Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) formerly were used as a solvent in the production of NCR paper. However, when it was learned that PCBs may create environmental problems the company launched an extensive research program to find a suitable substitute. This program was successful and last spring NCR discontinued all use of PCBs in the production of NCR paper.

The FDA, basing its judgment on current knowledge, sees no imminent threat to the public health from polychlorinated biphenyls.

Except for isolated incidents involving fish, the FDA reports that almost all the high levels of PCB found to date have been associated with accidents which FDA is working to prevent. There have been no known cases of human health problems directly traceable to carbonless paper. The PCB was removed from NCR paper because of potential environmental problems, not because of human health hazard.

Negligible quantities of paper from production prior to June 1971 may still be in inventory at printers or convertors.

The replacement for PCB has been tested by the supplier for acute oral toxicity, for primary skin and eye irritative potential in accordance with techniques specified in the regulations (Federal Register, August 12, 1961) under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act. This material has been classified as nontoxic by ingestion, as not being a primary skin irritant or corrosive material and as not being an eye irritant as these terms are defined in the above cited regulations.