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Chas. H. Sommer - D1A

October 6, 1972

Messrs. W. R. Corey
E. J. Putzell, Jr.

RALSTON PURINA AROCLORS

Mr. C. P. Cunningham

I understand you will be returning from Nitro early this afternoon, but I may miss you as I have to leave for the east this afternoon.

I want to record an hour's visit I had with Dr. Clifford Hardin this morning here at the office. The subject was Aroclors and how we were handling them in the future. He said he didn't want to talk about the past, as he knew we had some law suits and he didn't want to jeopardize those. I told him I understood we were going to have another one and that Ralston Purina was suing us. He said he only heard it late yesterday afternoon, and that we were named in the suit with others. I asked him if as a co-defendant and he said, yes, and that this would be the same as suing us directly.

However, this was not the subject of his call. It was primarily what we are doing with our product and how it might affect them in the future. The accident in Maine would cost someone about $1.3 million and this has not been determined as yet. He said it was lucky that it happened in Maine instead of Iowa, as the figure would have been much bigger, as they had only two limited outlets in Maine. Apparently the equivalent of ten gallons of some type of Aroclor got into the feed during a two-day period and a lot of chicks were killed. They have not run down the source of the Aroclor, but they feel that it obviously came from one of the ingredients that they purchase for their feed.

He gave this illustration in detail, as he was concerned that even though we were only selling to closed systems, such as transformers and capacitors, that some of this could find its way into one of their ingredients. He asked what would happen if a transformer was struck by lightning and what would have to be done to have it replaced, and what care would be taken to be sure the Pydraul was disposed of properly.

I told him we only sold to these electrical companies and only in such instances that they completely understood the problem, that they would only put it in closed systems and that they gave us a hold harmless letter.

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He would like to go into this with somebody who is more knowledgeable than I, and I told him to get in touch with you and that between you and Wink Corey we could probably give him some additional information, but I did say that we would not give anything that could jeopardize any of the legal problems that we have had or might be faced with. He is sincerely interested in the future and is trying to find out what the chances are of the chlorinated bi-phenyls getting into his feeds. I am sure we can help somewhat in this, but I told him I thought he would probably want to talk to the electrical companies themselves. He said he would be more concerned with the smaller electrical companies than the General Electrics and Westinghouses.

Incidentally, he said that on May 8, Ralston Purina, Canada, received from Montreal, 54 U.S. Gallons of Pydraul AC-A, Code 21-45100 which was the old type chlorinated bi-phenyl, according to their analysis. He also said that some of the substitute Pydraul that they had purchased from us, which was supposed to be ecologically okay, contained from a fraction to two or three percent of the "hard" Aroclor. He said that our people "knew it." I told him I knew nothing about it but that this is something I think you will want to go into further with him.

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