bc: Mr. H. S. Bergen - HBERG
Mr. E. P. Wheeler - EWHEE
Mr. W. R. Richard - WRICH

June 2, 1969

Editor
The Des Moines Register
715 Locust Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50304

Dear Sir:

I recently saw your April 18 editorial on "Polluting Our Air and Water" which made reference to the polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) sold by Monsanto. I thought you might be interested in some additional information on this matter.

Evidently your editorial was based on a story which appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle late in February. Unfortunately, the deadline of that writer did not give us time to supply an answer to his questions. Enclosed is a statement which contains information which should have been presented.

A number of the reports about PCBs are incorrect. They are not used in vinyl plastics, automobile tires or epoxy resins -- as has been stated. They also have no agricultural uses.

In addition, the work of a Dr. Risebrough in California was evidently misrepresented by the Chronicle story. Dr. Risebrough recently appeared at a DDT hearing in Wisconsin and was reported by the press to have said that "he was misquoted in several news stories and his summary was not properly represented."

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PCBs are highly specialized materials used in closed systems or a manner where they are an integral part of the product. We, therefore, question how commercially made PCB could be showing up in the environment in the quantities reported. We think the answer could lie elsewhere.

We are conducting our own research programs to confirm or deny these initial, scientific reports. Monsanto is not ignoring this matter and will exercise the same high degree of control and concern on PCB as we do with all our products.

Sincerely,

Tom C. Ford
Manager
Divisional Public Relations

TCF:mw
Enclosure