

Old enemies produce ad to dispel 'chemophobia'

United Press International
WASHINGTON — In an unusual move, a major chemical company and an environmental group that is one of its severest critics are considering collaborating on an advertisement about the hazards of chemicals.

Involved in the project are Monsanto Co., a large producer of paints, plastics and other products, and the Environmental Defense Fund, a group that has spotlighted hazardous issues ranging from chemically treated children's sleepwear to hair dyes.

The ad would state that the country seems beset by "chemophobia," an irrational fear that all chemicals are bad, and cancer is an inevitable result. The ad would seek to dispel that notion, and say that while

some chemicals are bad, most are safe when properly handled. It would also say the environmental group and the company agree that hazardous chemicals should be removed from the market, and that progress along that line is being made.

Existence of the project, which EDF has circulated to its members for a sampling of opinion before proceeding, was disclosed by the Environmental Health Letter, a Washington-based publication.

Monsanto has been almost outspoken as EDF on the chemical issue, particularly since the Food and Drug Administration proposed a ban on a plastic soft drink bottle the firm was about to introduce, causing it to close plants and leaving it with a stock

of useless containers. EDF, a year ago, criticized the company's resulting "Chemical Facts of Life" advertising campaign as distorted, and the company made some changes in it. But EDF maintains the company is still running ads that "extol the benefits of chemicals in a misleading way."

The idea for the joint ad grew out of the discussions between Monsanto and EDF.

A Monsanto spokesman said the joint Monsanto-EDF ad has already been test marketed in magazines in a number of cities.

The test market results have now been turned over to EDF which is studying them and the results of its own poll. If EDF and Monsanto agree on the project, the company would pay for the ad.

Soviets ahead, specialist says

Space arms crucial to defense

United Press International
HOUSTON — The Soviet Union, with powerful rocket boosters, is better equipped for "space warfare" than the United States, a aerospace critic says.

James E. Oberg, a Johnson Space Center computer specialist and lay lecturer for the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Tuesday said the United States has further to go in developing similar capability.

Oberg said space warfare would involve weapons that could destroy communications and missile monitoring satellites that are crucial to U.S. defense.

He emphasized his opinions were based on an informed reading of material available to the public and were strictly his own views, not those of NASA or the federal government.

"Once you develop the hardware, it implies intentions or at least potential of using it," he said.

The United States, however, has been slow to develop its anti-satellite capability, Oberg said.

"It's something the U.S. has refrained from developing," he said. "They're now being developed. The president has developed a comprehensive and very well thought-out military space policy which is now being implemented."

Oberg said the Soviets apparently have demonstrated anti-satellite capability in lower Earth orbit and

they could be even more effective if developed for geosynchronous orbit.

Geosynchronous orbit exists 23,000 miles out, where a satellite is stationary in relation to a point on Earth. Oberg said it is used for key communications satellites, including those that would give early warning of missile attack.

Oberg said it appears the Soviets have large enough rocket boosters and a tested mechanism that would

work in deep space. The weapon goes into orbit behind its target and fires shrapnel into it.

"The question I would raise is what capabilities must they have in addition to what they have now to be able to do that. I would suggest there aren't that many things they have left to do, speaking as a layman."

Oberg criticized members of the aerospace industry for failing to inform the public of the negative as

well as the positive possibilities of space.

"The major concern I have is that I've seen that the concept of war in space is a poorly understood one by the public. I think it's the responsibility of the aerospace professionals to get the facts out and dispel the fictions."

Oberg participated in the 25th annual conference of the American Astronautical Society in Houston.

Blumenthal says tighter controls, import cuts may reduce inflation

United Press International
TULSA, Okla. — An increase in non-agricultural exports and a cut in oil imports accompanied by tighter spending controls should strengthen the dollar and reduce inflation, Treasury Secretary W. Michael Blumenthal said.

Blumenthal, speaking Tuesday to the Tulsa U. gave a favorable assessment of recent economic developments and the efforts of President Carter to control the nation's economy.

"Just looking at the trade figures, we see a strong trend in favor of a substantial reduction in the trade deficit," Blumenthal said.

"Over the last three months, there has been a 30 percent increase in United States non-agricultural exports compared with the prior period. At the same time, over the same three months, there has been an increase of only 8 percent in the non-petroleum imports into the United States as compared with a 40 percent increase in the prior six-month period."

"The deficit and the federal budget is coming down substantially again in 1980, as we move toward a balance in the subsequent period," Blumenthal said. "There will be a reduction in federal employment. A

real attack is being made on this problem of inflationary regulations. The energy bill has passed and that will mean an immediate reduction in imports of oil. Imports of oil have

already come down." Blumenthal said such developments should have a favorable effect on the nation's economy.



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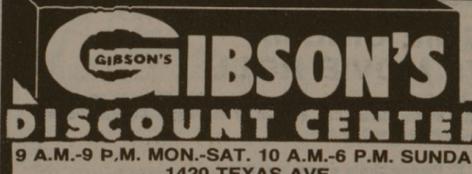
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