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EDB found in imported grapefruit

United Press International
AUSTIN — Some grapefruit, oranges and tangerines imported from Mexico are tainted with the cancer-causing pesticide EDB, a consumer group said Wednesday.

The Mexican fruit was identified, along with some brands of corn meal, flour, popcorn, cake mix and other grain-based products, as containing some level of ethylene dibromide.

A weekly list of food products that contain any trace of EDB, which has been banned by the federal Environmental Protection Agency, is being published by the Texas Pesticide Project and the Texas Consumers Union.

R.I.



Reagan defends economic program at Ford auto plant

United Press International
CLAYCOMO, Mo. — President Reagan, addressing workers at a Ford assembly plant Wednesday, touted his economic program and — in a swipe at his Democratic opponents — warned against “snake oil cures” for problems.

“Your industry and many others have begun to shape up,” he told workers at the plant near Kansas City. “You’re getting lean and mean and ready to face the challenge of the future.”

Reagan’s speech came at the start of a two-day trip to spotlight recovery in two key sectors of the economy — autos and housing — and reinforce the

central theme of his re-election campaign.

He said the recession during his first years in office was a result of 20 years of problems and not subject to a “political quick fix.”

“There’s no compassion in snake-oil cures,” he said, apparently referring to the programs of his Democratic opponents.

Reagan walked down the assembly line shaking hands with workers before addressing an estimated 2,000 plant employees and presenting a plaque to electrician Barney Maxon for 50 years of service.

Thomas Williams, 44, of Kansas City, who works in the paint department, said there is a lot of support for Reagan

among the workers. “The only thing I know about (Walter) Mondale is he was Carter’s vice president,” he said.

Saying he will vote for Reagan, Williams said: “I’m better off than I was three or four years ago, and it was under the Reagan administration.”

He said he had been laid off earlier and now is working 10 hours a day on the assembly line.

Departing from his prepared text, Reagan said a protectionist tariff bill dealt a blow to world trade in the 1930s and “perpetuated the Depression.”

Mondale supports the so-called “domestic content” bill that would require a certain proportion of imported cars to include American-made parts.

Hailing the turnaround that netted Detroit’s “Big Four” \$6.4 billion in profits last year, Reagan blamed the auto industry’s past troubles on the Carter administration and took credit for its revitalization.

“All of us, working together and ignoring the doom-criers and pundits who said it couldn’t be done, have hung tough,” Reagan said. “Today, as we see the auto industry and economy humming with activity, aren’t we glad we did?”

Reagan did not mention the cloud hovering over the economic recovery due to the prospect of continued large budget deficits and upward pressure on interest rates.

From Kansas City, Reagan

flew to Dallas, where the today was to be on a boom in the housing industry. Next week, the spotlight will be on the lumber industry as he walked into the Ford plant cafeteria, carrying a tray containing a hamburger specially prepared for him and iced tea.

A handful of workers wearing Mondale caps distributed a flyer in the day by the UAW which has endorsed the Ford vice president for the Democratic nomination.

Cleon Brown, a 23-year-old employee and a Mondale supporter, however, said that despite obvious political differences, “everyone’s pleased” over Reagan’s visit.

Sporting a Mondale cap, Brown stood alongside the Tempozap assembly line, Brown said he looked forward to shaking Reagan’s hand and possibly urged to change his political allegiances.

“Will it work?” a reporter asked. “I doubt it,” Brown replied.

The visit to the plant marks a new political tack by Reagan in taking his campaign to the scene of economic recovery and proclaiming successes for his program.

Despite the political benefits Reagan hoped to reap, White House labeled the “non-political,” meaning costs are covered by taxpayers not the Reagan-Bush reelection committee.

In his talk to the Clayco workers, Reagan attributed industry’s past troubles to “years of overtaxing, spending and overpromising those who claimed they could spend your earnings better, you could.”

He did not mention the subsequent layoffs that have resulted in a 26 percent drop in blue-collar employment since 1978-79.

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