

as premier hoping to capitalize on his success at the polls, but his opponents have taken over the government and so far succeeded in blocking new elections. The deadlock is not the stuff of which foreign policy compromise is made, especially since Turkey does in fact hold a strong hand in its talks with the U.S.

If Congress persists in playing a losing game, the consequences for the U.S. position in the eastern Mediterranean will be disastrous. And none of our friends there, Greek, Turkish or Israeli, can benefit from that. The best course would be for Congress to lose a little bit of face and hope that the chastening experience will teach it something about the right way to conduct foreign policy.

CONCERN EXPRESSED ON PRESENCE OF POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS IN THE ENVIRONMENT

MON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 1975

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to permission previously granted, I am pleased to insert a copy of correspondence I have received from an outstanding conservationist and public servant, the Honorable Nathaniel P. Reed, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, as addressed to another great environmentalist and public servant, the Honorable Russell E. Train, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, in which Assistant Secretary Reed reports his concern in detail regarding the presence of polychlorinated biphenyls, notably in fish food, and the effects of such chemicals throughout the environment.

I commend this information to the attention of my colleagues and the public and enclose Assistant Secretary Reed's letter:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D.C., July 17, 1975.

Mon. Russell E. Train,
Administrator, Environmental Protection
Agency, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. TRAIN: Recent evidence demonstrating the widespread presence of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the environment is causing me much concern. Although the presence of PCBs in the environment has been general scientific knowledge for a number of years, this group of chemicals was at first only of academic interest because of analytical confusion between PCBs and DDT/metabolite residues. I am moved to action at this time because of new evidence which suggests serious public health implications in addition to adverse effects on fishery resources.

Research conducted in Wisconsin indicates undesirable effects on Rhesus monkeys when food containing 8 ppm is ingested in the diet. They develop liver disorders, skin lesions, and their young may be stillborn. I understand your field staff is quite concerned over this development. Some Great Lakes food fish contain as much as 70 ppm PCBs.

In recent weeks the Food and Drug Administration (in concert with the affected States) has embargoed commercial fish from the Mississippi River and Lake Michigan because the residue action level of five parts per million was being exceeded by several

times. The FDA also has issued informal advisories to sport fishermen in the Great Lakes area to limit consumption of chubb, mature trout and salmon. Departments of Health in Wisconsin and Minnesota have advised only one meal a week with special admonition for pregnant women or children. New York State biologists report a similar situation in Lake Ontario.

Studies with PCBs have repeatedly demonstrated their adverse effects on fish: 50 percent growth suppression of lake trout at levels of 1.2 to 12 ppm after 6 months exposure; altered thyroid activity in lake trout, channel catfish and bream at 1/1000 dose causing death; fewer embryos after exposure of fertilized sheepshead minnow eggs at 10 ppm; and reduced hatching, lowered fry survival, and an increased number of crippled fry after feeding of cutthroat trout at 5 ppm. Since 1965, we have placed over 40 million lake trout in the Upper Great Lakes. We have yet to see natural reproduction in Lake Michigan.

I am aware that a hazardous materials bill is being considered in Congress and action is needed to provide fuller authority to your agency. I pledge my assistance in this regard.

With a Federal investment of multi-millions in the restoration of the Great Lakes fishery and its habitat, I must urge you in the strongest terms to take appropriate action. There appears to be broad unanimity for the banning of this family of industrial contaminants, and I recommend that this be done at the earliest moment.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has voted unanimously to support a Federal ban on PCBs. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is considering action. The Upper Great Lakes Committee of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission has recommended a ban on PCBs. The intensity of public concern is high and is growing rapidly.

I understand that PCBs can be replaced by suitable alternate compounds which presently exist. Control of imported PCBs and products containing PCBs is also essential. I see this as the only means to avert a threat to national fish and wildlife resources and to the public health.

I have attached a representative sample of the information leading me to this recommendation, and I am providing copies to the three Congressional delegations from the Great Lakes States with whom I plan to meet in the near future.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.