

# DAILY NEWS

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## Hits Carey for Stand On Dumping of PCB

By BRUCE DRAKE

Washington, Jan. 30 (News Bureau)—Rep. Richard L. Ottinger (D-Westchester) rapped Gov. Carey today for putting pressure on his own environmental commissioner to drop a policy that would require General Electric to stop dumping the toxic chemical PCB into the Hudson River by Sept. 30.

Testifying on the impact of PCB dumping, Ottinger told a House fisheries and wildlife subcommittee. "Unfortunately, our former colleague here, Gov. Carey, wants to overrule his commissioner because of the economic impact that would result if GE chose to leave New York."

PCB, or polychlorinated biphenyl, is a fire-resistant chemical used chiefly as an insulating fluid in electrical equipment. The chemical is suspected of being a cancer-causing agent and had been linked to reproductive failures and other disorders in mammals.

Last August, Ogden Reid, the state environmental conservation commissioner, warned New Yorkers not to eat striped bass from the Hudson because they were found to contain high levels of PCB.

Reid's agency is proposing that GE be ordered to stop all PCB dumping by Sept. 30. But yesterday it was disclosed that Gov. Carey had sided with his commerce commissioner, John Dwyer, in contending that the deadline should be dropped because tough environmental policies would drive industry from the state.

"This attitude on the part of business and business' representatives in government is totally

deplorable," Ottinger said today.

According to federal environmental officials, General Electric is discharging about one to two pounds of PCB on most days. But at one point, the discharge level was 30 pounds a day.

Last month, the federal agency moved to stop PCB dumping, an action that will force General Electric to stop its dumping entirely, but not until June 30, 1977.

Ottinger blamed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for not acting sooner. "The EPA has just been miserably derelict in using the enforced powers it had to do this," he said.

Richard L. Flye, a water enforcement official for the EPA's New York region, protested that his office had been "far from derelict."

"If that's the case," Ottinger retorted, "how could you permit 30 pounds a day of PCB to be dumped?"

"That was an interim level," Flye said. "It's very difficult to cut it off immediately."

In Albany, a spokesman for Environmental Commissioner Reid issued a statement indicating that the agency intended to press ahead with its departmental proceeding against General Electric and might yet set an earlier deadline for a PCB ban.