Aug 5, 71



# Contaminated Fish Caught In State Creek, Panel Told

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WASHINGTON — Edible fish containing 73 times the acceptable level polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, were found in an Alabama creek last year and nothing so far has been done about it, a Senate subcommittee was told Wednesday.

Sen. William D. Spong, D-Va., a member of a commerce subcommittee on the environment, introduced a letter from an Alabama fisheries official reporting PCB levels as high as 360 parts per million in the fish caught in the Choccolocca Creek, near Anniston. The Food and Drug Administration's tolerance limit is 5 parts per million for the PCBs, which are industrial chemicals that act like DDT and that are suspected of causing long-term ill effects on health.

Sam L. Spencer, assistant chief of fisheries for Alabama, said in the letter that the samples were collected for the Southern regional office of FDA.

"Yet FDA apparently did not intend to advise us of this contamination problem," he said.

In a telephone interview, Spencer said the creek has not been closed to fishing.

"That's a job for the State Health Department, which hasn't moved on the problem," he said.

"As far as I know, the fish in that creek still have a high level of PCBs in their bodies," Spencer said.

He said the apparent source of the contamination is a Monsanto Corp. plant near Anniston that dumps wastes into the creek, which is a tributary of the Coosa River.

The fish collected at various points along the creek included bass, carp, catfish and spotted suckers. Three bass caught at one point were found to contain the 360 parts per million of PCBs.

At another point, the Alabama lab reports show, catfish were found containing 277 parts per million of the chemical.

The reports identified the contaminant as Arochlor 234, one of the PCBs in industrial use. Monsanto is the sole American manufacturer of PCBs.

In his letter to the subcommittee, Spencer said:

"You asked if FDA is cooperating with the states. I think they are cooperating to the extent they have to. We assisted them in collecting fish from Choccolocca Creek. They later sent us copies of the mercury analysis which were not high enough to be greatly concerned about.

"I later wrote FDA asking for the results of their PCB analysis of these samples because I heard a rumor that they were very high FDA then sent me the results, a copy of which I have attached."

Spencer at first asked for anonymity, adding: "However, I feel the consumers of fish or any other food products are entitled to know what they are eating." Later, he consented to the use of his name.

The subcommittee is holding hearings on the Nixon Administration's Toxic Substance Control Act, which would permit regulation of the manufacture and use, as well as the discharge, of such hazardous chemicals as PCBs.

The effect of PCB on human beings has not been determined. In laboratory experiments on mice, it has caused birth defects and liver damage.



## Horse Vaccination Program To Begin in State Aug. 17

Vaccinations for sleeping sickness for all horses and equine animals in Alabama will begin Aug. 17.

State Veterinarian Dr. J. G. Milligan said Wednesday there have been several delays in the state receiving the vaccine, but Aug. 17 is now the date set to begin the vaccination program.

Some 180,000 horses in the state will be vaccinated against Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis.

The State Board of Agriculture and Industries authorized the vaccine last Thursday and all equine owners are required to immunize their animals.

Animals requiring the vaccine include horses, mules and donkeys.

Only one injection will be required as there is little or no reaction to the vaccine, Milligan said. The animals will then be confined to their own premises for a period of 14 days following the injection.

There will be no cost for the vaccine as the U.S. Department of Agriculture will furnish the injections and pay the veterinarians for administering them.

A certificate of vaccination will be issued to the animals' owners and the animals will be in charge of Montgomery, Lowndes, and Bullock counties, according to Milligan.

## Girl Wins Case With Point From Darwin

OCEAN CITY, N.J. (AP)—It didn't have the magnitude of the Scopes trial but Dianne Doerpinghaus, 18, of Greensboro, N.C., made a point straight out of Darwin in court Monday and the judge found her innocent of a charge of having a cat on the boardwalk in Ocean City.

Miss Doerpinghaus and her 10-week old kitten April Catsup were arrested last week and charged under a local ordinance that states: "It is unlawful for any dog or other animal to be on any portion of the boardwalk at any time."

Miss Doerpinghaus told Ocean City Municipal Judge Franklin A. King that man is an animal too. Therefore, she reasoned, the kitten had as much right to be on the boardwalk as anybody else.

Judge King agreed an-

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