PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

PRESS QUERY

(xxx) Divisional
( ) Financial
( ) Corporate

To: St. Louis Bulletin Boards
New York Public Relations
Lloyd Cole
Howard Minckler
Howard Bergren
Elmer Wheeler
Jim Springgate
Bill Richard/Bob Keller

Date: March 6, 1969

Time:

QUERIED BY (Reporter and Media)

Bob Sanford, St. Louis correspondent for TIME

QUERY

TIME's science section is doing story on alleged contamination of wildlife by polychlorinated polybiphenyls. Story based on work of Dr. Risebrough at University of California which appeared in NATURE, a U. K. publication.

Q. Doesn't Monsanto produce chlorinated polybiphenyls?

A. Yes.

Q. Aren't you the only U. S. producer?

A. Yes. There are other producers around the world.

Q. Can you give me Monsanto's position on this matter?

A. (Sent him company statement dated March 3, 1969.)

Q. (After receiving material.) Can you better describe use of PCB in "plastic-type" applications?

A. PCB used as a modifier or plasticizer in several areas. One is rubber-based adhesives used for such items as industrial tapes. A second is surface coatings for specialized uses such as traffic paints and concrete curing. A third is in elastomaric sealants for construction and automotive uses.

Q. Is PCB used in automotive tires or vinyl plastic?

A. To our knowledge, no.

Q. Any other comments on Risebrough's work?

A. Looking at his report in NATURE, we have some reservation about the absolute identification of the materials he worked on. Gas chromatography alone will not give absolute identification. A mass spectrometer or other means would be needed for absolute identification of components.

SOURCE OF ANSWER (List All Sources)

Howard Bergren
Bob Keller
Cumming Paton

NAME (Staffer Handling Query)

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