Transcript from Kathy Donavan (202) 857-7221
Research for NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC for an
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"The nightmare became a notorious reality last night when a crisis came over something called PCBs. In the 1930s chemical engineers compounded PCBs, polychlorinated biphenyls, as fire-retardant fluids insulate capacitors (She then comments, 'I know there are errors.'). Those electrical storage containers found on power poles and even on fluorescent lights. In our industrial nation PCBs escaping from discarded capacitors and other products have leaked into waterways where they do not break down. Now traces show up everywhere from Arctic ice to human milk. The largest PCB concentration anywhere, an estimated 150 tons, lies in Hudson River sediments because General Electric, the principal user of PCB, operates capacitor plants in Hudson Falls at Ft. (?) Edwards, New York. The plants have dumped 30 pounds of PCBs everyday for 30 years. Since 1973, They have cut _____ to a few ounces a day. Yet PCBs have proved toxic. In 1968 Japan _____. In late 1975 then commercial _____ learned of high PCB _____ in the Hudson River fish. He banned them. The fishermen became bitter."

Then we describe a cancer researcher in New York who has made a study but has come to no conclusion. Early 1976 GE was judged guilty. _____ is contributing. Then generally we sum it up and say...

"In one way the PCB crisis actually pushed river clean-up a step ahead. It focused national attention on toxic chemicals that once

(cont.)

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loosed in the environment can't be controlled. Congress last fall, after 5 years of debate, passed a Toxic Substances Control Act. Now these chemicals suspected as being toxic must undergo prior testing before they reach the marketplace. The Act singles-out PCBs for total ban by 1979."

That's generally it.

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