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W. B. PAPAGEORGE - ST. LOUIS

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FILE

Met with Dr. David A. Hill, D.V.M., Chief of the Division of Foods, Dairies and Drugs, Department of Agriculture, State of Ohio in Dr. Hill's office 711 State Office Building, 65 South Front Street, Columbus, Ohio on November 16, 1970. We were later joined by Mr. Raymond M. Weimer, a staff member of the Division. At the end of the meeting, I was introduced to Dr. John Stackhouse, Director of the Department of Agriculture.

1. Both Hill and Stackhouse expressed concern about their future in the department because they are political appointees and their candidate lost in the recent election.

2. Hill was relieved to see Monsanto interested in the Ohio milk situation. He felt we had avoided the issue too long.

3. He recognizes that Ohio is the only state pursuing the PCB in milk issue but believes he is morally right and has no respect for the other states who admit there may be a problem but don't have the resources or motivation to pursue it themselves. I mentioned that apparently Connecticut has refused to accept a shipment of milk from Massachusetts. He immediately called his counterpart in Connecticut who told him that no one in that area could definitely detect PCB's but the Sealtest people refused to accept the milk because of the presence of PCB in the river water which the cattle drank (to me this doesn't sound quite right).

4. We discussed the significance of an FDA guideline as distinguished from a regulation and after a lot of talk, I concluded that as far as he was concerned the effect is the same.

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5. Hill has been communicating with Congressman Ryan. I was shown copies of the Congressional Record. Hill at one point indicated that Ryan was going to introduce legislation but when I tried to pursue this further, Hill was evasive.

6. Hill believes that it was because of his efforts that the FDA published the guidelines. Although he started the discussions in February, 1970, it was not until June, 1970 that he received confirmation in writing. Hill also believes that the FDA is worried that the .2 ppm in milk and 5 ppm in food limits are set too high. I tried to assure him there was no evidence that PCB's at these or even higher levels were harmful to humans but he refused to participate in this type of discussion.

7. Hill is very concerned that he and his Division will end up as co-defendents in lawsuits. Mrs. Humphrey has vocally and emotionally challenged his analytical techniques and results and also his right to confiscate the milk. To assure himself that the analytical results are correct, he has sent portions of a sample to WARF, Ohio State University, University of Cincinnati, FDA in Cincinnati and Battelle Institute. All except WARF reported .3 - .4 ppm; WARF reported 0.73 ppm. Incidently WARF indicated to Hill that they were novices in PCB analysis. Our experience with WARF would indicate otherwise.

8. The Humphrey's herd is responding differently from Schwarzwalder's which is now considered clean by Hill. In the eight months since February, only 21 out of 58 cows in the Humphrey herd are producing milk with acceptable levels of PCB. Hill could not explain the difference. Hill also mentioned that Humphrey's cows gave no live births as expected this year, whereas Schwarzwalder had no difficulties with calf production. This differs from the Dayton Journal Herald article and from Jacob Hess's letter dated September 16, 1970.

9. Hill mentioned that he was aware of only three silo companies which applied the "cumar" coating. All three were part of the original Michigan Silo Company. From discussions he has held with other silo people he estimates that over 40,000 silos have been coated with this material. Most of these silos are located in the midwest.

PCB-ARCH0743171

10. Hill apparently has considerable concern for Mrs. Humphrey's behavior. He believes she altered samples from her farm because she has not permitted Hill to take samples with him. She insists on bringing her samples to his laboratory personally. He asked me to get a milk sample for him.

11. Hill is invited to be chairman of a panel to discuss PCB coatings in silos at the annual convention of the National Silo Association which will be held in Houston, Texas on December 7, 8 and 9. The meeting will be held at the Marriott Inn. Hill suggested Monsanto be represented and that we should have a hospitality suite on Tuesday night before the panel discussion.

12. Hill and Weimer reported that they were told Monsanto had sent representatives to the Kentucky farmers and to Dillman's farm to study the problem. I told them this was not true. Perhaps the MRC employee who is Dillman's neighbor could have been the one they heard of. I have no idea who went into Kentucky.

13. Purdue University has four silos coated with cumar. Perhaps we should get samples of silage and milk.

14. A Dr. Cook, Michigan State University, has tried phenobarbital and activated carbon to remove chlorinated hydrocarbons. Hill claims the tests were a failure. The staff at Wooster College refuse to be involved with Cook.

15. A company in Marietta, Ohio, Vernon V. Vadakin & Son, Inc. will coat silos with an epoxy compound and guarantee no contamination of the silage for $1/sq. ft. A new silo with coating costs $1.50/sq. ft.

16. We talked at length about the MIPP (milk idemnity payment plan). Neither Hill nor Stackhouse would comment on possible approaches for including PCB's in such a program.

17. We discussed the possibility of an agriculture school such as University of Wooster, studying a contaminated herd such as Humphrey's. Stackhouse was of the opinion that any school which was appropriated the funds would be very willing to conduct such a study but would prefer working with a clean herd which was contaminated and decontamined under controlled conditions.

PCB-ARCH0743172

18. I asked if the State of Ohio permitted the dairy industry to treat the milk in any special or unique ways to improve its quality. As an example, I referred to the possibility of using activated carbon to remove pesticide residues. Hill emphatically stated that this was forbidden and that carbon itself if not completely removed is an adulterant.

19. Hill asked what levels of PCB we found in the samples they sent us last spring. I told him I didn't know if our analysts made a quantitative analysis and that I would look into the matter.

20. It is my personal belief that Hill will cooperate with Monsanto but only up to point. He avoided discussion of proper levels of PCB content; he did not divulge Congressman Ryan's proposed legislation; his version of Swarzwalder's calf production differs from other accounts and he would not share with us Michigan Silos customer list.

I am convinced Hill is concerned that he will be the subject of a law suit. He is very anxious to help Monsanto help the dairy farmer in Ohio to minimize the backlash on Hill and his division.

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