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Weekly Report From Washington

Congressman Robert J. Cornell has cosponsored legislation that would neutralize the 10 percent hike recently ordered by the international oil cartel by removing import duties and imposing a price ceiling on domestic oil.

The bill would place an $11.90 ceiling on all domestically produced crude oil not presently under control for the same nine-month period that the OPEC action covers.

Cornell stated that there was absolutely no justification for allowing uncontrolled domestic firms another 10 percent in price because there is no relationship to the cost of production. "It is time for Congress to act to break the collusion between the oil cartel and the multinational oil companies with whom they do business," the 8th District Representative declared.

Cornell has also joined Representative Les Aspin in an effort to stop the use of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) which have contaminated fish in Northeastern Wisconsin. Cornell noted that in the electrical field these companies have successfully developed substitutes for PCBs.

Because another source of PCB contamination is the recycling of paper manufactured before 1971, the bill would not be effective for three years so as to provide ample time to eliminate the use of PCB-contaminated paper.

The House Labor and Education Committee, of which the 8th District Congressman is a member, has reported out an amendment to the Occupational Safety and Health Act which would provide on-site consultation for small businesses.

Under the terms of this amendment employers in all states could request consultative service to help them comply with OSHA standards without penalty or citation. It is anticipated that the House will soon take action on this proposal.

Cornell announced his support for a proposal by the Great Lakes Basin Commission to make a comprehensive study of the Fox-Wolf River Basin.

The plan is one of the most extensive ever proposed for a U.S. river basin and would encompass 13 north-eastern and central Wisconsin counties, including Brown, Outagamie, Menominee, Shawano, Langlade, and Waupaca.

The purpose of the two-year study would be to analyze all facets of water quality, flooding, water supply, erosion and sedimentation and would culminate in a management system to assure future enjoyment of the Wolf and Fox Rivers as well as Lake Winnebago.

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