

ple gathered at Andrews Air Force Base that—

Deep differences in political philosophy cannot permanently divide the peoples of the world.

What is most important for the United States is that those differences in political philosophy should not be used like a vice to crush the independent, nationalistic course which the Rumanians have chosen for themselves. This will not occur so long as America recognizes that independence and actively encourages it.

President Nixon has recognized that independence and now has urged the Congress to act to foster it. As with the ping-pong tournament in China, the ball is now in our court. If we in Congress are to fulfill our responsibility in the determination of national policy, then hearings should be held on our Eastern European trade policy at an early date.

The two bills I am introducing today could provide the focus for those hearings.

The general bill I today introduced would permit the President to extend MVT to any country with which the United States has diplomatic relations and which is a member of GATT—General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade—if the President determines such to be in the national interest.

PCB'S—ENVIRONMENTAL POISON

THE SPEAKER. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. Ryan) is recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, July 23, the U.S. Department of Agriculture revealed that a significant proportion of chickens raised in 12 States have been contaminated with an extremely dangerous chemical—polychlorinated biphenyl—PCB.

This occurrence tragically illustrates the failure of the Federal Government to take preventive action against the uncontrolled use of this deadly chemical. During the past 2 years I have attempted to get the appropriate Federal agencies to take the necessary protective actions that would have forestalled such an occurrence and would have guaranteed the health and safety of the public. But in an almost unprecedented display of disregard for the public health and welfare, that administrative action has not been forthcoming.

Therefore, I am today introducing legislation to totally ban the distribution of PCB's in interstate commerce, thus insuring that our health and environment are safeguarded from the hazards of this chemical.

Manufactured in the United States solely by the Monsanto Co., polychlorinated biphenyls are a serious threat to our health and to our environment. Like DDT—their chemical cousin—PCB's and their residue are extremely toxic to animal life, cause birds to lay eggs with shells too thin to protect the embryos they enclose, and have a deleterious effect on the reproductive capacity of animals.

But by far the most frightening hazard is the effect of PCB's on human beings.

Polychlorinated biphenyls may be taken into the body by direct action upon the skin or as a vapor through the respiratory tract. The effect on the skin is chloracne: the early symptoms of which are pimples and dark pigmentation; later, more serious eruptions. Persons who have been continuously exposed to PCB's may suffer nausea, vomiting, loss of weight, edema and abdominal pain, increased respiration, lowered blood cell count, and inhibition of the carbohydrate metabolism. More serious effects are those on the kidneys. The principle effect, however, is on the liver—possibly leading to atrophy, followed by death.

PCB's are very persistent in the environment thus making them a long-term threat. They are not soluble in water and resist biological breakdown.

In the past, PCB's have been sold by the Monsanto Co. for use in plasticizer applications; in closed system applications, such as coolants in transformers; as hydraulic fluids; and as an extender in pesticides.

When I first brought the potential dangers of PCB's to the attention of the appropriate Federal agencies in April 1970, I requested that certain specific actions be taken to protect our health and environment from the hazards of PCB's.

I urged the Secretary of Agriculture to ban the use of polychlorinated biphenyls in pesticides. The Department of Agriculture agreed to discontinue the use of PCB's in pesticides and to cancel registrations for pesticides containing PCB's.

I urged the Food and Drug Administration to set food tolerance levels for PCB's, to require the labeling of all products containing PCB's, and to determine whether this chemical should be banned completely. In replying to me, the FDA advised me that it was undertaking a survey to determine the extent of food contamination from PCB's—the results of which I still have not received. FDA refused to set food tolerance levels and to require labeling.

I urged the Secretary of the Interior to act to protect fish and wildlife from this hazard. He replied that investigations were being carried out by various agencies of the Federal Government and the results of these studies would be funneled to the staff of the Council on Environmental Quality.

I urged the Commission Product Safety to determine the nature and extent of the threat to our environment. The Commission replied that it was not possible for them to conduct an in-depth investigation of the hazards of PCB's at that time.

And I urged the Council on Environmental Quality to coordinate the efforts of all appropriate Government agencies, so that the public might know the sources and the seriousness of the PCB danger, and that it take steps to eliminate this hazard as soon as possible. The Council advised me that it was working with other Federal agencies to determine what course of action was available to the Federal Government.

Earlier this year I renewed by call for administrative action by requesting the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to place an immediate

ban of the importation, manufacture, and sale of all products containing PCB's with the possible exception of certain closed system applications. I urged that he require that any product containing PCB's not included in such a ban be labeled with a warning as to their detrimental environmental effects. I requested that he obtain from Monsanto those production and sales figures necessary to determine the extent of possible PCB contamination—data which Monsanto has refused to provide me. And I urged that the Environmental Protection Agency coordinate all appropriate governmental agencies in dealing with this hazard.

In replying to me, EPA ignored all four of my requests and in no way responded to them.

In short, except for the action of the Department of Agriculture in banning PCB's in pesticides, the Federal Government has not taken any of the necessary steps which I have requested over the past 2 years to combat this very serious environmental and health hazard.

The results of this Government inaction are now tragically apparent. Large amounts of poultry and hogs in 12 State areas may now be contaminated with this toxic chemical.

For nearly 3 months PCB's have been leaking into fish meal processed at the East Coast Terminal, Inc. plant in Wilmington, N.C. The meal has been sold to 64 poultry producers in Virginia, Delaware, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Indiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, and Mississippi.

According to the Department of Agriculture, 18,000 tons of fish meal had been produced at the Wilmington plant between April 30 and July 15—when the plant was closed down.

This contamination would yet be unnoticed if it were not for the fact that a commercial poultry processor became alarmed at the low rate of hatching of eggs in his broiler breeding chickens.

I can see no way that all the poultry and hogs subjected to this chemical can now be traced. The potential results could be disastrous.

And this is not the sole instance of widespread PCB contamination in the food chain.

In December 1970, the Campbell Soup Co. discovered that fat samples taken from slaughtered chickens contained a high quantity of PCB residue. Upon being notified of this finding and recognizing the potential health and safety consequences, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets immediately stopped the movement of all poultry from the area in Sullivan County, N.Y., where the chickens had been raised.

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets then began a full-scale investigation into the extent of possible PCB contamination in poultry. Their laboratory confirmed the findings made by Campbell Soup Co. of high levels of PCB's, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture established a continuing restraint on the movement of all poultry for slaughter in Sullivan, Ulster, and

Orange Counties, N.Y., until it was found to be safe through a special screening operation.

As a result of their investigations and consultation with USDA, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets ordered that 146,000 PCB-contaminated chickens be buried under close supervision to make absolutely sure that they would not reach the marketplace.

The Campbell Soup Co., USDA, and the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets all took prompt action to deal with this serious problem, and that is reassuring. However, the potential damage which could have resulted if this incident had not been discovered in time cannot be ignored. And I must stress that this is not an isolated example.

In January 1970, samples of milk collected by the State of Ohio Department of Agriculture revealed residue of a product closely resembling DDT and DDD. On February 19, a dairyman, George Eschmawander, was issued a notice by the division of food, dairies, and drugs to discontinue the sale of milk until such time as the residue found in his milk was below the actionable level. On February 27, another dairyman, Franklin Humphrey, received a similar notice.

Subsequent samples from individual cows and the bulk tank on these farms submitted to agriculture laboratories and the pesticide laboratory at Ohio State University revealed that the residue was not DDT but PCB's. The Ohio State Department of Agriculture found the contaminating substance to be AROCLOR 1254, manufactured by the Monsanto Co. Apparently, the dairymen's silos were lined with a product called Cumar which included AROCLOR in its content. The PCB's were then absorbed by the silage which in turn was fed to the milk cows, resulting in PCB-contaminated milk.

Although I have been assured by the Ohio State Department of Agriculture that this problem is now under control, the harm that might have resulted is obvious.

In view of the lack of administrative action even after these incidents were brought to the attention of Federal agencies and in light of the obvious threat posed by PCB-contamination in milk and poultry, on May 19, I introduced legislation (H.R. 8519) to ban the distribution of polychlorinated biphenyl in interstate commerce. However, this legislation gave the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, the authority to exempt from this ban PCB's for use in certain closed-system applications, namely, as the dielectric fluid in capacitors, the coolant in transformers, or as a fire resistant in heat transfer media, provided that he found such uses would not adversely affect the public health and welfare.

It is now apparent, however, that PCB's are a serious threat even in these closed system applications, as evidenced by the current incident of poultry feed contamination. Therefore, I am today introducing legislation to totally ban the interstate distribution of PCB's. And

I am calling for congressional hearings into this matter.

Further, I am reiterating my call for the Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency to commence immediately a full and exhaustive investigation into the extent of PCB contamination. And I am calling for an immediate administrative ban on the manufacture, shipment, and sale of all PCB's.

The problem of PCB's is indicative of a much larger problem of the most unrestricted influx of harmful chemicals into the marketplace. A system must be established to insure the safety of a chemical before it can be sold and then only for specific uses.

But in the meantime, everything possible must be done to protect the public from known chemical dangers. We know the hazards of PCB's. We know what can and must be done to combat those hazards. And we must undertake those actions now.

At this point I include in the RECORD two articles by Hank Burchard which appeared in the Washington Post on July 24 and July 25 respectively, and a July 24 New York Times story by William Safire.

The articles follow:

[From the Washington Post, July 24, 1971]
CHEMICAL FOUND IN CHICKENS—CONTAMINATED FOWL FOUND IN 12-STATE AREA
(By Hank Burchard)

A "significant proportion" of the chickens raised in 12 states have been contaminated with a DDT-like compound, the Department of Agriculture announced yesterday.

USDA said it has "no evidence" that any of the birds have reached consumers and has taken steps to make sure none do.

The contaminant is polychlorinated biphenyls, known as PCB. For nearly three months it had been leaking into fish meal processed at the East Coast Terminal, Inc. plant in Wilmington, N.C. The meal has been sold to 64 poultry producers in Virginia, Delaware, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Indiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas and Mississippi.

PCB, like DDT, is a persistent compound that accumulates in fatty tissues and is said to cause low fertility and birth defects in animals. Its effects on humans are uncertain, but USDA has set the maximum acceptable level of PCB in marketed flesh at 5 parts per million, the same as for DDT.

Tests of poultry in markets in the South and West during the past week have found none that have as much as 5 p.p.m. of PCB, according to Dr. Fred J. Pullerton of USDA's consumer and marketing service.

In my opinion, there would be no broilers in stores above the tolerance, Pullerton said. The agency does not regulate tests for PCB.

In poultry not yet slaughtered, USDA found PCB concentrations as high as 22 p.p.m. and the poultry producer reported levels as high as 40 p.p.m.

The contamination of fish meal in the Wilmington plant was caused by leakage of PCB being used as the heat exchange mechanism in a sterilizing mixer.

The accidental leakage, which may have begun around April 30, was brought to the attention of the Food and Drug Administration last week by the Monsanto Corp., sole U.S. producer of PCB compounds. FDA in turn alerted USDA on July 18.

PCB, which stands for a dozen related com-

pounds, has been long and widely used in the U.S. as a solvent in the production of paint, pesticides, plastics and resins and such items as "carbonless" carbon paper, as well as in heating and cooling systems. Although no new recommends its use be limited to heat exchange systems, an FDA spokesman said.

PCB contamination of the tissues of poultry produced in New York State last year resulted in the seizure and destruction of more than 100,000 birds. The source of contamination in that case has not been pinpointed. Although PCB has been in use worldwide since before World War II, it was not until 1969 that its presence in soil, water and animal tissues became known.

"Environmental Magazine, which first brought the PCB problem to national attention, reported that concentrations of PCB were overlooked in chemical analyses because it is so similar to DDT."

Kevin Shea, the magazine's scientific director, yesterday disputed the government's assurance that toxic birds are not on the market. "I suspect PCB contamination may be quite widespread," he said in a telephone interview from St. Louis, Mo.

"We were able to check birds from the South more than two months ago, but haven't yet been able to track it down," he said.

Dr. Joseph Stein of USDA said the agency has been checking chickens in the South during this period and have found nothing to lead us to suspect contamination of marketed birds.

Scientific opinion on the dangers presented by PCB is divided. USDA researchers, a spokesman said, regard the outcry over PCB (and DDT) as exaggerated.

An FDA spokesman said the agency forbids use of PCB in food or in the production of food containers. "Its effects are not known in detail," he said, "so it is an adulterant and impermissible."

Dr. Robert Rieboergh, of the University of California at Berkeley, discovered while doing research on fish that he felt that PCB was endangering the species. Since then he has reported finding PCB residues widespread.

[From the Washington Post, July 25, 1971]
LAW SOUGHT TO BAN DDT-LIKE CHEMICAL
(By Hank Burchard)

A New York congressman said yesterday he will introduce a bill to ban all use of a DDT-like compound that has contaminated human and wildlife food chains in the U.S. and around the world.

The announcement by Rep. William Fitz Ryan (D-N.Y.) came after it was revealed Friday that high levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) has been found in fish meal fed to poultry in 12 states, including Virginia and Delaware, over the past three months.

A Department of Agriculture spokesman said yesterday that fish meal from the same Wilmington, N.C., plant had also been fed to an unknown number of hogs. The department said it does not believe any of the poultry or pork involved has reached consumer markets and is moving to prevent them from doing so.

Fish meal produced by East Coast Terminal, Inc. of Wilmington, was contaminated from about April until the plant was ordered closed Friday. The PCB, being used as the heat transfer medium in sterilizing vats, leaked unnoticed into the meal.

The contamination was not discovered by any government agency. It came to light when a customer of the Monsanto Corp., the sole U.S. producer of PCB, complained that his chickens were being sickened and their eggs were of low fertility.

Monsanto traced the problem to the chicken feed and the feed to the Wilmington plant, then notified the U.S. Food and Drug