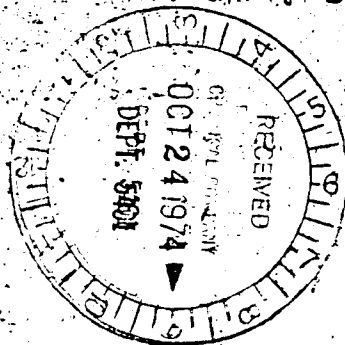
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There is no question but that this is a matter that will require some immediate and very careful follow up with the CPSC. I fear that other companies will ask for an audience. We must not be left out. I suggest that RFG initiate a visit soon. D. Kent