



FRIDAY CAKE for Dr. Eduardo Semon is offered by Wesley Ryan, 1, as parents, Mr. and Mrs. Don Ryan of Madison, enjoy the moment

ix Sevens at Birth Work Out for Wesley

By Claude Shriver
Staff Writer

8:30 p.m. on July 7, Wesley Ryan was born. He gave a healthy cry to let the world know he had arrived and his father, Don, on the left, and his mother, Mrs. Don Ryan, on the right, smiled at the sight. The doctor, Dr. Eduardo Semon, who was on duty at the time, decided on the spot that with six sevens, he had to work hard to take that boy to Las Vegas.

His mother, Mrs. Ryan, was a dream come true. After suffering two miscarriages, she finally had the second son she desperately wanted.

As in the delivery room that it was discovered that Wesley had a defect. He was born with an imperforated anus. When the nurse tried to take the baby's temperature, she discovered he had no anal.

It was when Dr. Eduardo M. Semon was called. When Wesley was 14 old Dr. Semon did colostomy surgery in which an opening was made in the abdominal wall to the colon.

JULY 20 Dr. Semon and Mrs. Ryan went to surgery again. This time Wesley was 14 old, weighed 20 pounds, having a lengthy procedure. The doctor, Dr. Semon, who was on duty at the time, decided on the spot that with six sevens, he had to work hard to take that boy to Las Vegas.

in 5,000 live births. In his practice as a pediatric surgeon, he has found that hernia is the most common defect followed by kidney problems.

Mrs. Ryan says that Dr. Semon was a great source of courage to her and her husband, an employee of Armco Steel Corp. She says he made her realize that Wesley should be treated as a well child, not as one who was different. When she had decided to give up her position as a music teacher at Madison-Danville Junior High School so she could be with the baby all day, it was the doctor who reassured her it was unnecessary. Through her experience she learned to understand the great value of the colostomy and she feels now that there is an unfair stigma attached to it.

SHE SAYS, "The colostomy saved our baby's life. I found it no problem for him or for me. He crawled when he was supposed to start crawling and he developed in a completely normal way. He has in no way been a sick baby."

In Wesley's case there was no bag attached to the colostomy. Mrs. Ryan said that they began by using sterile gauze on the opening and then bands with velcro closures. She said a doctor teased her recently by telling her that soon she would realize that changing Wesley was easier before the surgery.

DR. SEMON, the father of four little girls, says it is not likely that

State at Center Of Investigation Into Coal Fraud

By Healdie Earle
Staff Writer

A U.S. Justice Department investigation into coal fraud will apparently be centered in West Virginia, *The Gazette* learned Friday.

U.S. Attorney Robert B. King wouldn't comment when asked about reports that the Justice Department will focus on coal fraud activity in West Virginia.

According to a reliable source, there is a large scale grand jury investigation of fraudulent schemes in the coalfields. Additional space is needed in the federal building for the grand jury records and the extra personnel coming in from the Justice Department and FBI, the source said.

It was reported earlier that a Justice Department task force would be coordinating an investigation of coal fraud in eight states. Donald E. Foster, a prosecutor in the department's fraud section, said the investigation would concentrate on a number of coal fraud schemes, including interstate transportation of stolen mining equipment and violations of federal securities regulations.

Foster said the federal effort began after Gov. Julian Carroll of Kentucky and other coal-state governors requested a coordinated, state-federal investigation to stop coalfield crime. An investigation in that state resulted in the recovery of \$11 million in stolen mining equipment.

In addition to West Virginia and Kentucky, attorneys from Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Illinois, Pennsylvania and California will be involved, Foster said.

THE INVESTIGATOR for the securities division of the state auditor's office told the *Gazette* several weeks ago that he has helped about 20 states in investigations of securities fraud in connection with West Virginia coal operations.

Kyle King said coal leases are being

bought up by the dozens by promoters who then go out of state to find investors for their operations. He said there are few sales made to West Virginians.

Don't take pictures of old worn out mining equipment and then use them to convince investors it's a promising and prospective operation, said King.

Cancer Crisis Details Given By Monsanto

Monsanto Co. headquarters in St. Louis released national statistics Friday on a 28-year bladder cancer crisis that first came to public attention in Nitro last October.

Monsanto said more than 100 workers in the U.S. developed bladder tumors since the 1950s from exposure to para-aminodiphenyl (PAB), 28 underwent bladder removal and 10 died.

The chemical firm stopped making PAB in 1953 after the danger was discovered. About 700 workers who were exposed have received continuous medical screening since then at company expense.

The situation wasn't publicly known until October when the *Gazette* reported that 34 former PAB workers at the Nitro Monsanto plant developed bladder cancer over the years and six died of it.

Friday's disclosure by Monsanto published in the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch* said the other eight PAB deaths involved workers at a St. Louis plant. Monsanto board chairman John W. Hanley said PAB was the only chemical that ever caused cancer in Monsanto workers.

Proof Positive Elusive in Pinpointing Industrial Illness

By Robert Morris

It's great beyond the shadow of a doubt required to convict a person of murder.

More and more, this question is being debated, as industry, labor and environmentalists ponder the evidence provided by studies of toxic substances and their corresponding effects on human health.

Industry spokesmen might be inclined to answer yes.

But Michael Wright, an industrial hygienist with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and a participant in Saturday's session of the Kanawha Valley Occupational and Environmental Health Conference, argues otherwise.

"THE FACT THAT we find something is toxic or dangerous does not necessarily result in immediate control," Wright said. "It should but it doesn't. It results in a political struggle."

"It's even difficult to prove beyond the shadow of a doubt that the prison virus causes polio."

At best, epidemiology, the study of the parallels between disease and death rates and exposure to toxic substances is an inexact science in which absolutes are never the rule, Wright said. He cited as an example a study of coke oven workers which showed the workers were dying at a rate 10 times higher than other steelworkers.

"Now we're assuming that the only difference between coke oven workers and other steelworkers is that they are coke oven workers," Wright said. "It's possible that they were exposed to something in another part of the plant. It's possible that they drank contaminated water. But these things are very unlikely."

Yet industry, which uses strict legal interpretations to challenge new environmental and occupational health standards in court, sees such epidemiological studies as providing only circumstantial evidence, Wright said.

"YOU CAN'T SPEAK in terms of absolutes," he said. "You're talking about probabilities. You're talking about probabilities."

It is absolutely important to know the scientific facts and honestly use the scientific facts. At its base, once you know the science, the question is how do you convince the companies to clean up? Unfortunately that is still an adversarial process.

"It would be nice if they would voluntarily clean up even though it would be very expensive. But to the extent that cleaning it up costs into the profit margin, they have to be charged into it hiring and assessing."

Wright said that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration is making strides in considering evidence derived from epidemiological studies as a basis for controls on the use and production of toxic substances. But he added

that "It's hard to say how many lives will be saved by a regulation."

REGARDING THE steelworkers' ongoing study of Minnesota workers exposed to dioxin, a byproduct of the herbicide, 2,4,5-T, in an explosion in 1949, Wright said that the effort is more than an exercise in academics. Production of the herbicide, which is suspected of causing a myriad of health problems, was discontinued at Minnesota seven years ago.

He said the purpose of the study was to "identify workers who deserve compensation." In addition, he said, dioxin is a byproduct of other chemical processes, and studies are needed to identify possible health effects for workers still being exposed to it.

Also, he said, "We want to get Minnesota on notice that when some incident like this happens -- even when it's 30 years old -- the crown is not going to ignore it. We're going to take appropriate action."

Greed Pinned As Inflation's Top Ingredient

By Edward Poole

Most factors causing inflation stem from human greed, a very basic age-old human trait, says a professor of economics at West Virginia University.

As a result, inflation is threatening to destroy what Americans regard as "the good life," said Professor Kenneth D. McIntosh.

Inflation has already gotten worse since the middle of the 1960s," McIntosh said. "It has become institutionalized. It has debased the social values that created this nation and the value of our money. It has extracted an extreme penalty on savings and retirement income, and it is threatening to wipe the quest for the good life."

Regrettably, most of the factors giving rise to inflation stem from a very basic characteristic of man that has been around for a long time, he said.

McIntosh called for 3 1/2 percent growth in real GNP, 8 1/2 percent increase in inflation, an unemployment rate of about 6 1/2 percent, savings of 6 percent and housing starts of 1.710 million, a decline of roughly 10 percent from the 1976 figures.

BUT HE ASSERTED that forecasts made in September were really political hot air balloons, forecasting lower unemployment, greater real growth and less inflation.

He supports that the rigors of campaign paying for election gave rise to temporary blurring of vision, he observed. Just as soon as the elections were over, normal oversight was restored and the forecasts were altered for 1979 to 2 1/2 percent real growth and higher levels of unemployment and inflation.

But for all of that, McIntosh said, forecasts are fairly dependable, given the time period of the forecast and the



Suskind Talks About Monsanto Study

2/15/79

CHARTERED DAILY MAIL



Dr. Raymond B. Suskind, of the University of Connecticut, is the author of a study of Monsanto workers who have been exposed to herbicide 2,4,5-T and heavy doses of the potent herbicide, dioxin.

The study, titled "Monsanto Study - A Study of the Health of Workers Exposed to 2,4,5-T and Dioxin," was published in the journal "Environmental Health Perspectives" in 1977.

Suskind, who is a professor of epidemiology and biostatistics at the University of Connecticut, has been a leading expert on the health effects of 2,4,5-T and dioxin. He has testified before Congress and the Supreme Court on these issues.

The study found that workers at the Monsanto plant in Hooksett, New Hampshire, who were exposed to 2,4,5-T and dioxin, had a higher rate of cancer and other health problems than the general population. The study also found that the workers who were exposed to 2,4,5-T and dioxin had a higher rate of birth defects than the general population.

Suskind's study is one of the most comprehensive studies of the health effects of 2,4,5-T and dioxin. It has been cited in many court cases and has helped to bring attention to the health risks of these chemicals.

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...the people who have been exposed to this for decades. From the moment

Dr. Stoddard, in the 1940-41 period — the incident in 1940 — you told you went to there, and that you saw these gaps had this problem and that they had some liver problems and a variety of other health problems. The 1940 and yet the production of the chemical went to the year that you didn't get out to Minnesota and you say, "We run and tickle and tickle."

Q. Now, what I think that is only thing that I know about this -- the only connection that I have is

Q. DUNKING: Well, I was I could tell you but I don't because I really don't know what the Mount Sinai group did. All I know is that they came here for two or three days and they studied at many people as they could in group and then they left and I really don't know what the protocol was. I know what my protocol is.

"There is no way that the House can effectively cope with the complex emergency problems facing our nation while responsibilities are so widely scattered and fractured throughout the institution," Moynihan said.

[illegible][illegible]

Scuffle Booked

Fingerprints, and photographing with another boy

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... ight have been the arrest... d by a Gazette reporter

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o Burn by '80s

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... table has imposed an ask... 2 percent on coal for Hart... of the commission's re... payments without a... are prerequisites. It... stated Thursday that such... could cost the state \$117

... and prerequisites at Hartman... have up to three dozen offi... two company officials paid... of they had modification... made on the third and pre... and a test will be run later

EPA to Inspect Monsanto Dump at Nitro

By Robert Morris
Staff Writer

Federal environmental officials plan to inspect a dump site at Monsanto's Nitro plant where it was reported that the company had buried chemicals associated with the production of a toxic herbicide suspected of causing cancer, birth defects and other health problems.

The chemical, called 2,4,5-T, or "agent orange," was used during the Vietnam War to destroy jungle cover and has become the center of studies of several hundred Monsanto workers who have exhibited health problems that may be linked to close contact with the substance.

Evidence of health problems has also cropped up among Vietnam War veterans who had worked with 2,4,5-T during the war in Indochina.

A MONSANTO SPOKESMAN said Thursday that decontaminated equipment used in the manufacture of the chemical was buried at the site after production of the herbicide was discontinued seven years ago but that the company had never buried 2,4,5-T or any of the chemical's byproducts at the site. The most toxic byproduct has been found to be a substance called dioxin.

Environmental Protection Agency spokeswoman Caroline Pratt of the agency's Philadelphia regional office said Thursday, however, that federal officials plan to inspect the site located under a building near the plant's waste treatment facility near Kanawha River.

REPORTS THAT the chemicals may have been buried at the site surfaced during a recent testimony meeting conducted by the Kanawha Valley Committee on Environmental and Occupational Health. During the meeting, a Monsanto employee said that the company had drilled holes and deposited 2,4,5-T or its byproducts in the landfill.

The committee has since voiced concern that the chemicals, if they were buried at the site, could leach into groundwater or into Kanawha River.

However, the Monsanto spokesman, who asked not to be identified, said, "We do not believe that there is any re-

asonable chance that dioxin is going into the river or even used."

An EPA official said that monitoring of water supplies in Huntington and Cincinnati, downstream from the Monsanto plant, had turned up no traces of the

chemical or any of its byproducts.

Studies of chemical workers are focusing on Monsanto employees who were exposed to large amounts of 2,4,5-T in 1949 when an explosion spread the chemical through a building.



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CAFETERIA - First Floor

Poison Chemicals Spur Nitro Probe

NITRO (AP) — Reports of toxic chemicals buried in a dump site at Monsanto's Nitro plant have prompted federal environmental officials to plan an inspection of the site.

Claims that chemicals related to the manufacture of a herbicide called 2,4,5-T may have been buried at the site, located near the plant's waste treatment facility along the Kanawha River, were aired during a community meeting conducted by the Kanawha Valley Committee on Environmental and Occupational Health.

During the meeting, a Monsanto employee said the company had drilled holes and deposited 2,4,5-T or its by-products in the landfill.

A spokeswoman for the Environmental Protection Agency, Caroline Pratt, said federal officials plan to inspect the site for traces of the chemical, which has been associated with cancer, birth defects and a myriad of other health problems.

However, another EPA official said monitoring of water supplies in Huntington and Cincinnati, downstream from the Monsanto plant, have turned up no traces of the chemical or any of its byproducts.

A Monsanto spokesman, who asked not to be identified, said yesterday that decontaminated equipment used in the manufacture of the chemical was buried at the site after production of the herbicide was discontinued seven years ago. He said the company had never buried the chemical or any of its byproducts at the site.

"We do not believe there is any remote chance that dioxin (one of the chemical's most toxic by-products) is going into the river or ever was," he said.

Medical studies of chemical workers exposed to 2,4,5-T are focusing on Monsanto employees who were exposed to large quantities of the chemical in 1949, when an explosion spread the substance throughout the building where it was being manufactured.

Evidence of health problems also has cropped up among Vietnam veterans who worked with a defoliant called "Agent Orange" during the war in Indochina. One of the primary ingredients in the defoliant was 2,4,5-T.

Coalition Charges

Chemical Plants Boycotting Parley

A new public interest and labor coalition is charging that local chemical plants are boycotting a conference on occupational and environmental health to be held at West Virginia State June 1-2.

The group, called the Kanawha Valley Committee on Occupational and Environmental Health, also contended that Union Carbide Corporation knew three years that the incidence of brain tumors among vinyl chloride workers at the South Charleston plant was above the national average.

The group pointed to a 1976 study which it said was performed by Equitable Environmental Health Inc. for Union Carbide. Carbide spokesmen said while the company is currently studying the situation, no evidence exists to link incidences of brain tumors to vinyl chloride.

The group charged that "the industry boycott indicates a complete disregard by industry for the well-being of the community which has nurtured it. The absence makes one wonder if industry feels any sense of social responsibility or morality."

Charleston Daily Mail 5/25/79

Nitro Plant's Herbicide Blew Up in 1949

Toxic Time Bomb — 30 Years of Agony

By Jane See White
The Associated Press

It's been 30 years since Paul Willard sat up alone, night after eternal night, gasping for breath. And praying to die.

The worst of it passed long ago, but today Willard is so taut, so antsy, that he says he takes a tranquilizer before he can pass the time of day with a neighbor.

On those same distant nights, as Paul Willard begged to die, Gene Thomas lay staring into the darkness because he "couldn't sleep for aching."

Thomas's aches have ended. Yet sometimes, even now, Thomas bursts into racking sobs. He doesn't know why he cries. He just cries.

NEITHER MAN can know exactly what causes his continuing discomfort. But both men know when it began — in March 1949, at the Monsanto chemical plant where they worked — and why:

Workers were brewing a new herbicide called 2,4,5-T, when a vat blew its lid and blanketed Building 41 with a heavy brown dust. The powder was laced with TCDD, a poisonous dioxin contaminant of 2,4,5-T. Many workers got sick after cleaning up the treacherous toxic mess, Willard and Thomas among them.

They called 2,4,5-T "weed killer." Years later, Air Force crews that denuded the Vietnamese jungle with a withering defoliant made partly of 2,4,5-T called the stuff "Agent Orange."

"I wallowed in it for two years.



AP Wirephoto

Paul Willard and his wife, Una, are outside their home in Nitro.

with a stick," says Paul Shaffer, president of the Monsanto local, United Steelworkers of America. "If I knew then what I know now, I wouldn't have gone near the stuff."

▲ That the United States stopped using Agent Orange when scientists warned it may have caused a spate of birth defects among South Vietnamese infants; this month, a Viet-

dioxin in Agent Orange may be behind "an explosion" in liver cancer in what was once South Vietnam.

▲ That nearly 500 Vietnam veterans have asked the Veterans Administration for disability benefits for problems ranging from nervous disorders to deformed children. They blame their exposure, 10 years ago, on Agent Orange.

▲ That the federal Environmental Protection Agency two months ago imposed a temporary ban on most uses of 2,4,5-T after deciding use of the herbicide on forests near Astoria, Ore., may have caused a spate of miscarriages.

▲ That TCDD — among the most lethal known poisons — causes birth defects and miscarriages in laboratory animals. The EPA says 2,4,5-T has caused leukemia or lung, liver and other tumors in laboratory rodents.

▲ That men exposed to 2,4,5-T are known to temporarily suffer — as Willard and Thomas did — respiratory irritation, muscle pains, weariness, and a skin eruption called chloracne. But no one knows if these men may suffer long-range effects.

THAT'S WHY the Steelworkers called Dr. Irving Selikoff. And it's the reason Monsanto decided to bankrupt Dr. Raymond Suskind.

Selikoff heads the Environmental Sciences Laboratory at New York's Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Suskind runs the Environmental Health Department at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine.

Toxic Time Bomb in Nitro Brings 30 Years of Agony to Workers

From Page One

Both scientists are studying Nitro's Monsanto workers hoping they will learn the answers to these nagging questions:

Are Gene Thomas's tears or Paul Willard's taut nerves related to their exposure, 30 years ago, to dioxin? What about Monsanto employee John McCoy's skin cancer? Or the angry red acne that periodically confronts Paul Shaffer in his shaving mirror?

THERE IS still more hanging in the balance. The Vietnamese are waiting. So are the Vietnam veterans. The Veterans Administration is waiting. So is the World Health Organization. So are those exposed to dioxin in other accidents — in Italy, Germany, England, Amsterdam and Czechoslovakia. And the women in Alsea, Ore.

Monsanto stopped making 2,4,5-T in 1969, but other firms still produce the stuff. One of these firms, Dow Chemical, is leading a fight with the EPA, which warned as it announced the temporary 2,4,5-T ban that a permanent ban was in the works.

If the stakes are high, so is the cost. Monsanto spokesman Pierre Wilkins says the Suskind study will cost as much as \$250,000, including about \$100,000 for "in-house" time spent compiling employees' work records. The Selikoff study, says Dr. Marion Moses, the project coordinator, is financed by government and other grants.

Ms. Moses and a Mount Sinai team made a "health survey" of Monsanto workers in early April. Several hundred workers — those exposed to 2,4,5-T and those not — were interviewed and subjected to elaborate physical examinations.

Ms. Moses says it may be months before her team releases its findings. Meanwhile, she promises nothing.

"IT'S POSSIBLE we won't be able to say this caused that. Unless you know every single chemical every single worker was exposed to — I'm not privy to that information. It is very complex. We'll get the information and see what is there."



John McCoy

All Kinds of Problems statistically significant," he says. "Then we have to accept that there could well be a cause-and-effect relationship."

Monsanto's Nitro plant manager isn't worried. Royce Scott says he's "optimistic that we're not going to find long-term health effects other than chloracne."

Monsanto workers are not so sure. Paul Willard among them.

It's better now, Willard says. But he

shakes his white head in angry frustration as he struggles to speak through a ragging cough.

"It burns me up yet. I've never been the same since the accident."

Willard retired nine years ago, when he was 58, because he was so easily exhausted and so nervous.

"I COULDN'T get through the day without a nap," he says. "I can't go out and talk with people without taking a Valium. Seems like all I've done since that accident is run to doctors."

John McCoy, a stocky 32-year Monsanto veteran with deep creases etched on a sun-bronzed face, says he's had all kinds of health problems since the accident — everything from recurring chloracne to a chronic case of the jitters. And now, skin cancer.

"You get everything," he says, "but you can't never be sure what causes it."

Paul Shaffer's father had his suspicions about that. "Every time I'd say to my father, 'Well, the weed killer don't affect no-and-go,' he'd say: 'It affects everybody. If they're not broke out on the outside, they're broke out on the inside.'"

"For years, people died and we'd say, 'Well, the weed killer got another.' But nobody did anything about it."

Gene Thomas shakes his head.

"You just accept it," he says. "It's a fact of life."

Suskind is privy to that information. It was compiled for him by Monsanto. After visiting Nitro in early June, he hopes to have some answers by fall.

After the 1949 accident, Monsanto brought Suskind to Nitro to examine ailing workers. In the '50s, he did two follow-up studies and concluded the workers were essentially back to normal — muscular pains, liver abnormalities, and much of the chloracne had cleared up.

In his current study, Suskind will examine three groups: exposed workers who had chloracne, exposed workers with no chloracne and a control group with no exposure to 2,4,5-T.

He says he has some hunches, based on animal studies of 2,4,5-T and dioxin. He'll look for a higher risk of cancer, liver abnormalities, birth defects, respiratory disease and nervous problems.

"IF THE DATA showing differences

Charleston Daily Mail

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-6A

Friday Evening, April 27, 1979

POINT OF VIEW

Monsanto Record Was Misconstrued

The correction of two factual errors in an article appearing April 12 in the *Daily Mail* concerning Monsanto's safety performance at the Nitro plant doesn't remedy the serious differences that exist between my actual views of Monsanto's past and present performance and what was attributed to me in the article.

The story alleges that I believe Monsanto exercised poor judgment 20 years ago in handling worker exposure to two chemicals, dioxin and para-aminobiphenyl (PAB), that no longer are produced at Nitro.

What I actually said was that the state of technology in the 1940s and 1950s was not anywhere equal to what it is today, and that our understanding of chemical risks in the workplace is much greater today than it was decades ago.

Most of all, the article leaves the impression with the reader that there was a low level of concern for safety at Monsanto in earlier years. I dispute this implication.

Monsanto's safety performance in the past at Nitro was consistent with the level of our knowledge about chemistry at that time and was, I believe, very responsible.

As the Nitro plant manager and a resident here for more than 10 years, I am deeply concerned that our employees and neighbors are kept fully informed of the measures being taken by Monsanto to protect the environment and the safety and health of the people who work and live here.

That was my intention when I invited

past history at Nitro, but also what programs are under way today to ensure that Monsanto meets its social obligations to its employees and to the community.

I fear the article on April 12 does an injustice to the progress we have made in these critical areas of environmental protection.

I hope, in fairness, that you will allow these views to be published in the *Daily Mail* so that there is no misunderstanding about Monsanto's commitment, past, present, and future to the welfare of the community.

R. M. Scott

Nitro

Monsanto Paying For Chemical Slip-Ups Mistakes Seen 20 Years Later

By STEVE MULLINS
Of The Daily Mail Staff

© 1979 The Charleston Daily Mail

Monsanto Chemical Co. officials exercised poor judgment 20 years ago and are paying for it today, says Nitro Plant Manager R.M. Scott.

At least two of the Kanawha Valley's worst chemical incidents can be attributed in part to a lack of concern for safety and an overemphasis on production, he said. Both incidents, one involving a chemical called para-aminobiphenyl (PAB) and another involving the recently banned deloliant, 2-4-5-T, are black marks in Monsanto's otherwise clean safety record, he said.

Scott explained in an interview today that his company allowed workers to suffer exposure to the carcinogen PAB for nearly two years after its dangers became known in the laboratory in 1951. He also said production of 2-4-5-T continued in the 1950s and 1960s while company doctors treated case after case of a skin disease called chloracne.

But these incidents, he said, couldn't happen today. "At the first sign of trouble, I'll shut the plant down without the least qualm. I think the mentality of most plant managers has changed to this extent.

"Apology is poor penance, but we are picking up the medical bills for these things even today," he said, "and will continue to do so for as long as it's necessary."

Monsanto will pay for a new study next month to determine the conditions of about 500 workers exposed to PAB in the 1940s and 1950s. At least 14 men have died from cancer attributed to their exposure, and more than 100 more have developed bladder tumors, according to reports published last year. Men exposed to 2-4-5-T, and its dangerous by-product, dioxin, are also being studied.

The Nitro plant employees worked with PAB from 1941 to 1953, according to Scott. "In the 1940s, we didn't have the technology to know the dangers of the stuff. We recognized tumors in laboratory dogs, and saw some problems with employees in 1951."



SCOTT

Exposure to PAB didn't cease at the plant until 1953, however. "We first tried a tighter control system, but knew the substance was too toxic. It wasn't working and the work finally shut down in 1953."

It was the "industry mentality that kept the workers exposed" almost two years after danger signals emerged, Scott said. "Somebody would have caught hell for a shutdown in 1951. But the mentality has changed today, and if you look at industry in general in 1953, Monsanto was a damn responsible company."

Monsanto allowed workers to suffer chloracne from working with 2-4-5-T for almost 20 years because "somebody didn't feel the problem justified anything other than what we were doing"

— treating and studying the cases," he said. "And, you know, everybody exposed didn't get chloracne."

"Some people are allergic to penicillin and on others it has no effect. Some people reacted to PAB and 2-4-5-T and others didn't. I don't know why," he said.

Scott, who has been chief of the Nitro plant for 10 years, said things are different today with him at the helm. "I'd shut down production for chloracne in a minute," he said. "You have to understand that attitudes have changed drastically over the past 21 years. Things that were done even 10 years ago wouldn't be thought of today."

Scott pointed out that 20 years ago,

(Turn to Pg 6A, Col. 4)

MONSANTO

Continued From Page One

poor technology made it impossible for many companies to recognize small amounts of dangerous materials. "And we wouldn't be able to know today without the advantage of long-term testing. We have garnered optimism today because we can measure substances like never before, and we have a completely different perspective."

"Today, with all our available technology, we don't believe that we are handling any known carcinogens. There are some suspects, and time will tell if we are right. Twenty years from now we will know. I know we are not exposing anyone to hazards that can be discovered by the technology we have," he said.

Monsanto has abandoned its PAB section of the plant, as well as the 2-4-5-T production equipment. Scott said since they closed it down that several com-

panies have offered to buy it, but "we won't sell. It's just too dangerous to work with, so we're not going to let anybody have it. We have had many offers from people who want to put it back in operation."

Workers on the plant today openly and candidly discuss the plant's past problems, Scott said. "All of them are well informed about what happened. And they know it isn't going to happen again if we can help it. They also know they must exercise more safety measures themselves than workers of the past."

A case of chloracne still flares occasionally at the plant, Scott said. And the monitoring efforts for it and bladder tumors are still in effect. "Many of our former PAB workers are retired now and live in Florida. We even have a doctor there monitoring them regularly," he said.

"A lot of attitudes have changed in

the past 20 years in industry," Scott said. "Today I'd catch hell from the company for not shutting down if something like these things happened. And technology is allowing us to know more about what we are working with."

"Twenty years from now, we'll find out more about what is happening today, but right now I'd say we are not exposing anyone to a hazardous material," he said.

Charleston Daily Mail

Without, or With, Offence to Friends or Foes, I Sketch Your World Exactly as It Goes

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA, WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 11, 1979

Monsanto Health Problems Resurface In Current Probe

By STEVE MULLINS
Of The Daily Mail Staff

A Mount Sinai Medical Center team studying Monsanto Co. chemical plant workers is months away from issuing a final report, but a team spokesman said today she has already seen strong evidence of health problems.

The New York-based group of 35 health experts examined 260 plant workers and retirees last weekend at West Virginia State College, and "certainly found evidence that health problems exist as a result of exposure to chemicals," said Dr. Marion Moses.

"But we can't say now to what extent the problems exist," she added. "Most of this kind of evidence came from interviews with the workers and retired men, and our observations. This is no-

thing we didn't know before we came down."

Plant workers were very responsive to the team's investigation, Dr. Moses said. "We were very impressed and pleased with the turnout. We saw all sorts of workers, including many who received chemical exposure during a 1949 accident at the plant.

Several of the retired workmen tested Saturday said they were equally impressed with the medical team. "They were very thorough," said David F. Milam, 61, a retired Monsanto chemical worker. "They mostly checked our mental capabilities, coordination, balance, reflexes and ability to think quickly, things like that. But they also did X-rays and blood tests. Most of us were happy with it."

(Turn to Pg. 8A, Col. 1)

Continued From Page One

Dr. Moses said she expects the final report to be several months away, but letters explaining test results will be mailed to all the men examined as soon as blood tests and X-rays are checked. "If we find anything striking about an individual's results, we'll notify him immediately," she said. "Otherwise the men can expect to receive their test results in two to three months.

"This is a group of men that deserves intensive and impartial research, and that's what we're giving them," she said, pointing out that the Mount Sinai team is an independent research group "with lots of leeway and no obligations."

The target of concern for the medical team is a chemical called dioxin, which was tagged as extremely dangerous and banned from use last month by the Environmental Protection Agency. It is a highly toxic byproduct in the manufacture of 2-4-5-T, a defoliant which was made at Monsanto's plant for several years. EPA officials said one drop of dioxin, if served equally to 1,000 people, would kill them all.

Many workers say they suffered heavy exposure to 2-4-5-T and claim it is the reason some of them have bladder cancer, chloracne and other ailments today.

While the study will focus on dioxin exposure, it will look at a wide range of

all probe was sparked by the United Steel Workers, but is receiving no pay from the union. The team operates on research grants and other contributions.

A second medical survey of the plant and workers, one commissioned by Monsanto, is set to get underway possibly as early as next month. This team will be headed by Dr. Raymond Susking of the University of Cincinnati and Kittering Labs. Company officials stress that this study will also be "an independent one."

"Hopefully we will be able to share results of the studies," said one Monsanto official. He said it was either "coincidence or timely" that the two studies were happening so closely together.

Dr. Susking is no stranger to Monsanto, having been one of the doctors who examined workers after the 1949 dioxin accident, and has made subsequent visits to the plant, according to plant officials.

Monsanto Study Set On Health Chloracne Victims Special Subjects

ROBIN TONER
of The Daily Mail Staff

"It concerns me, but not a real whole lot, because I haven't got too many years left anyway. My main concern is whether it's going to affect my children."

David F. Milam, 61, was pensive after a meeting last night between United Steel Workers officials and medical experts about an upcoming study on the health of Monrovia chemical workers. For more than an hour, Milam and about 100 other retired and active Monrovia workers were told about the possible health effects of the chemicals they handled.

Milam is one of what the union estimates are more than 200 workers still living who received heavy chemical exposure after a 1949 accident at the plant. Those workers, many of whom developed the skin disease chloracne after the accident, will be a special focus of the upcoming study.

Mike Wright, an industrial hygienist with the steelworkers, said the Monsanto accident was the first known instance where workers were exposed to dioxin, a highly toxic chemical byproduct in the manufacture of 2,4,5-T (which was being made at the Monsanto plant) and several other chemicals.

Wright said 2,4,5-T, which he said was frequently contaminated by dioxin, had been widely used as a defoliant in Vietnam and the U.S. Possible health effects, he said, include chloracne, liver damage, and reproductive problems. Monsanto stopped making 2,4,5-T in 1969.

"We know from accidents (with drinking) all over the world that it can affect the liver, that it can affect the nervous system; that it can affect the body's immunity system," said Dr. Marmot.



ESTEL DANIEL AND BILL WILSON AT LAST NIGHT'S MEETING

— Daily Staff Photos by Earl Hunter

Moses, with the Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York. "It's different with everyone."

"We hope to God we don't find anything in this study," added Wright.

Steelworkers officials stressed that the Mount Sinai study to take place April 6-8 at West Virginia State College, was separate from the Monsanto study of workers exposed to dioxin which was recently announced.

About 250 to 300 workers will be examined by a 35-member Mount Sinai team. While the study will focus on diotin exposure, it will look at a wide range of chemical exposure and possible health effects.

Union officials stressed that the Mount Sinai team is an independent research group invited into the plant by the steelworkers union while the Monsanto study is being paid for by the company.

The Mount Sinai study was sparked by a young safety committeeman at

Monsanto. Chipper Collins, "I grew up with all these people, and I've seen a lot of them die," Collins said. "Somebody would say so and so died and then people would say oh, it's the weedkiller that got him or whatever."

"The 2.4.5-T problem has been around for many years," said Larry Ratliff, a UFW international representative in the Kanawha Valley. "A few years ago we started meeting with local unions here about health problems, and the pattern with 2.4.5-T immediately came up."

The USW international brought it to the attention of the Mount Sinai group.

"The current leadership of the steelworkers has decided to give occupational health top priority," said international secretary Lynn Williams last night.

After the meeting, several of the Monsanto retirees clustered in the halls of Nurn Junior High where the session was held. They talked about their years

with the company, and their sea problems, and they wondered.

Retiree Paul Willard of Niuco, and who was in the 1949 accident, said he suffered from chloracne for four and a half years following the leak. He reflected "I don't worry about it" much now because "I've worried about it so damn much for so many years there's no point anymore."

LEGAL ADVERTISING

The Christian Civic Center will accept a grant April 3 through April 13, 1970 from donors interested in helping anti-war/peace work on the East Bay and workers are to be assigned in the new Civic Center along with the grant. The grant is \$20,000 and will be used for a year. The grant will be used for a year with funds that donors are to be the first different workers are to be the Civic Center members who want to meet any and all problems. For further information, contact the Civic Center Board Assistant Manager, Charles J. Civic Center, 2000 of Street, San Francisco, Ca 94111.

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March 30, 1979

USA The Charleston Gazette, Friday, March 30, 1979

Toxins Study Explained

By Robert Morris
Staff Writer

The white-haired man in the front row described how he observed the chemical from a fiberglass filtration system at Nitro's Monsanto plant more than 30 years ago. He later had his bladder removed.

Now he said "I want to know whether it's damaged my liver."

Another man, who had been exposed to the toxic substance and that two of his children weighed four pounds at birth and needed an incubator to survive. He, too, wanted to know if the chemical had anything to do with it.

The answers to these questions might be uncovered in a study next month of between 250 and 300 current and former employees of Monsanto's Nitro plant by the Environmental Sciences Laboratory of New York's Mount Sinai Medical Center.

Coming on the heels of an announcement by Monsanto that it will undertake its own study of men who worked in the production of the chemical 2-4-D from 1944 to 1960, the Mount Sinai survey is being conducted under the auspices of the United Steel Workers of America, the bargaining agent for Monsanto workers.

More than 100 current and former Monsanto employees were given details of the Mount Sinai study during a meeting at Nitro Junior High School Thursday. Union officials said it was the beginning of a comprehensive probe into worker exposure to toxic chemicals in the Kanawha Valley.

"We want a report that is accurate, that will tell us the truth," said Paul Rouns, Safety and Health chairman of the U.S.W.'s District 23.



(One of the the first Monsanto workers to be treated after a 1949 explosion, A.H. Lamm, left photo, asks a question of Dr. Marion Moses of Mt. Sinai Medical Center, right photo. Next to Dr. Moses is Mike Wright, United Steel Workers hygienist.)



Graphic Photos by WELA Staff Photographer

THE UNION IS particularly interested in the deaths of employees who were exposed to dioxin, a highly toxic by-product of trichlorophenol used in the production of 2-4-D-T, in a 1949 explosion at the Nitro plant, officials said.

Some evidence indicates that dioxin may cause liver cancer, nervous disorders, problems with reproductive systems and skin diseases. Many of the workers exposed in the 1949 explosion suffered symptoms of a skin disease called chloracne. Employees also showed symptoms of liver damage which was not evident until they were tested in 1965, and nervous or severe pains of spasms in the chest.

Dr. Marion Moses of the Mount Sinai center told the Monsanto employees Thursday that the survey would include not only medical examinations, but gathering of work and medical histories.

Monsanto stopped producing 2-4-D-T in 1960, but Mike Wright, a hygienist with the Steelworkers, said dioxin is a common byproduct in the manufacture

of other chemicals and can be found in many household items, including certain kinds of soap. He said that Dow Chemical is the only company now producing 2-4-D-T.

"Dioxin is probably the most toxic chemical produced by man," Wright said.

Wright said that evidence of the possible health effects of dioxin began to surface during the Vietnam war, when 2-4-D-T was used extensively to destroy jungle cover and force people into populated areas. There were reports of aborted pregnancies and other health problems among Vietnamese villagers.

"EVERYONE AT THAT time dismissed it as war propaganda," he said. However, after the war, servicemen who worked with the chemical also began to report health problems, Wright said.

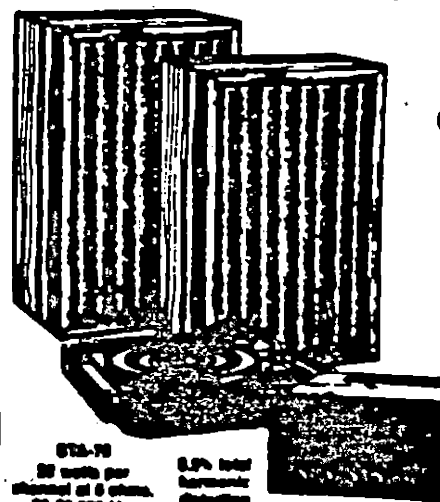
Concern was furthered when an accident at an Italian plant producing the same chemical forced the evacuation of the town of Seveso in 1976, Wright said. He said 2-4-D-T is still being used

in rice production and on cattle grazing land.

Workers attending the meeting were urged to jog their memory to recall each building they had worked in at Monsanto and try to describe how clearly they worked with the chemical and some of the processes involved.

Radio Shack

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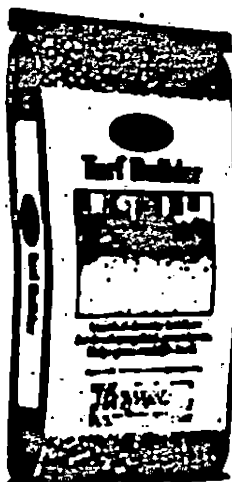


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Monsanto To Give Cancer Tests

by JORJANNA MACGEE
The Daily Mail Staff

Current and former employees of Monsanto's Nitro plant who have been exposed to either dioxin or 2,4-D-T will be tested within the next two months to determine what, if any, long-term ill effects they suffered.

A Monsanto spokesman in St. Louis, Mo. R. Bishop said the testing will involve about 250 persons. Both substances are known cancer-causing agents.

The concern over dioxin dates to 1965. A valve rupture at the plant that exposed 37 workers to the substance. At that time, dioxin was an untested and untested substance in the manufacture of truck tires, which a plant stopped making in 1969.

Thouan wasn't identified until 1967, at 114 persons, including the 37 who were in the valve failure incident, developed a skin disorder known as chloracne, exposure to it. Their skin reacted when they were exposed to it.

The first 37 persons exposed were not tested for ill effects in 1969.

In 1965, they and other employees were tested by Dr. Raymond Seeland, a leading dermatologist at the time, who was director of the Institute of Environmental Health at the University of Cincinnati. He found the following only under one eye.

Employees exposed to dioxin also have shown symptoms of liver damage, abnormality or had uric acid in the test results. Though these symptoms don't emerge until after the 1965 test.

Seeland said studies with laboratory animals have shown dioxin can cause damage to the central nervous system, birth defects and reproductive problems, or liver damage. That discovery prompted the further study of Nitro workers.

Seeland said 113 of the 114 employees who were exposed to dioxin have been found. 83 of them in the Kanawha Valley.

The other group of workers who will be tested are those who were exposed to 2,4-D-T, a herbicide used to destroy foliage during the Vietnam war. Monsanto made it at Nitro under government contract.

Seeland said follow-up testing of the dioxin victims will be the first study of long-term effects of dioxin exposure and is being done to help the World Health Organization.

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March 29

Charleston Gazette, Thursday, March 29, 1972

cond Law School vored in Report

By Robert Morris
Staff Writer

a need for a law school in
a region of the state, a re-
port by a Morris Harvey Col-
lege suggests, but it appears
that question will be whether
it is in Charleston or in Man-

ass, compiled by Morris
Harvey College, is a
one of various statistics, in-
cluding number of applicants who
d by the West Virginia Univ.
school - the only law school
in the state - and a comparison with
states of the ratio between
of students studying law
number of citizens in West

prepared the report for a
committee by Morris
Harvey College to study the
of opening a law school at
Ewing in the committee's

lawyer John Ray, the
committee, said "It
seems to be a committee on
which is to be discussed by
a meeting on April 6.

Dr. Ben Morton, chancellor
Virginia Board of Regents,
prior this week that the Re-
gents would reject Marshall
request for funding for a
law school there.

ALL HAD WANTED the
only to be part of the Board
role and scope survey.
consider needs, demographics
and enrollment projec-
tions and universities.

Morton said that the prospect of
opening a law school at Marshall cur-
rently "is something that we are not
pursuing."

Ewing's report compared West Vir-
ginia's ratio of one lawyer per 107 people
to the national average of one to 67.
There are 2,449 lawyers in the state,
according to the report, which quoted
statistics from the West Virginia Re-
search League. It added that 1,500 law-
yers are required to match the national
average.

Seventeen of 19 counties within 1 1/2
hours driving time of Charleston have a
lawyer-to-citizen ratio that indicates a
need for greater legal service, with the
greatest shortage being in rural coun-
ties, according to the report.

THE REPORT, which notes that
WVU does not offer an evening, part-
time law program - a concept being
pursued by Morris Harvey - said that
the WVU law school has rejected 1,330
applicants in the past three years. It
said that in the current academic year
181 students accepted had LSAT (law
board) scores between 500 and 509,
while 44 applicants with scores over
500 were rejected.

"The quality of WVU rejects appears
to be favorable," the report said.

It said that based on a ratio of law
students to total population, five neigh-
boring states are preparing more law-
yers than West Virginia.

Construction Begun For Vulcan Bridge

Construction of the long-awaited Vulcan bridge, which the Senate
passed last week, has begun for the state, it is under way, the state
Department of Highways said Wednesday.

The price tag on the 220-foot bridge now stands at \$1,471,000, up
from the estimate of between \$1,000,000 and \$1,200,000, according to Jay
Cotton of the Department of Highways.

Vulcan's efforts to get a new bridge after the only span that linked
the small Mingo County community to the outside world collapsed in
1970 had been the subject of national news stories. The efforts were
chronicled by the visit of a Soviet journalist, who had been invited to the
town by self-appointed mayor John Rabinovich following Rabinovich's
application to Krasno for foreign aid.

Shortly after the journalist's visit, the state announced it would build
the bridge, but construction was delayed because of problems on
Kentucky's share of the cost. The bridge is being built across the Tug
Port River and will link the town to a hard-topped road on the
Kentucky side. Kentucky will foot a little more than half of the bill,
the Cotton said.

Monsanto Health Study Topic Of Public Meeting Today

Employees of the Monsanto Co.'s Ni-
tro plant and representatives of the
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and
Joiners will hold a public meeting today to discuss a
planned study of the health problems of
plant workers exposed to a herbicide.

A union spokesman said representa-
tives of the state workers' international
union as well as researchers who will
be conducting the study will attend the
meeting. It will be at 7 p.m. at Metro
Junior High School and is open to the
public, the spokesman said.

The union, which represents plant
employees, has undertaken a study to
determine what health effects employ-
ees who worked with the herbicide

3-4-5-7 have suffered. The herbicide is
no longer manufactured at the plant.

The spokesman said the study was
begun because numerous workers com-
plained that the herbicide caused se-
vere skin problems for years after they
were exposed to it.

Supplier of Food

California supplies a quarter of the
nation's table food, a third of the veget-
ables and 60 percent of the fruit and
nut crops.

Randolph, B. On Outside-Li

Dean News 1

WASHINGTON - West Virginia's
senators, who stand together in most
issues, found themselves divided
Wednesday over the issue of income

The senators split on a resolution of-
fered by a fellow Democrat, Gary Hart
of Colorado, that would have restricted
outside earnings of senators to 15 per-
cent of their \$57,500 annual salary, or
\$8,625.

Robert C. Byrd joined a majority of
senators and voted against the amend-
ment while Jennings Randolph voted for
it. The final tally was 54 against, 44
for.

The vote reaffirmed a decision the
Senate made earlier in the month when,
by recorded vote, it suspended the 15 percent limit, which had gone
into effect Jan. 1.

The senators have been criticized not
only for suspending the limit but also
for voting at a time when few senators
were present.

Byrd and others defended the action,
contending that a senator's outside
earnings should not be restricted to
such a low amount.

ATTENTION - IN



Page

Earnings

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Money Bank had a 10.3 per-
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million or \$3.50 a share
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said President Robert F.
annual meeting

at that end were \$441





SENATE MAJORITY LEADER DAN TONKOVICH IS VIETNAM VETERAN

Daily Mail Photo by Craig Cunningham

'Veteran' State Senator Now Fights Private War

By NANYA GADD
Of The Capitol Bureau

He was in his early 20s, a draftee who had gone through a whirlwind of stateside training camps only to wind up in Vietnam.

There was little time for adjustment.

He was assigned to a combat platoon and had his first encounter with the enemy on his fourth night in Southeast Asia.

Throughout his tour of duty, his platoon would be dropped by helicopter into the jungle for two weeks at a time. The unit would return to camp for only a day or two between these search-and-destroy missions.

"I can remember the triple canopy of the jungle," said Senate Majority Leader Dan Tonkovich. "There were the tall trees, the small trees and the underbrush."

The jungle would be alive with the sounds of life, cool and moist from the dense foliage.

"Then we'd go over a ridge and come out to an area 30 to 50 degrees hotter. Everything would be brown. Nothing was green. There would be no foliage, no noise, color or air movement."

(Turn to Pg. 3A, Col. 3)

Agent Orange Bill Advances

CHARLESTON, W. Va. (AP) — The state Senate approved a controversial abortion bill Wednesday and several other measures as well, including one extending the deadline for suits to be filed by veterans exposed to the defoliant Agent Orange.

Although the Senate spent most of its time on the abortion notice bill, it managed to pass with little debate or fanfare a bill concerning the defoliant Agent Orange and veterans of the Korean and Vietnam wars.

The bill had five sponsors, but chief among them was Senate Majority Leader Dan Tonkovich, who was an infantry sergeant in Vietnam.

He said the bill was intended to allow veterans exposed to Agent Orange up to two years to file suit for damages caused by the chemical.

Sen. Odell Huffman, D-Mercer, questioned the need for the bill, and drew a response from Tonkovich.

"The reason we need to pass this bill is because the Veterans Administration has turned its back on our own veterans," Tonkovich said. "The VA will not promote testing of these veterans to document the fact that they might have suffered any effects from Agent Orange."

Passing the Senate without debate was a bill ratifying a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving the District of Columbia representation in Congress. The House passed the bill last week.

The measure passed, 21-8, making West Virginia the 12th state to ratify the proposal. Ratification of 34 states is necessary before the constitution is amended.

Also passing the Senate on Wednesday was a bill returning \$3.5 million from a joint legislative account to the general fund. The bill has passed the House and now goes to the governor.

A bill authorizing closure of the West Virginia Prison for Women at Pence Springs and the sale of the property was also passed. A similar bill has passed the House.

A proposal by Gov. Jay Rockefeller for financing construction of interstate

highways in the state made it past the Senate as well, but not before Sen. Orten Jones, R-Moane, pleaded for its demise.

The plan allows the administration to issue \$64 million in "anticipation bonds" that will be used as the state's portion of funding for building uncompleted sections of interstates 64 and 77.

Sen. Robert Nelson, D-Cabell, said the bonds will allow up to \$276 million in federal matching funds to be used by 1986 to finish sections of the two interstate highways facing West Virginia. The bill now goes to the House.

A resolution passed by the Senate on Wednesday called for the U.S. Commerce Department to enforce federal trade laws governing sales of steel from foreign countries.

Bluefield Daily Telegraph
February 14, 1983