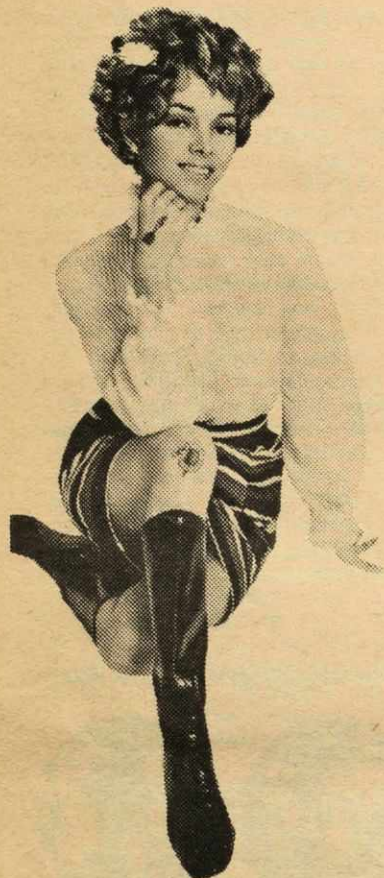


# Dow to Continue Making Napalm

By STEVE PETRANEK & MARYLAND DIAMONDBACK

MIDLAND, Mich. (CPS-CUP) - - Dow Chemical Corporation has elected to take a moral stand on napalm, - - they're going to stick with it.

"You can debate the war, you can talk about whether or not we should be there," Dow's president H. D. Doan said yesterday, "but while our guys are there we feel like giving them the weapons they need, and believe me, they really need this one."



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Although Doan feels the Viet Nam War has "gotten completely out of hand" and favors an immediate troop withdrawal, he also says that napalm is "a fantastically useful strategic weapon."

"There's only one tactical weapon that can turn back the human wave and that's napalm," he said. This liquid fire bomb is the only way to seep death into concrete bunkers and heavily protected troop emplacements.

Doan also said he believed the American soldier would have been pushed out of South Viet Nam in military defeat without napalm.

With napalm representing less than one-half of one per cent of all Dow sales, the decision to continue making the sticky, and firey gasoline gel could be little more than principle.

Dow is not forced by any governmental pressures to continue making napalm either. Government contracts represent less than five per cent of total sales.

But Dow does have an image problem.

Citing a recent student survey taken by the company, Doan said that although no one associated

Dow with military products in 1966, over 90 per cent of college students polled now know Dow makes napalm and "the great majority of the students think Dow is the number one supplier of war materials."

Dow ranks 75th on a list of the top defense contractors for the war and Doan noted that he was "not a bit surprised to see several universities ahead of Dow."

Napalm was developed before and during the second World War, and Dow has produced it only since 1965, when the Air Force changed its specifications to include a thicker gelatin base for its active ingredient, gasoline.

The thicker base became styrene, a basic building block for most plastics. Styrene was developed and first patented by Dow. Company officials confirmed that Dow is the best equipped major chemical firm to produce styrene.

According to company recruiters, response of top students to Dow campus interviews has not been affected, despite the more than 180 demonstrations in the last year.



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