Dayton Laboratory

29 October 1970

J. J. Spano
E. P. Wheeler
P. S. Park
John Mason

PCB Publicity in Dayton Area

H. K. Nason
St. Louis

One of our professional employes, William D. Ross, lives in a rural community west of Dayton known as Israel Township of Preble County. Last Tuesday morning, October 27, he came in and related a series of incidents concerning a fellow church member, Loren Dillman. Mr. Dillman is a dairy farmer in that area and about six weeks ago he received a registered letter from the Cincinnati milk shed inspector saying that his milk was being refused because it was above the tolerated level (greater than 0.2 ppm PCB - polychlorinated biphenol) AROCLOR. He associated AROCLOR with Monsanto and Bill Ross with Monsanto and showed him the letter.

Prior to this time, Dillman's wife was ill (sores in mouth and general ill feeling) and hasn't been cured for over a year. More recently, his grandson, who lives on the farm, broke his leg and the doctors can't get it to heal. At first it was said he had infectious hepatitis; later this was ruled out and he was found to have an enlarged liver and unusually low white cell count. After Dillman's milk was rejected, he became economically depressed and began blaming everything on AROCLOR and Monsanto, including his wife's and grandson's illness. He has had other difficulties and the community is upset and in sympathy with him.

He called Bill Ross at 1:30 on Tuesday morning and said that the Dayton Journal Herald had asked him for an exclusive interview on Tuesday. It was about this that I called you on Tuesday morning and at your request also called John Spano. Later that day, John gave us instructions on how to handle any calls we might get from the newspaper. Also at John's request, I talked briefly on the telephone with Phocion Park and Elmer Wheeler. At that time, I related some other information which Bill had learned about and which I thought might be of value to them. There is some evidence that Mr. Dillman's cows have some type of bacterial infection. Bill relates that he has lost 22 cows during the past year.

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Autopsies performed on some of them by a veterinarian showed similar symptons to those of the grandson, i.e., enlarged liver and so forth. Bill also states that a sample of the grandson's blood was cultured at Reed Memorial Hospital in Richmond, Indiana, and found to have bacteria similar to those producing a known cattle disease.

At this time, no contacts have been made by the newspaper with us nor has the article yet appeared in the Journal Herald; however, we are monitoring the Herald so that we can send a copy of that article to John Spano at his request. I have instructed Bill Ross to maintain normal community contacts with the people involved but to be very careful about making any statements or volunteering any type of information concerning Monsanto or PCB's.

If you should have any questions or desire additional details I will try to obtain the answers for you.

R. C. Binning

RCB:tsw

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