Monsanto

File - Krummrich

From
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Date : April 29, 1988 cc: D. G. Bartolanzo

Subject : East Side Land Purchases

Reference :

TO : D. R. Bishop

As we've discussed, two Post-Dispatch reporters are aware that Monsanto has been purchasing property on the east side in the vicinity of the Krummrich plant.

Harry Jackson, who covers East St. Louis for the Post, has known for some weeks that we have been purchasing property in southern East St. Louis. He's also aware of the purchase of the properties in Sauget.

Safir Ahmed, another east side reporter and the one who covered the aftermath of the recent release at the plant (our press briefing 4/18; Illinois EPA announcement 4/26), had learned that two real estate firms had been buying properties for "unnamed companies," and called us seeking to confirm that Monsanto was involved as rumored.

On Wednesday, Ahmed interviewed Max McCombs by telephone, and his questions were as follows:

1) The area in East St. Louis in which we're buying property (Max provided the street boundaries and said we'd been purchasing property since 1984). Ahmed made no references to the properties in Sauget.

2) How much property was currently owned by Monsanto (About 3.5 acres, of which half had been purchased at delinquent tax sales, and the other half from estate sales and through private purchases).

3) Approximate cost (not disclosed).

4) Why Monsanto is interested (we'd like more space between us and our residential neighbors).

On Thursday, Ahmed was scheduled to interview Bill Boyle and Max at the plant but cancelled at the last moment. He intends to reschedule the interview. When talking with him, Max suggested he talk to the other Post reporter who had been aware of some of these activities.

Ahmed had talked with the plant manager at Amax, who confirmed that Amax had been buying property in the Rush City area for the last 10 years.

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While it hasn't been generally disseminated via the news media, it is relatively common knowledge on the east side that Monsanto and the other companies have been buying property. Mayor Officer, some of his staff and other East St. Louis politicians are certainly aware. And we're aware that certain individuals have also been buying property, probably for speculative purposes. Because people on the east side have been aware of the activities of the companies, even complete disclosure in the Post-Dispatch is unlikely to have a major long-term impact.

Glynn Young

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