PRESS QUERY

SUBJECT: PCB

SOURCE OF ANSWER: W. B. Papageorge

COMPANY: Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Co. Operating Unit

HANDLED BY: E. V. John

REPORTER & MEDIA: Gay Lord, Consumer Action Now (May issue)

DATE & TIME: March 28, 1973, 2 p.m.

Q: Dr. Donald Lisk, Cornell University, is about to publish a research project he has done on using old newspapers as cattle feed. In his studies he found PCB in the newspapers?

Since Monsanto stopped selling PCB for uncontrolled uses, how could there be PCB in the newspaper?

A: Since we are not familiar with Dr. Lisks's work I will mention a few possibilities which, at best, are speculative:

1. PCB has been found in very low levels in virgin pulp, indicating there is a background level in the environment.

2. Some recycled paper could have been used in Dr. Lisks's research.

3. In the papermaking process very large volumes of water are used. If there were low levels of PCB in the water, perhaps it could have concentrated in the pulp.

4. It is conceivable there could be some inventories of ink containing PCB still around -- although I personally think this is the most remote of all possibilities.

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Also, there is evidence of some importing of PCBs and there are strong rumors that PCB is being manufactured by another company in the United States.

Q: When PCB was used in ink what function did it serve?

A: It was a solvent which blended well with other ink materials. It provided good consistency to the ink and good printing qualities.

Q: Since dielectric users have been returning used material for disposal how much have you received?

A: We estimate about 1.5 million pounds.

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