PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

PRESS QUERY

(x) Divisional
( ) Financial
( ) Corporate

Date Time
Sept. 21, 1971, 5 p.m.

TO: (X) St. Louis Bulletin Board
(X) New York Public Relations
( ) New York Textiles Public Relation
( ) West Coast Public Relations
(X) Brussels Public Relations
(X) Lloyd R. Cole
(X) C. P. Cunningham
(X) John Mason
(X) H. S. Bergen
(X) W. B. Papageorge
(X) E. P. Wheeler
(X) J. F. Stapleton

QUERIED BY: (REPORTER AND MEDIA)
Richard Lyons, New York Times, Washington D.C. news bureau

Q: Why does Monsanto continue to refuse to release production and sales figures for PCB?

A: We have offered these figures to appropriate government agencies if we receive some assurance they will be held in confidence.

Q: Since you have no U.S. competition, why don't you release them publicly?

A: Monsanto is not unique in adopting this policy. I'm sure there are literally hundreds of companies producing thousands of products for which you or I could not get production and sales figures. I imagine even the New York Times has such privileged information.

Q: Did you know the government had formed a task force to investigate the PCB problem?

A: Yes. In fact, Monsanto supports this move and, at the same time, we will continue our own control program believing it will supplement the task force efforts.

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Q: What kind of program do you have under way?

A: (I briefly described our three-year-old program to control the uses and escape of PCB.)

Q: Has Monsanto done any laboratory testing for such things as toxicity of PCB?

A: Yes. We contracted for a two-year study which is just now being completed. The researchers have already printed an abstract of their work for the Toxicologists Meeting in Washington last March.

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SOURCE:
Files

STAFFER:
E. V. John

Q: What were their conclusions?

A: There were several PCB compounds used in the tests and various feeding levels. If I had to summarize their abstract, I would say they found "no effect" in the rats and dogs used in the program. But, I would suggest you look up the abstract so that you can draw your own conclusions.

(NOTE: I offered to send Mr. Lyons background information contained in previously printed articles -- which he accepted.)

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