

per trillion of DES in cattle liver. A New York Times editorial said "such sensitivity in measuring infinitesimal quantities is a respectable scientific feat. But how meaningful," it asked, "is it as a guide to the public? Is there a significant, even an appreciable risk of anyone getting cancer from eating meat containing so tiny a quantity of DES?"

Shortly after he became FDA commissioner in 1969, Edwards declared, "... We must have greater consumer participation in the governmental process so we can be assured that what we are doing is truly in response to the desires and expectations of the consumer." Peter B. Hutt, general counsel for the FDA, avowed at the NAS forum: "Public and Congressional confidence in the ability of the FDA to carry out its statutory responsibilities has unquestionably been undermined. It has thus become apparent that the agency must meet this challenge or face potential destruction."

The FDA is now seeking greater public scrutiny and participation in safety decisions. It is developing new mechanisms to guarantee that interested persons have access to the FDA before important decisions are made. During the past 18 months it has developed procedures for review of nonprescription drugs. Anyone may submit written information or make oral presentations to the reviewing panel at its frequent meetings. New procedures permit the FDA, for the first time, to impose additional safety testing for already marketed food ingredients. This move encourages petitions by any person who wishes to request specific testing for a particular substance. The FDA has just announced a public hearing to consider internal guidelines to govern the formulation and labeling of a class of prescription drugs. This is the first such hearing in the agency's history.

Consumer involvement may improve the FDA's decision-making process. But it won't necessarily make the weighing of benefits and risks easier since such questions are laden with ethical considerations. Should a drug be released that is life-saving for some people yet harmful to others?

"Regulation of the safety of food and drugs should be an extremely simple and perfunctory task," says Hutt. "Unfortunately this does not occur in the real world. In the 20 months that I have held my current position, I cannot recall one major safety decision by the FDA—regardless which way it was resolved—that has failed to provoke prolonged, and at times, bitter public dispute. . . . Public policy design and execution with respect to the safety of food and drugs is highly, and perhaps irretrievably, controversial."

"The decision to release a medicine for use in man," Wescoe concurs, "has always been an agonizing one." □

films OF THE WEEK

CHILD BEHAVIOR-YOU. 16mm, color, sound, 15 min. To modify child behavior from infancy through adolescence, the simple principle is to reward and reinforce the desired behavior—whereas in practice, it is often the undesirable actions which receive the attention. By using humorous animation to show what parent-child relations during those years could be like, children and parents are not threatened or offended. Parents and children can also be encouraged to recall and explore feelings about themselves and about each other. Audience: parents, children. Purchase \$225 or rental \$25 from Benchmark Films, Dept. SN, 145 Scarborough Rd., Briarcliff Manor, N. Y. 10510.

THE EVERGLADES. 16mm, color, sound, 7 min. The Everglades is a swampy wilderness of exceptional beauty inhabited by uncountable varieties of plants and animals. The importance of clean air and clean water is paramount in maintaining the delicate balance of nature here. Water replenishes the Everglades by a system of natural sloughs and manmade canals. In recent years the human population of south Florida has increased to a point of concern, and water has been diverted to the fast-growing population centers. The water now flowing into the Everglades has been polluted and the entire ecosystem is threatened by this alteration. The list of endangered species of birds, plant life and animals grows longer every year. The serious pollution problem has produced a crisis and presents an immediate challenge to man's inventiveness and to the awakening of his ecological awareness. Audience: all ages. Purchase \$120 from ACI Films, Dept. SN, 35 W. 45th St., New York, N. Y. 10036.

THE SIFAKA. 16mm, b&w, sound, 12 min. This film is about the sifaka, one of the Malagasy lemurs. It was made in the arid forests

of southern Madagascar. In this region, groups live in well-defined and largely exclusive "territories." Encounters take place along the "borders" of these territories. The vocal repertoire of this species contains several calls. The "spat" call was associated with submissive behavior and the wailing call was given by animals that had lost contact with the group. Characteristically, the sifakas are peaceful animals, but during the one week of the year when mating occurred, males fought fiercely. The film shows locomotion, grooming, dominance, marking behavior and infant-parent relationships. Audience: behaviorists, particularly primatologists. Purchase \$60 or rental \$15 from the Rockefeller University, Dept. SN, Box 72, Film Service, 1230 York Ave., New York, N. Y. 10021.

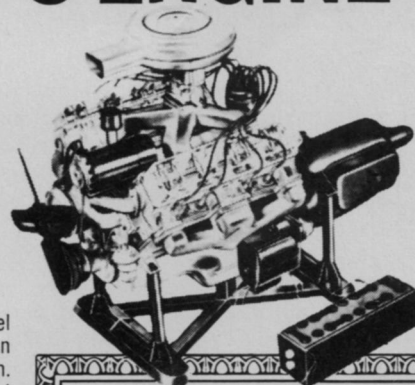
SURVEILLANCE: WHO'S WATCHING? 16mm, b&w, sound, 60 min. This documentary presents a detailed and on-the-scene investigation of political surveillance and harassment of individuals with a major focus on the activities of the Chicago Police Department's "Red Squad." Interviews are conducted with persons who have been affected by surveillance, government officials and former FBI agents. The dissemination of information about private citizens by the FBI, city police departments and other agencies is examined. Members of the film crew give an account of their own harassment and jailing by the Chicago Police Department. Audience: secondary, college, adult. Purchase \$265 or rental \$13.50 from Audio-Visual Center, Dept. SN, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind. 47401.

Listing is for readers' information of new 16mm and agriculture for professional, student and general 8mm films on science, engineering, medicine and audiences. For further information on purchase, rental or free loan, write to distributor or

VISIBLE V-8 ENGINE

Ever wonder what
makes a V-8 engine go?
Build one yourself and see!

Have hours of fun easily building a visible V-8 auto engine from over 350 parts. Then push the starter and your real fun and learning begin. The crankshaft revolves, pistons move, valves open and close in sequence with spark plugs. This 1/4 scale model does everything but burn oil! And you can clearly see all its functioning parts in motion. It has the same electric motor (batteries are not included) used in many fine auto mechanic courses. Molded in 4 colors, your working model provides a fascinating study of the mighty V-8 combustion engine. And countless hours of pleasure. An excellent, easy-to-understand instruction manual comes with this valuable, absorbing kit.



YOU MUST BE DELIGHTED!
EVERYTHING EDMUND SELLS HAS A
30-DAY MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE.
Return kit if you aren't delighted.

Order No. 70,448Q JUST \$14.95 Ppd.

GIANT FREE CATALOG!

NEW! 164 PAGES—OVER 4500 UNUSUAL BARGAINS FOR HOBBYISTS, SCHOOLS, INDUSTRY . . . JUST CHECK COUPON!



EDMUND SCIENTIFIC CO.

300 Edscorp Bldg., Barrington, N.J. 08007
America's Greatest Science • Optics • Hobby Mart

Helping to develop America's Technology for over 30 years

COMPLETE AND MAIL COUPON NOW

EDMUND SCIENTIFIC CO.
300 Edscorp Bldg., Barrington, N.J. 08007

Send me:

_____ V-8 Engine Kit(s) No. 70,448Q ea. @ 14.95
Handling ea. .50

Encl. is check M.O. in amt. of \$ _____

Send FREE 164-page catalog "Q"

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____