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Company notes

• **ALOHA AIRLINES WAS FINED \$75,000** by the Civil Aeronautics Board for allegedly making illegal political contributions over an eight-year period.

• **MONSANTO CO.**, the nation's leading producer of the highly toxic chemical PCB used as an electric insulator, said it will halt production of the substance by Oct. 31, 1977, because of a hazard to human health and the environment.

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PCB manufacturer to cease production

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Co., the only U.S. manufacturer of the controversial PCB insulating fluids, announced Monday that it will quit producing the fluids by late next year.

Earle H. Harbison Jr., general manager of Monsanto's specialty chemicals division, said the firm will complete distribution of all inventories and withdraw completely from the market no later than Oct. 31, 1977.

The target date would be

even sooner, Harbison said, but electrical transformer and capacitor manufacturers have said they would be unable to convert to other materials any earlier.

PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) is a stable, fire-resistant chemical that is used widely in transformers and capacitors.

"Unfortunately," Harbison said, "the very properties that have made PCBs ideal and even mandatory for these essential uses, were also found in the early 1970s to be the

properties causing them to persist and accumulate in the environment."

PCB has been blamed as a major source of pollution in New York's Hudson River.

The New York Environmental Conservation Department and the General Electric Co. reached agreement recently for GE to contribute some \$3 million toward the cost of cleaning PCBs from the Hudson. The agreement came after a lengthy hearing over leakage of PCBs from GE plants at Fort Edwards and Hudson Falls, N.Y., into the Hudson.

The accumulation of PCBs in waterways, Harbison said, triggered the firm's decision to cease production as soon as the electrical industry could find alternate fluids and convert its equipment and components to their use.

The company had earlier quit making PCBs for use in carbonless copy paper, fire resistant hydraulic fluids, heat transfer fluids and plasticizers.

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Kepone fines

Allied Chemical Corp. has been fined \$13.5 million for dumping the pesticide Kepone and other highly toxic chemicals into Virginia's James River. It was believed to be the largest fine ever levied for pollution of the nation's waterways. In another environmental action, Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Co. of St. Louis announced it plans to halt production of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Monsanto is the only maker of PCB fluids in the U.S. It was PCBs which polluted the Hudson River from an upstate General Electric plant.

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