PRESS QUERY

COMPANY: (Operating & Parent) MICC

SUBJECT: POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS

REPORTER & MEDIA: Art Kaufman
Globe-Democrat

DATE & TIME: June 13, 1975
8:30 p.m.

QUERY AND RESPONSE:

DISTRIBUTION

- X Corporate PR Bulletin Board
- X New York Public Relations
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- X W. R. Corey - B2SA
- X David Wood - B2SD
- X William Papageorge - B2SK
- X D. R. Bishop - B1ND

The query was in reference to a story that had just been carried on the Associated Press wire datelined Lansing, Mich. The story, which the reporter read, stated that the Michigan Natural Resources Commission had urged the legislature and nation to ban the use and production of PCBs. Monsanto Company was mentioned in the wire story as being the only producer of PCBs. Included in the story were several recent incidents involving PCBs -- confiscation of contaminated fish and studies conducted on rhesus monkeys.

Q: Does Monsanto have any comment relating to the Commission's findings? Is Monsanto considering stopping the production and sale of PCBs?

In order to provide the reporter with background on the PCB issue and outline the actions already taken by Monsanto, a phone interview was arranged between the reporter and William Papageorge that same evening.

Mr. Papageorge stressed that Monsanto had voluntarily discontinued sales of PCBs to manufacturers of such products as paints, coatings, solvents and adhesives. He explained that current sales are exclusively to the electrical industry for use in closed systems. Mr. Papageorge pointed out the safety advantages of fire resistant dielectric fluids in electrical applications.

Because current usage has been restricted to closed systems, Mr. Papageorge indicated that a ban on manufacture would do nothing to correct the environmental situation currently being discussed.

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SOURCE OF ANSWER:

W. B. Papageorge

HANDLED BY:

G. F. Barton