Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION) C. Paton - General Offices

DATE : March 5, 1969

SUBJECT DDT ON TRIAL

REFERENCE

TO : W. Richard
WRICH

cc H. S. Bergen - HBERG
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I am sure the attached article in the Wall Street Journal of March 4 on the DDT "trial" in Wisconsin has not escaped your notice. It emphasizes several things.

1. Dr. Risebrough seems to figure prominently in the proceedings. It could bode ill for Aroclors if the quotation attributed to him is true. "No responsible person could now get up here and say that this constant nibbling away at our steroids is without any physiological effect. It would be irresponsible." Not only does he appear to be setting the stage that anyone disagreeing with him is irresponsible, he seems to be equating any effect with a bad effect. This attitude has unpleasant implications.

2. The fact that the DDT "task force" (Diamond/Allied/Olin/Lebanon/Montrose/Geigy)"did not retain an attorney to represent it at the hearings until less than a week before they opened, and apparently had almost no idea of what it would face" is a sobering thought. Have we taken steps to obtain the transcript of the proceedings as discussed at our meeting in January. Should we alert our legal people to the possibility of Aroclor "hearings" in the future so that we are fully prepared.

3. I note that several of the witnesses for the prosecution have also been asking for Aroclor samples. In the worst light, this could mean future trouble for us.

Cumming Paton

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