

Marsanto

FROM: F. J. Holzapfel - B2SB

DATE: January 24, 1979

SUBJECT: EXPOSURE TO DIOXINS & NITRO  
Adverse Publicity

J. T. Garrett - A2SG  
F. C. Meyer - A2SA  
RS Nelson/JR Condray - B3NJ  
L. L. Watkins - B2NB

TO: Messrs.  
C. F. Callis  
E. H. Harbison  
L. A. Miller

This memo summarizes a situation developing at Nitro that promises to result in adverse publicity, and suggests a course of action which may mitigate that adverse publicity.

I have discussed this situation with Messrs. Meyer and Garrett of DMEH and Callis and Condray of MICC. Messrs. Meyer and Callis have passed the suggestion along to Dr. Roush, who has indicated that he needs some expression of MICC's interest and concern.

The compound 2,4,5 Trichlorophenol was made in the plant at Nitro by the alkaline hydrolysis of the appropriate chlorobenzene. Our's was a "dirty" process and we were plagued with chloroacne problems. We had one accident involving the discharge of the reactor contents through a blown rupture disc, exposing numbers of our people to the reactor contents. We now know that Dioxins were produced as byproducts. These are known hazards to human health.

About two weeks ago, our union requested seniority lists covering the period during which we made 2,4,5 T. (They are entitled to such lists under our contract and we have provided them in the past.) Off the record, the local representative of the Steelworkers International indicated that the Steelworkers planned to retain Dr. Selikoff of Mt. Sinai to make a study of worker exposure to 2,4,5 T -- ostensibly for use in their dealings with Dow who still manufacture this material. Dr. Selikoff is known as an anti-business sensationalist prone to publication in the rotogravure section.

On Monday (1/22), our union requested that we provide a meeting room and allow a Dr. Moses (associated with Selikoff) to interview certain of our people. We refused this request.

EX 66

236180

At the same time, Dr. Meyer of DTEH received a phone call from Dr. Suskind of Kettering Institute, indicating that he had been requested by Selikoff to help in the study. Dr. Suskind is known to be fair, objective and not anti-business. He had been involved in examining those Nitro people exposed during our reactor incident.

In discussion with Dr. Meyer and Mr. Garrett, we conceived the idea of giving Dr. Suskind access to our records and people (with their permission) so that he might make an objective study and be permitted to publish the results.

I recommend that you and Dr. Roush consider this problem and this suggestion at the earliest opportunity.

F. J. Holzapfel

FJH/cp

236181