

APPLIANCE DOCTOR

Is the all the concern about Freon justified?



JOE GAGNON

CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS. Can you pronounce it? Can you spell it? Do you know what it is? Why all the alarm?

Recently in Miami, Fla., a smuggler was arrested and charged with selling CFC (abbreviation) in the black market. Dora Dubash of Hialeah, Fla., was charged with bringing in 126 tons of CFC into the country from England without paying taxes of \$5.35 per pound. He faces a possible prison sentence of 20 years and fines of over \$2 million. This case and others are pending in other areas of this country right now, and who knows how serious this problem may become.

Now we're not talking drugs here folks or anything that you smoke or drink. We're talking about Freon (a brand name), the same stuff that has been put into your refrigerator for over 35 years, and been obtainable from your local hardware store. This very product, which doesn't hurt a fly, is destroying the ozone layer and creating this big hole which just keeps getting bigger and

bigger according to the E.P.A.(government).

A few years ago a study was done by a scientist who determined that indeed a hole did exist in the ozone layer. Different pollutants on earth, especially those with chlorine content can cause this damage. Methane gas from cattle was also found to be a cause and because dispers have not been invented for cattle yet, the world has to stop producing chlorofluorocarbons.

Congressman Dolittle of California is trying to pass a bill which would allow a law suit to be pressed against the E.P.A. He wants criminal charges against the scientists and engineers who contend that this damage is occurring. The congressman's information says that only one tenth of one percent of any damage to the ozone layer is caused by CFC'S. Now folks, this is serious business when it comes to your pocketbook. They say that this change from CFC to something that won't cause harm will cost the economy of the country some \$2 trillion almost overnight.

In my opinion, someone is going to make some awful big money overnight. Now you know that you and I can't stop what's going on, as a matter of fact,

nobody can. The state of Arizona thinks it such a bunch of hog wash that they have passed a law which exempts the state from following the federal mandate.

You may ask why this writer and others feel such skepticism towards this new worldwide development. I will give you the reasons in just two lines. In just the past several years it was found the asbestos was harmful and so was radon. After millions of dollars being spent we are told that it is not as serious as discovered. This removal of the old style Freon and addition of the new is thought by many to be just temporary until they find the permanent replacement.

Meanwhile some engineers say that products will not last as long using the new stuff. Hell, the old stuff had a proven track record as the best and was inexpensive and you couldn't ignite it. Greenpeace says the new stuff will destroy plant life and is flammable. I wish I was learned enough to understand how something like this gets started and who really profits from it. I know enough to understand who pays for it, you and me.

Next year when you purchase your new refrigerator or need a recharge of

Freon in your automobile you will better understand this column. The law says that those in the refrigeration industry must reclaim the Freon in the system (whatever it is) and keep records of where it came from and where it's going. The cost factor by the manufacturers and the people who work in the industry has already totaled millions. Who do you think will pay for all this?

I thought I would write this article to explain in my own simple terminology what is happening in the world of refrigeration. I have met so many consumers when I do speaking engagements who do not have a clue why they had to spend so much to have service rendered on their sealed system. Now I only hope that in the next few years the E.P.A. doesn't come out with a new finding, "It really isn't that serious folks, we apologize if we caused you any expenditure."

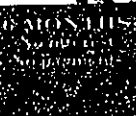
Joe Gagnon, the Appliance Doctor, will answer your questions about maintaining and repairing large appliances. Gagnon is president of Carmack Appliances in Garden City and does a weekly radio program on WJRR-AM. He is author of "First Aid from the Appliance Doctor," available at area bookstores.

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