HOLLAND, MICH.
SENTINEL
D. 15,000

MAR 1 0 1976

PCB Bill Is Sent To Milliken

LANSING (UPI) — State lawmakers have sent to Gov. William G. Milliken legislation that will all but ban the use of the toxic industrial chemical PCB, which has been discovered in alarming levels in Great Lakes fish.

The proposal received final House approval on a 104-0 vote Tuesday.

PCB has been found in levels above those safe for human consumption in Great Lakes fish. The chemical has been blamed for reproductive failure in contaminated fish and the animals that feed on them.

Fishermen have been warned to limit their consumption of contaminated Great Lakes fish to one meal per week and pregnant women have been advised not to eat the fish at all because of its possible effects on the unborn.

The bill now on the governor's desk will make it illegal to sell, manufacture or use any item containing more than 100 parts per million of PCB by Jan. 1, 1978. The Department of Natural Resources could issue a total ban if it is determined that even small quantities are environmentally harmful.

Indiana has passed a similar proposal and other proposed bans are pending in Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Even if the federal government does not institute a nationwide PCB ban, the Great Lakes Basin will be protected by the individual actions of its border states.

"The widespread use of the

(Continued on page 4.)

PCB Bill

(Continued from page 1.)

substance, when coupled with the serious health hazards it presents, have made it obvious that PCB should be banned as quickly as possible and replaced with other equally effective substitutes," said the bill's sponsor, Rep. David Bonior, D-Mount Clemens.

"The Michigan Legislature has taken a giant step forward in preserving our resources.

PCB is used extensively in hydraulic and health transfer fluids for a variety of industrial processes. It is also used in the manufacture of varnishes and paints, inks, plastics, soaps and ironing board covers.

PCBs also are used in sealed electrical components ranging from television capacitors to large-scale electrical generating equipment.

The cost to business in developing a replacement for PCB is expected to run in the millions of dollars.

But DNR officials have noted that the chemical in Great Lakes fish has already dealt a crushing blow to commercial and sport fishing.

MONS 037168