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Copy for Kennedy

ST. LOUIS - GENERAL OFFICES

NOVEMBER 11, 1968

cc: J. S. BAGNALL/J. C. HUTCHISON
D. L. CHAPMAN

BIPHENYL

DR. W. R. RICHARD

Attached, find a collection of data which I agreed to forward during our phone conversation earlier today. I do not believe that the toluene dealkylation capacities have changed significantly since our quick and dirty survey about a year ago. As you can see a substantial amount of biphenyl could be made available from these facilities.

The question of continued preparation of benzene from toluene is dependent upon the price differentials. As the price of toluene and benzene merge, it just doesn't make good sense to convert toluene into benzene. The October 2, 1967 C & E News article attached reinforces this point.

Throughout the years we have been contacted by several companies, including Signal, Gulf and others, who have indicated possible prospects to offer biphenyl from their dealkylation units. Gulf has indicated an availability of some 4-5 M pounds of 99+% assay biphenyl. In 1966, they provided us with a detailed analysis of trace impurities (metals and non-metals). To my knowledge Gulf has not moved ahead with their program. Dow has been marketing a biphenyl stream (it appears to be low concentration of biphenyl) to Tanatex. Tanatex isolates biphenyl for dye carrier applications. Originally, Tanatex' interest was in isolation of biphenyl from Schnectady Chemicals by-product from a benzene oxidation to phenol program.

I hope the above information will be of some initial interest to you in examining the biphenyl threat from dealkylation units. Our Texas City people have estimated the value of our stream containing biphenyl, but this material is somewhat different from those using high assay toluene as feed stock. We certainly

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are interested in the results of your evaluation. Previous attempts, I am afraid have been less than enthusiastically approached and warrant re-examination.

W. K. JOHNSON

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Attachments

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