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FILE

HARBISON ELECTED MONSANTO PRESIDENT  
ST. LOUIS

Earle H. Harbison Jr. was elected president and chief operating officer of Monsanto Co. Monday, succeeding Francis Fitzgerald, who died April 26.

Harbison had been vice chairman of Monsanto and chairman of G.D. Searle & Co. and The Nutrasweet Co., both Monsanto subsidiaries.

The announcement was made by Richard Mahoney, Monsanto chairman and chief executive. Harbison's promotion was effective immediately.

'Replacing an executive of Mr. Fitzgerald's stature is not an easy task,' Mahoney said. 'It's a tribute to Earle Harbison's skill as an executive and his experience, and to our company's management depth, that he was prepared to fill the important jobs of president and chief operating officer.'

Harbison, 57, assumed responsibility for Monsanto's businesses in chemicals, plastics, fibers, agricultural products, electronic materials and Fisher Controls International Inc., as well as the company's international operations.

In addition, he will direct Monsanto's safety and environmental programs and its resource planning function.

'These are difficult circumstances under which to take a new assignment,' Harbison said. 'But I look forward to working with Dick Mahoney to see Monsanto's strategies and results meet the high expectations we have set for our company.'

Harbison has held various assignments in his 19 years with Monsanto. His most recent job was to direct the transition team following the acquisition of Searle. He is a native of St. Louis.

Before joining Monsanto in 1967, he was with the Central Intelligence Agency for 18 years.

Mahoney said Harbison's 'service first as an advisory member and then as a member of the board of directors has made him a participant in the broad strategic planning and decisions of recent years. That experience will serve Monsanto well.'