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PCB
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Rep. Ryan Asks Congress Curb Use of 'PCB' Chemical Group

By PENNY GIRARD

WASHINGTON (FNS) — Congress last week was urged to take action to curb distribution and use of a family of chemicals known as polychlorinated biphenyls.

The request came in the form of legislation, sponsored by Rep. William Ryan (D., N.Y.) to keep the insoluble and deadly chemicals out of the food chain.

Ryan complained that the past efforts to have several Federal agencies take action — such as setting food-tolerance levels, requiring labeling, and banning all uses harmful to health — have resulted only in talk of investigations.

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) are used in products such as plasticizers, coatings for paper and fabric, fire-retarding compounds, asphalt, adhesives, paraffin, pesticides, rubber products and water-repellent canvas for camping materials.

Ryan reported that a large quantity of PCB residue had been discovered by Campbell Soup Co. in December, 1970, in fat samples taken from slaughtered chickens.

As a result, chickens from three New York counties were screened before they could be shipped. Consequently, 148,000 PCB-contaminated chickens were buried.

In Ohio, PCB residues were discovered in milk.

The residues were traced to a dairyman's silo lined with Aroclor, produced by Monsanto Co., which contained PCB.

The PCB was absorbed by the silage, which was fed to the dairy cattle and in turn contaminated the milk.

"The potential harm of the PCB contamination cannot be overstated," Ryan said. "There must be a tough, comprehensive Federal program to meet this menace now."

His bill calls for an investigation of all possible contamination, as well as an immediate ban on the manufacture, shipment and sale of all PCBs and all products containing the chemicals until the study is completed.

Moreover, he asked for a permanent Federal ban on interstate distribution and importing of the chemicals. The Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare would be required to draw regulations for manufacture, use transportation and disposal of any PCBs exempted from the ban.

"The program of PCBs is indicative of a much larger problem — that of the almost unrestricted influx of potentially harmful chemicals into the marketplace," Ryan asserted.

"A licensing system must be established to insure the safety of a chemical before it can be sold in the marketplace, and then only for specific uses," he added.

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Federal Bill Would Ban Use Of Polychlorinated Biphenyls

WASHINGTON (FNS) — A permanent Federal ban on interstate distribution or importation of certain chemicals used in fire retardant compounds and water repellent treatments is being sought by Rep. William Ryan (D., N.Y.).

The chemicals, polychlorinated biphenyls, (PCB's) are produced by Monsanto Co., according to Ryan, for use in general plasticized applications, coatings for fabrics, fire retardant compounds, water-repellent treatment for camping materials and other uses, including pesticides.

He sponsored a bill (H.R. 8576) to impose such a ban which Ryan said is needed because PCB's and their residue are extremely toxic to animal life and may produce fatal effects in human beings.

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