...ple
...ility."

...the, the workers tried
protective clothing.
...n it finally arrived,
...as the wrong type.

...the workers' blood and urine were
...mber. But the men questioned
...r reassurances. They had read that
...g minor exposures to PCBs could
...nd they wondered whether the Navy
...ad Forester was recommending
...ot. In his replies to the men—and
...erview with *Maine Times*—Forester
...source of information a Comman-
...of the Portsmouth Naval Regional
...ter, a Navy M.D. and Ph.D. epi-
...ian, he said, was an expert on a
...mpational health problems, includ-

...ber 19, Commander Coles visited
...Harbor base, one of the half dozen
...s from flowport to Cutler which she
...spoke in a gathering of more than
...the Autonne Maintenance Group
...illan workers, a number of uni-
...ommanders and Winter Harbor town
...the Hunter s he had learned of the
...and the dumping of PCBs at the
...through a lodge brother who
...

...Coles affirmed what the workers
...d PCBs are carcinogenic and can
...ety of very serious health problems.
...ed that the chronic effects such
...ver dedifination, and reproductive
...are "extremely unlikely in transient
...s the ones we are talking about at
...and even more so where no acute
...symptoms have been observed,"
...ed that she had breastfed her
...three children, the second one "in
...of the PCB-contaminated meat
...three years ago, and prob-
...from PCBs then, because these
...are concentrated in mother's milk. I
...worried then, but I didn't decide to
...feeding." Asked whether she would
...a child if she had experienced expo-
...similar to those of the men in the

...ge organization, and all ...
...ir limitations."

Sticking to her basic suggestion that the ...
...ould not worry about chronic PCB problems ... they had not experienced any acute symptoms such as chloracne, Coles quoted as her authority Dr. Liddle at the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta. "I'm only generally familiar with PCBs, but he is one of the recognized authorities," she said.

The following day *Maine Times* contacted Dr. John Liddle, who is Chief of Toxicology at the Center for Disease Control. An M.D. who also holds a Ph.D. in toxicology, Liddle said he had supervised the production of PCBs for Monsanto Chemical Company at their Anniston, Alabama, production unit for three years before going to work for the Center. He backed up much of what Commander Coles had said in her Winter Harbor talk, remarking that "I'm not really that alarmed when the exposures are transient and occasional, which is how Commander Coles described what was happening up there."

Like Coles, Liddle mentioned that the acute toxicity of PCBs is "not terribly great. I inhaled a lot of it at Monsanto, enough to irritate my nasal passages and make me take a walk outside for some fresh air almost every day. Beyond irritation though, I never experienced any ill effects whatever."

Asked if Commander Coles had quoted him correctly when she had told the Winter Harbor meeting that chronic problems were "extremely unlikely" unless acute symptoms had appeared, Dr. Liddle said, "That doesn't sound like anything I said to her. You can have appreciable exposure without showing any chloracne or jaundice." He went on to say that "serum screening will tell you just how much body burden of PCB there is in an individual. If there are five or 10 parts per billion, that's in line with what a majority of Americans are carrying. But if someone has 20 or 30 parts per billion, further screening and lab work should be done."

On December 20, Lieutenant Jonathan Forester, the Winter Harbor base medical officer, told the three Shop 10 workers thought to have experienced the heaviest PCB exposure—Mike Harmon, Bob Stanley, and Dave Wilkinson—that their blood samples will be frozen and sent to the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, where the parts-per-billion "body burden" of PCBs for each worker will be determined.

Forester told Harmon and Wilkinson that initial tests indicate that their enzyme levels are "slightly elevated." The tests showed co-worker Bob Stanley's enzyme levels to be normal.

SEEKING HELP "outside the proper channels" has brought the Shop 10 PCB study group some small victories. It has drawn attention to their predicament in state and federal agencies. Jack Kreuger of the Maine De-

...the town dump with a ... told town officials nothing ... him after hearing rumors ... dumps. The Navy inventory ... containing a total of 26 pieces ... dump.)

OSHA and its research ... Institute of Occupational ... (NIOSH), have also entered ... jurisdiction over civilian em... services is "a grey area" ... Agency Programs officer ... Boston office. But, in search ... tion" outside of Navy channels ... Autonne Maintenance Group ... mailed an OSHA Request for ... Evaluation form. About 10 days ... ceived an acknowledgement ... ing a full investigation of ... situation, including any ne... violations.

The men don't ... problems may ... later in ...

Maine Times, Me.
1/9/81

"THE PROBLEM ... to this one little ... Barton points o... 19 whether other Maine ... may be experiencing PC... dor Coles answered by ... everywhere in the kind ... Barton had earlier sugge... investigate civilian indu... such as electric utilities a... nies—you know, the one... puters, they all have U... capacitors like the ones ... should look into them."

More than a billion pou... sold in North America ... to a 1972 monograph by ... ciation of Research Chem... that today, more than 75 ... cans have PCBs in their b... of the. "scientific mirac...

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Semi-F

...at the
Rainbow
Mall

Annual