

File	
Destroy	
CDB	✓
JTG	✓
WHH	✓
MHJ	✓
RCK	✓
RAM	✓
EPN	✓
GJL	✓

JUL 26 1971

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

PRESS QUERY

(X) Divisional
() Financial
() Corporate

TO: (X) St. Louis Bulletin Board
(X) New York Public Relations
() New York Textiles Public Relatio
() West Coast Public Relations
() Brussels Public Relations
(X) Lloyd R. Cole

Date Time

7/23/71 3 p.m.

cc: J. R. Eck P. S. Park R. J. Kotno
W. B. Papageorge E. P. Wheeler J. P. Orr
H. S. Bergen J. J. Spano
C. J. Smith M. L. Sutherland

QUERIED BY: (REPORTER AND MEDIA) David Wallace, Associated Press, Washington

QUERY: The United States Department of Agriculture today issued a news release saying that they were investigating the possible contamination of chickens and chicken feed in the southeast U.S. Since Monsanto is the sole U.S. producer of PCB, I would like to ask you a few questions.

QUERY: What is PCB?

ANSWER: PCB is the short form for the chemical polychlorinated biphenyl.

QUERY: How is it used?

ANSWER: It was first developed for use as a cooling and insulating fluid in electrical equipment. This is still its primary use, as well as in heating transfer systems.

QUERY: When was it developed?

ANSWER: In the the early 1930s

QUERY: I understand Monsanto has had a control program under way.

ANSWER Yes. When PCB was first identified in the environment, Monsanto

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undertook a program to control its end uses. One step of this program consisted of restricting sales -- eliminating "open systems." An open system can be described as a sealant adhesives, specialty paints, chlorinated rubber, etc. We no longer sell for these uses.

QUERY: Could you describe PCB's toxicity?

ANSWER: The problem with PCB is not its toxicity -- since comparatively it is a low level toxic substance -- but its persistence and possible build-up in the environment. This is what prompted our environmental control program.

Since 1968, our program has consisted of the following: identification and measurement of PCB in the environment; tightening up our manufacturing processes; looking for substitute products; biodegradable studies; animal feed studies; restricted sales and ultimate disposal of old material.

QUERY: Recently, Ralph Nader reported an incident of PCB contamination in Japan. Supposedly, 10,000 people were effected. Are you familiar with this incident?

ANSWER: It occurred in late 1968. Original reports said 14,000 people were allegedly effected. Subsequent investigations by a Kyusa University team working for the Ministry of Health and Welfare reported that possibly 600 people had been exposed. Of these 178 had diagnosed cases and 111 had suspected cases. A majority of the cases were diagnosed as dermatological, i.e., acne and skin rash.

The contaminated rice oil was reported to have contained 2,000 to 3,000 parts per million PCB.

QUERY: Did your medical people say anything about still births or organ damage.

ANSWER: No.

SOURCE OF ANSWER (List All Sources)

Files/Dr. R. E. Kelly

NAME (Staffer Handling Query)

E. V. John