Notes on telephone call I received on September 29, 1982 at approximately 10:40 a.m. from Mr. Jim Cummins, NBC News, Chicago. The subject was PCB contaminated silos.

Mr. Cummins identified himself as being with NBC News in Chicago with the network not an affiliated station and indicated he had been talking to Dr. Burton Cardwell of the Michigan Department of Agriculture concerning PCB contaminated silos. They were considering (they being NCB News) doing a segment on PCB contaminated silos. He related that Dr. Cardwell had recommended that he talk to me as I was an expert on the subject. Mr. Cummins wanted to know if PCB contaminated silos were just a Michigan problem or whether contaminated silos had been located in other states. I confirmed that they had and he wanted to know how that could be. I briefly described for him that the Cumar silo coating formulation had been passed from silo company to silo company as a result of mergers and separations of various sections of the concrete and Michigan silo Companies.

His next question was how significant was this contamination? I then discussed with him that the amount of PCB entering the human food chain had drastically decreased in recent years. I pointed out to him that the material had been used on silos between the period of 1941 to 1970 and after it was identified as being a contaminant in silos in the state of Ohio in 1970 it was subsequently identified in other states. I pointed out to him that the results of regulatory and various extension service activities have been very heartening in that they have resulted in the decrease in the quantities of PCB presently entering the human food chain. I then described for him work from our publication entitled "Polychlorinated Biphenyls From Dairy Farms--Consequence in Market Milk" (JDS 63:1961, 1980). I quoted to him the section of that paper which described the estimated quantities of PCB which might be getting into milk and related that the total annual intake of a person would be very similar to the FDA's recommendation for daily intake. Thus, PCB from this source is not an important PCB source for the total human diet. I also related that in that survey only 5% of the farms were contaminated. I pointed out that today the situation is such that there are probably fewer silos in existence or contaminated than there were during the 1973-74 period when that study was conducted in that many of the silos are abandoned, been torn down, or have been decontaminated.

He wanted to know then if it was my opinion that this did not represent a serious problem. I offered that in my definition of the term problem in this case would be significant quantities of PCB entering the human food chain and I related that for the most part I did not feel that PCBs were significantly entering the general public food chain from PCB contaminated silos; however, there may be a few instances where farm families may be receiving greater exposure if they consume their own farm products.

Mr. Cummins said that he would be contacting his assignment director to determine if he was going to proceed with this project and he may contact me again in the future.

As a follow-up to Mr. Cummins' call I called Dr. Burton Cardwell at the Michigan Department of Agriculture to get some background on what was happening. I talked with Mr. Cardwell between approximately 11:15 and 11:30 (September 29, 1982). Mr. Cardwell informed me that a man by the name of Mr. Cody from WBBM (CBS radio news) talked to him last week about the PCB silo survey. They talked for about 45 minutes and Mr. Cardwell agreed to make an interview tape. He believed that this tape was played last Sunday or perhaps other days this week. He had not heard the tape. Evidently as a result of that Mr. Cummins from NBC News of Chicago called him and told him that he wanted to know about the PCB situation and his tentative plan was, if he got clearance through New York, to fly to Lansing and do a TV tape on the PCB silo story today. Two farms have been selected: the Leonard Johnson farm near Charlotte, Michigan, which had a recoated silo, and the Wayne Robinson farm on Mt. Hope Road near Lansing, Michigan.

Mr. Cardwell also said that Denise Jimenez of WMAQ Radio in Chicago (phone (312) 861-8748) was also calling back this afternoon for a taped interview. Both Mr. Cody and Miss Jimenez may be referred to me for interviews as well.

I told Mr. Cardwell basically about the content of my discussion with Mr. Cummins and Mr. Cardwell related to me the types of information requested and reported in his interviews. Principally the basics of the process of contamination; secondly, how it was found in Michigan; how they chose to work with dairymen to eliminate the problem rather than just the simple shut-off procedure. They also discussed that PBB was receiving major emphasis when PCB was discovered. He points out that the current survey is to determine the extent of silos and possible methods of appropriate disposal and then discusses the current impact on the milk supply in Michigan, pointing out that currently they are monitoring eight farms and none of those are in excess of the tolerances. Dr. Cardwell does not go deeply into scientific aspects of PCB contamination but refers these to me and also will not discuss what's going on in other states. Dr. Cardwell will keep me posted as to what occurs with the NBC TV tape and the WMAQ tape. Dr. Cardwell will also be sending me the series from the Detroit news on PBB and the response from the Governor's office to those articles.

Notes of a telephone call I received on September 29, 1982, at approximately 4:15 P.M. This was from [redacted] John Cody of CBS News, affiliate WBBM, Chicago. His phone number is (312) 280-1440.

As was the case with the call earlier this day from Mr. Cummins of NBC News, Mr. Cody was referred to me by Dr. Burt Cardwell of the Michigan Department of Agriculture. Mr. Cody has previously obtained a taped interview with Burton Cardwell concerning the PCB silo survey in Michigan. Mr. Cody's first question was: "Were there PCB silos in any other state other than the state of Michigan?" To this I confirmed that there were. He wanted to know if that included the state of Illinois and I told him that from our early investigations of PCB silos and through discussions and correspondence with associates of the silo companies involved that indeed some silos treated with Cumar were in Illinois; however, though we did not have any documented records to identify any particular silos.

As was the case with Mr. Cummins in an earlier conversation, Mr. Cody wanted to know the significance of PCB contaminated silos and why Michigan silos might be in Illinois. So similar to my discussion with Mr. Cummins, I described for Mr. Cody the history of company mergers and consolidations which resulted in Cumar going from one location to another. Then I went into a very similar discussion to that of Mr. Cummins on the significance of the residues, also quoting from our Journal of Dairy Science article, "Polychlorinated Biphenyls From Dairy Farms: Consequence in Market Milk."

Mr. Cody wanted to know if there was a half-life for Cumar in the silo and I described for him the difficulties in coming up with a specific predictable half-life and described some of the different factors which influenced the rate of clearance of PCB from a farm silo, including age, whether the entire silo was coated or just the joint mortar, the quality of the coating job, the moisture content of the feed, the number of times it's been used, temperature, etc. Through this discussion I pointed out that many of the older silos were only coated in the joint mortar and not the entire silo which means some PCB could be identified from these silos but the quantities moving from the silo into the food chain would be minimal.

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Mr. Cody then wanted to know whether it was my opinion that the survey and the dollars being spent on Michigan were a waste of money and just an emotional issue. I pointed out that Michigan Department of Agriculture had confronted the problem in 1974 and by working with the farmers had made great strides to reduce the quantity of PCB entering the human food chain. I also reminded him that the environment in Michigan is very sensitive to any chemical contamination in the wake of the PBB incident. I pointed out that their survey certainly could be of benefit if one is trying to trace and identify contaminated silos to prevent their transfer from one farmer to another unknowingly. I also pointed out that a large number of the silos that they are identifying in Michigan are no longer in use, have been decontaminated, or have been subsequently torn down. I also pointed out to him that there were some logical approaches to eliminating these silos at this point in time but did not elaborate on the subject.

Mr. Cody said that he would be calling back on Friday and would be requesting a taped interview on the subject but in the meantime he wanted to contact some other experts on the subject. The latter he did not identify.