The following letter to the Governor also constitutes an editorial view by WSLJ Radio:

September 15, 1976

The Honorable George Busbee
Governor of the State of Georgia

Dear Governor:

This letter is in reference to the series of stories in the Atlanta newspapers that deal with biphenyl which is linked to liver cancer in humans.

The Georgia department of Natural Resources has announced the closing of portions of the Etowah and Oostanaula rivers upstream from Rome. Earlier stories scored a GE plant near Rome for being the source of the polychlorinated biphenyls.

There has been a great deal of speculation in the newspapers whether the fish swam upstream. They are puzzled about the contamination in waters upstream from the plant.

The department of Natural Resources certainly ought not to be puzzled. They are aware of the fact that plants in the Calhoun and Dalton area add biphenyls to the water and air supply. There are other rather negative things being spewed out hereabouts that include Methyl-Naphthalene an aromatic similar to biphenyl. Lung cancer has been attributed to Methyl Naphthalene. In some rare instances Trichlorobenzene is used. It is a chlorinated aromatic hydrocarbon similar to DDT, and, like the outlawed DDT, highly toxic.

These chemicals are in use by carpet plants and dye plants in the dying of polyester carpet. Certainly no one wants to harm the carpet industry. Obliquely if not directly we all here make our living that way.

However, standards ought to be set. A carrier-less way of dying polyester has been developed. Some areas (Los Angeles is one) don't permit the dying of polyester unless strict safe-guards are followed.

The aforementioned involves specific health hazards in Northwest Georgia to which the authorities are oblivious.

I would appreciate your calling the matter to the attentio of the department of Natural Resources.

Moreover, I would appreciate an expression of your views on the matter. I trust I shall hear from you and this rather vital (from the Latin word "vita" - life) matter will not be buried in the maze of bureaucratic channels.

I thank you in advance for your interest.

signed: Werner Mortsman
WSLJ Radio

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