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Wendy says no to larger PCA staff

WINONA, Minn. (AP) — Minnesota Gov. Wendell Anderson said Thursday he would not support an increase in the staff of the Pollution Control Agency to speed the search for the source of PCB contamination in the Mississippi River.

The discovery of PCBs, polychlorinated biphenyls, in fish taken from Lake Pepin last summer led to a partial ban in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Health officials urged the consumption of no more than one meal of fish taken from the lake, a wide part of the Mississippi on the Minnesota-Wisconsin border.

Responding to questions at a Winona news conference, Anderson said, "We're very concerned about the number of state employes we have."

The governor added he would not be "very happy" about adding to the staffs of the PCA, or any other state department or agency.

On another matter, Anderson said he was not "pushing" Sen. Hubert Humphrey, D-Minn., to enter presidential primary elections but was "surprised and pleased at the tremendous reception he is receiving nationwide."

Anderson said if Humphrey's national popularity keeps rising, he may "urge" the senator to actively seek the presidency again.

Concerning the election defeat of DFLer Mayor Albert Hofstede in Tuesday's Minneapolis election, Anderson said a very low voter turnout and some overconfidence on the part of the DFL were factors.

However, the governor added that the election victor, independent Charles Stenvig, campaigned "very hard" and deserves credit for that.

From Winona, Anderson flew to Rochester for another news conference. He had a speaking engagement Thursday night in Red Wing.

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