PCB Hdcs

The cadmium analyses were run by Dartmouth's Dr. Henry Schroeder, who said the fish would be unfit to eat. He analyzed three fish caught by sportfishermen, and found levels of 11.22 p.p.m. cadmium in a bass, 7.58 p.p.m. in dace, and .67 p.p.m. in the edible portion of carp, and 20.44 p.p.m. in the internal organs of the fish.

Schroeder's analyses, along with comparisons of fish caught in Alabama rivers, were sent to the U.S. Attorney's Office in New York. Hart, who released the information to the press, also sent the findings to FDA.

Hart, who is sponsoring fish inspection legislation that would require FDA to screen fish for all toxic materials (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, May 24, Page 24), acknowledged that it would be dangerous to immediately draw too many conclusions from a catch of only three fish.

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INOUYE INTRODUCES BILL TO DELAY START OF EGG INSPECTION PROGRAM

Sen. Inouye (D-Hawaii) introduced legislation June 16 that would delay implementation of the new egg products inspection law from June 30 to Dec. 31, 1971, to give egg processors additional time to obtain necessary machinery for compliance with the Department of Agriculture's new regulations.

The new law requires all egg processing plants to operate under continuous USDA inspection as of June 30.

USDA June 19 finalized new regulations for the voluntary egg products inspection program, with little change from the original proposals (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, May 31, Page 21). The voluntary program continues in effect for some egg operations not covered by the new law on a fee-for-service basis.

USDA's Consumer and Marketing Service also finalized June 17 a regulation that will ban animal lungs from human food (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, Jan. 12, 1970, Page 13), but will allow use in animal food if the lungs are not condemned because of disease or adulterated with chemical, biological or other extraneous material. CMS also added a provision allowing use of undenatured lungs for pharmaceutical purposes.

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EPA ASKS FOR 17 CHANGES IN COMMITTEE'S PESTICIDE BILL

The Environmental Protection Agency has proposed 17 amendments to the House Agriculture Committee's revision of the Administration's new pesticide control legislation (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, June 14, Page 34).

The Committee worked in executive session four days last week to iron out the areas of controversy. Five major areas of disagreement remain before the Committee publishes a second draft of the revised bill.

Additional closed door sessions have been scheduled for this week, with Chairman Poage (D-Tex.) hoping to report a new bill before the House recesses for the July 4 holiday.

As expected, EPA wants to eliminate the mandatory review of agency decisions by National Academy of Sciences' advisory committees. This review was restored in the Committee's draft proposal. EPA wants the Administrator to have the option of calling on NAS or other scientific groups when necessary, but is opposed to the mandatory NAS review, which is part of the current requirements under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.

EPA Opposes Indemnity Payments for Cancelled or Suspended Products

EPA is also opposed to the new section inserted that would provide for indemnity payments resulting from cancellation or suspension of previously approved pesticides.

The agency has also asked the Committee to drop the word "irreparable" from the definition of "imminent hazard," claiming that a suspension could never be ordered under the new criteria. The draft bill calls for suspension only when the time required for a proceeding under a cancellation notice would delay EPA action in time to prevent "substantial irreparable damage to either the public health or the environment."

Stiffer criminal and civil penalties for violations were requested by EPA along with greater flexibility for the agency for determining what industry records are regarded as confidential.

Meanwhile, the Department of Agriculture announced details of its indemnity program for beekeepers whose bees are killed by pesticides near their bee colonies. The program, approved recently by Congress (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, May 17, Page 25), was made retroactive to bee losses dating back to Jan. 1, 1967. Payments are authorized through 1973 under criteria spelled out by the Department.

DDT and other chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides were the subject of an NAS report from the Committee on Oceanography's Panel on Monitoring Persistent Pesticides in the Marine Environment.

NAS Panel Asks for Release of Production Data; Cites PCBs

The panel called for a massive national effort to reduce the amount of persistent toxicants reaching the marine environment, and urged specific steps to require manufacturers to turn over production figures.

As an example, the panel said the Monsanto Chemical Company has refused to release its production figures for polychlorinated biphenyls although requested to do so by many scientists and Government officials (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, May 24, Page 22).

The panel said there are times when it is not in the public interest for Government to maintain as privileged any data that are necessary to research into the state of

the environment. It asked that the Bureau of Census release production figures, which are now maintained as privileged when there are no more than two manufacturers, and also asked that laws relating to registration be changed to make the data available.

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COPOLYMER CLEARED AS DRY AND WET STRENGTH AGENT FOR PAPER

The Food Additive Order for components of paper and paperboard in contact with aqueous and fatty foods was amended June 18 to clear diallyldimethylammonium chloride polymer with acrylamide, reaction product of glyoxal, as a dry and wet strength agent employed prior to the sheet-forming operation in paper and paperboard manufacture.

The clearance under §121.2526 was Petitioned by American Cyanamid (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, June 8, 1970, Page 35), and the Petition had been amended. By cross-reference, the substance is also cleared under §121.2571 for components of paper and paperboard in contact with dry food.

The cleared substance is to be produced by copolymerizing not less than 90 weight percent of acrylamide and not more than 10 weight percent of diallyldimethylammonium chloride, which is then cross-linked with not more than 30 weight percent of glyoxal, such that a 10% aqueous solution has a minimum viscosity of 25 centipoises at 25° C., as determined by a Brookfield viscometer Model RVF, using a No. 1 spindle at 100 r.p.m. The dry and wet strength agent is to be used in such an amount that finished paper and paperboard will contain the additive at a level not in excess of 2% by weight of the dry fibers in the finished paper and paperboard.

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POLYESTER CLEARED AS PLASTICIZER IN POLYVINYL CHLORIDE

The Food Additive Order for plasticizers in polymeric substances was amended June 18 to clear 1,3-butylene glycol-adipic acid polyester as a plasticizer in polyvinyl chloride homopolymers.

The amendment of §121.2511 had been Petitioned by Monsanto (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, June 29, 1970, Page 49), and the Petition had been amended.

The clearance provided that the polyester, with a molecular weight of 1,700-2,200, is terminated with a 16% by weight mixture of myristic, palmitic, and stearic acid. It is for use at levels not exceeding 33% of polyvinyl chloride homopolymers used in contact with food, except foods that contain more than 8% alcohol, at temperatures not to exceed room temperature. The average thickness of the homopolymers in the form in which they contact food may not exceed 0.004 inch.

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