Despite Cancer Risk, Rumsfeld Rammed NutraSweet Through FDA in 1980s; New Studies Appear to Confirm Cancer Connection

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Jun. 28, 2007 (Pensito Review delivered by Newstex) -- A study by a team of Italian scientists appears to confirm the sweetner aspartame, which is sold under the brand NutraSweet, is "particularly potent when animals are exposed in utero and during development. The rats were exposed to the sweetener at levels above and below the recommended daily maximums for people." The fact that Donald Rumsfeld's fingerprints are all over the approval of this chemical additive, may cause regular users -- especially diabetics -- to give it a second look. Results of the study were published this month in Environmental Health Perspectives, a U.S. government sponsored, peer-reviewed journal. The link between aspartame and cancer is not new. In fact, a connection was detected in testing soon after it was discovered in 1965 by a chemist working for G.D. Searle & Company. As a result, the FDA refused to approve it as a food additive throughout the 1970s. That changed in 1981 when Ronald Reagan won the White House and his Republican appointees took control of the FDA: The head of the FDA, Jere E. Goyan, who had not approved legalization of aspartame, due to the brain cancer in rats issue, was fired on the first day Ronald Reagan was president... Reagan hired Arthur Hayes MD [a former defense contractor], who legalized aspartame a year later. According to Amy Goodman of Democracy Now: [Aspartame] was approved in the early 1980s after intense lobbying efforts by Donald Rumsfeld when he worked as CEO for the pharmaceutical company GD Searle. Rumsfeld is said to have engineered the firing of [Jere Goyan] the FDA commissioner who had held up aspartame's release following studies showing possible links to brain cancer. This source says Hayes manipulated FDA findings on the The new commissioner of the FDA, a Reagan Rumsfeld appointee named Arthur Hayes Hull, Jr. [sic], named a five-person Scientific Committee to review the earlier findings. When the vote went 3-2 against approval of aspartame, Hayes did what any fair-minded citizen might do, and appointed a sixth committee member. The committee voted 3-3, leaving Hull to cast the deciding vote, approving aspartame for use in dry products. Aspartame was then approved for use in soft drinks in 1983. Hayes was later rewarded for approving the drug with a cushy job at In November 1983 Hayes was under fire for accepting corporate gifts. He quit [and was appointed dean of the New York Medical College and then in 1986] joined Searle's public-relations firm as senior medical advisor. Before it was over Rumsfeld also took a bonus for his role in aspartame's Searle lawyer Robert B. Shapiro, renamed aspartame NutraSweet. Monsanto (MON) purchased Searle. Rumsfeld received a $12 million bonus. Shapiro later became Monsanto president. The fact that Donald Rumsfeld's fingerprints are all over the approval of this chemical additive, may cause regular users -- especially diabetics -- to give it a second look.

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