For your information.

Whit King/sh

$1-billion pollution suit filed here

A $1-billion class-action lawsuit, possibly the largest in Alabama history, has been brought against General Electric Co. and Monsanto Corp. to recover damages caused by pollution of the Coosa River with a chemical suspected of causing cancer.

The suit, filed in federal court in Birmingham Wednesday, charges that the discharge of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) from a General Electric transformer plant near Rome, Ga., has destroyed fishing in the Coosa and its tributaries by making fish caught there inedible. Named as the plaintiff class are roughly 3,000 persons in Georgia and Alabama who depend upon the Coosa for their livelihood.

In August of this year the Georgia Department of Natural Resources closed the Coosa to fishing within the boundaries of the state because of PCB contamination, and in November the Alabama Water Improvement Commission (AWIC) issued a warning that fish taken from [illegible] Weiss Reservoir on the Coosa had been found to contain PCB concentrations "considerably in excess" of the five parts per billion set by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as tolerable human limits.

Monsanto was named as a defendant in the suit because it manufactures PCB, under the trade name Pyranol, and sells the oily, oily chemical to General Electric for use in the manufacture of electrical transformers.

PCBs have been found to cause cancer in laboratory animals. The suit charges that the two companies were aware of the dangers of the chemical and that they allowed it to be discharged into the Coosa without regard for the health hazards it could cause.

Sen. Hart rites held [illegible]

Associated Press

MACKINAC [illegible], Mich. — The last rites for Sen. Philip A. Hart were held [illegible] Thursday in a snowy, windswept [illegible] city by Island he loved most.

Hart [illegible] died three

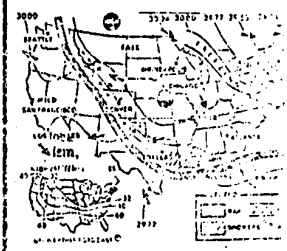
Weather f

Skies will become increasingly cloudy Thursday and Friday in the Birmingham area with rain possible Friday.

The official weather forecast calls for "increasing cloudiness Thursday. Mostly cloudy Thursday night and Friday with a chance of rain Friday."

Winds will be southwest eight to 12 miles an hour Thursday. Highs Thursday and Friday should be near 50, with the low Thursday night in the mid 30s.

National Weather Service forecast to 6 p



Snow is expected Thursday over the n[illegible]ain and mid Rockies, the northern are[illegible] Texas and portions of the Northeast. [illegible] will fall in the mid Gulf coastal states. Mo[illegible] sunny elsewhere.

Ford near dec[illegible]

United Press International

VAIL, Colo. President Ford said Wednesday he would probably make a decision on amnesty for Vietnam era draft evaders and deserters within one week.

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Ford, responding to a question at the request of Jane Hart, the wife of the late Philip Hart, D-Mich., who died Sunday, said he could not offer any indication which way he would go. The President has noticed almost cancer taking [illegible]