Results of PCB study reported

New York State Health Commissioner David Axelrod, MD, has announced that a year-long study conducted by the New York Gas Group and the Health Dept. showed no significant measurable differences in PCB contamination levels between homes using natural gas and those using other sources of energy.

The study was begun last year after PCB oils were discovered in natural gas transmission lines. Twelve utilities participated, seven of which had shown PCB contamination in their distribution systems.

Average PCB concentrations in the kitchen air of the natural gas homes surveyed was 0.09 micrograms per cubic meter, compared with 0.14 micrograms per cubic meter in homes that used other energy sources.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health has recommended that workplace standards for eight hours of exposure to PCBs be 1.0 microgram per cubic meter.

Budget . . .

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Budget Committee on a party-line vote and endorsed by President Reagan, calls for $95 billion in additional taxes over the next three years, a freeze on most domestic spending, and a smaller increase in defense spending than originally sought by the Administration.

The House Budget Committee bill, also adopted by a party vote, would leave Social Security benefits intact and provide for higher domestic spending levels.

THE SENATE bill originally would have cut Medicaid benefits by $700 million next fiscal year, compared with only $59 million in the House bill. The Senate Medicare reduction was $5.1 billion, almost $3 billion more than the House measure provides.

Senate Republicans, however, restored $2.6 billion to the budget to curb reduction in social services.

PCB-ARCH-EXT0378329