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Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down

Our recent editorial on the GE/PCB controversy produced the expected results, reflecting both points of view in the continuing environmental-ecological debate.

Bill Williams in "Outdoors In Whitehall" stated that "you hit it right on the button." Cyrus Woodbury, in a Letter to the Editor this week, states that the editorial prompts him to "believe that you do not understand the problem." To add further confusion, it must be added that each was referring to a different phase of the issue.

We wholly agree with Mr. Woodbury's idealistic statement that "Pollution of our natural resources should be prohibited.". What we disagree with is some of the methods used and some of the people involved in trying to bring this about. Mr. Woodbury uses one of these questionable methods himself; after citing loss of jobs as "scare" tactics, he in turn cites possible poisoning of youngsters from eating contaminated pan-fish caught in the Hudson river. In short, scare tactics are wrong for your side but all right for my side.

Monday's ruling that the GE plants have violated the state conservation law by discharging PCBs into the Hudson unfortunately does not provide an end or a solution to the problem. It only set the state for remedial hearings to establish an abatement program acceptable to both En-Con and the company. In the process we are bound to be subjected to more arguments from the extremes and undoubtedly more scare tactics. By the time these hearings are over, GE will have exhausted its supply of PCB and no more will be in production.