VERBATIM FROM NEW YORK OFFICE

March 21, 1977
3:30 p.m.

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UPI WIRE - Iowa Escapes Catastrophe

Most of the people in Iowa could have been killed by a highly toxic chemical that mistakenly was trucked into the state as oil to be spread on the state's network of gravel roads. Pete Hamlin, an official of the Iowa Dept. of Environmental Quality said yesterday. Hamlin said the shipment containing the lethal contaminant, polychlorinated biphenyl, was found before it could be spread over the roads and produce an "ecological disaster."

He called the shipment error "one of the most bizarre things" and said "there were enough contaminants to kill or cripple most of the population of Iowa" if the chemical had infiltrated the state's food or water supply.

NEW YORK TIMES - 3/21 - Solvent With Contaminants Found in Trucks in Iowa

Des Moines - March 20 - UPI

Most of the people in Iowa could have been killed or crippled by highly toxic PCB that was mistakenly trucked into the state as oil to be spread on gravel roads, an official of the State Dept. of Environmental Quality says. The official, Pete Hamlin, said the shipment containing the lethal contaminant, polychlorinated biphenyl, had been found before it could be spread over the network of gravel roads and produce an ecological disaster. Mr. Hamlin said that when Dale Sweet, a waste oil dealer from North Mankato, MN, owed money to an oil company in Omaho, he offered to pay his bill with low quality oil from a storage site in St. Paul. The Omaha drivers began to load the oil without permission and also took high quality oil, ink sludge(?) and solvent, officials said. The solvent was contaminated with PCB. The MN Pollution Control Agency appealed to the police to find the trucks carrying the chemical. The shipment was found in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

MN = Minnesota

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