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Cover: Vinyl chloride strip on right contains an antimony-containing flame retardant, whereas strip on left contains no retardant. Photo courtesy of M&T Chemicals

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## In Brief:

- **First-quarter chemical industry earnings** are strong despite troubles with the weather and the coal strike. (Page 4)
- **Second-generation fuel cells**, designed for higher efficiency and for use with a wider range of fuels, are being developed in a number of projects. (Page 5)
- **Assessment of hazards to reproduction** in the workplace to both males and females was the focus of a four-day workshop. (Page 5)
- **Enhanced oil recovery** would add no more than 51 billion bbl to the supply using present techniques, OTA estimates. (Page 6)
- **A second group of industrial chemicals** to get priority testing under the Toxic Substances Control Act has been chosen by a federal interagency panel. (Page 6)
- **Dow Chemical's half-interest** in Dow-Badische has been sold to BASF, Dow's partner in the joint venture. (Page 6)
- **Production capacity** for the key inorganic chemicals lime, phosphorus, and sulfur is excessive, prices weak. (Page 9)
- **Outlook for plastics in Western Europe** is not so rosy as in the past few years; producers face overcapacity, weak prices, and variable demand patterns. (Page 13)
- **ICI's Alan Robertson**, chairman of ECETOC, promotes public understanding of risks and benefits of chemicals. (Page 14)
- **The Administration's drug reform bill** attacked by both industry spokesmen and health care activists. (Page 16)
- **Potential of polyacetylene** has been enhanced by finding that it can be doped to n- and p-type semiconductors. (Page 19)
- **Science careers for handicapped persons** are being promoted in NSF-sponsored project that includes radio and TV ads. (Page 20)
- **Successful test marketing of gasohol** has prompted the Department of Energy to propose deregulation of its price. (Page 21)

### Special Report

**Search for flame-retardant chemicals** has been triggered by government regulations and the public's concern for safe consumer products. (Page 22)

- **ACS survey** compiles members' views on preferences, problems, and characteristics of national meetings. (Page 38)
- **Society dues** and allotments to C&EN and to local sections will increase in 1979 to keep pace with inflation. (Page 40)