**Watch for further Food and Drug Administration action** on polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB)—probably early next month. The agency stated last month that the use of recycled paper for food packaging had resulted in high levels of PCB in the foods. It then launched a nationwide survey of 15 food product categories that were packaged with recycled materials. If the survey data, slated to be turned over to FDA by Nov. 1, confirm that unacceptably high levels of PCB did indeed migrate from the packaging to the foods, the agency will act. Use of recycled paper may be banned for food packaging, now a major outlet for the paper; tighter limits may be set on the amount of such paper to be used in such packaging; or FDA may opt for requiring some sort of barrier between the packaging and the food. One of the first two options will likely get the FDA nod. If so, it will point up another conflict developing between environmental and public health goals.

**Will the statute of limitations bolster Uniroyal's position** in its maleic hydrazide dispute with Louisville Chemical? Uniroyal is asking the U.S. Supreme Court to block Louisville's suit for triple damages on the grounds that the latter waited too long to sue. The controversy goes back to '63, when Uniroyal withdrew its permission to Louisville to distribute the tobacco sucker inhibitor under Uniroyal's brandname, MH-30. At the time, Louisville refused to abide by Uniroyal's demands that it sell only to certain customers. Court decisions later found those demands unlawful, opening the way to Louisville to sue Uniroyal for three times the amount the former lost because it did not have the line to sell.

**In another process industries patent fight, H.K. Porter Co. won its dispute** with Goodyear Tire & Rubber. The U.S. Supreme Court refused to review a lower-court ruling that Porter holds a valid patent on a unique flexible hose for automobile radiators, despite Goodyear's complaints. The hose is of rubber molded in a corrugated shape with a helical reinforcing wire coil. The two companies competed in selling the product in '65, when the suit went to court. Porter has since backed out of the market. Goodyear had contended that a Patent Office finding that it had the process first invalidated the Porter patent. The Supreme Court decision not to hear the case leaves standing the finding of the Cincinnati appeals court that regardless of who was first, the Porter invention is unique and therefore patentable.

**Chemical industry buyers of computers and components** may be in for some bargains soon. Reason: computer manufacturer Honeywell slashed prices of government purchases a bone-touching 70%, to win a Defense Dept. contract for a worldwide military command and control system. Honeywell beat out IBM's offer of a 50% discount for the $51.3-million contract, say officials of the General Services Administration.

To get the big discount, though, Defense must order nine systems by June 30, '72, and pick up options for 26 additional units by June 30, '73. Average price of each of the first nine systems, which incorporate Honeywell's latest 6000-Series computer, works out to a little over $1.3 million installed and operating. The market has been rough, hence the sharp price competition. Central processing unit (CPU) computer makers, for example, have lost about $100 million worth of auxiliary equipment business over the past year to competing independent makers of peripherals (tape drivers, printers, disc control units, etc.).

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