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BIRTH DEFECT DATA ON OLD CHEMICAL

Monsanto Company Has Decided to Restrict the Sales of PCB

ON MARKET 40 YEARS

Studies on Animals Lead Firm to Call for Ban on Use in Pesticides

(New York Times News Service)

Washington—The manufacturer of an industrial chemical called PCB has decided to restrict sales of the chemical because of mounting evidence it can induce birth defects in animals.

The Monsanto company of St. Louis said in a letter to Rep. William F. Ryan, (D-N.Y.) that it would no longer sell PCB for use as a water-resident plasticizer or as a hydraulic fluid.

In April the company asked

EMMY LOU by Marty Links



"1970 has been a fabulous year! So far, between us, we've been in love 23 times!"

in a "closed system" such as a transformer.

PCB, short for polychlorinated biphenyls, is chemically similar to DDT in that it resists biological breakdown. Monsanto has been making it 40 years under the brand name Aroclor.

There have been increasing scientific reports in recent years that PCB was being found in fish, birds, fruits and even, in minisule quantities, in human mothers' milk. There is evidence large doses affect the enzymes, and thus sex hormones, in certain animals.

The primary use of PCB always has been as a lubricant in transformers, the purpose for which Monsanto will continue to make it. The chemical also appears in several paints and adhesives that require a high degree of corrosive resistence.

Favored More Uses

Several years ago Monsanto began a campaign to market it widely for use in such household products as floor waxes, outdoor paints and caulking compounds.

The company declined to make public a list of all products now containing PCB. A company spokesman said publication of such a list would "serve no useful nonpolitical purpose."

The spokesman said Monsanto did not know until recently the chemical, a liquid that is sells in giant drums, was being used as a pesticide.

According to an official of the Department of Agriculture, PCB is used in at least eight different brands of insecticides now on the market. He said the department had begun an "exhaustive review" of the hazards of PCB but had taken no action to prohibit its use.

Ryan, who has conducted a year-long campaign to limit, if not prohibit, the use of PCB, said he was not completely satisfied with Monsanto's action and hoped sales would be restricted even further.