



(AP Laser photo)

### Making His Point

Langdon Says He Invested About \$2,000 On Signs

# Farmer's Signs Protest Delays In PCB Cleanup

**McGEE'S CROSSROADS (AP)** — T. Mitchell Langdon says he's tired of waiting on the state to clean up toxic PCB from the shoulders of more than 210 miles of highways in North Carolina, so he's going public with his gripe.

Langdon erected two wooden signs along highways near his Johnston County home last week-end implicating Gov. Jim Hunt in the delays. The wooden signs are four feet by eight feet.

The signs read, "PCB CLEANUP HUNT'S FOLLY" and feature a skull and cross-bones in each of the upper corners.

Toxic PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, were dumped along the roadsides last summer. Five men have been charged with vio-

lating federal and state laws as a result of the dumping.

State officials have proposed that the PCB-contaminated soil be treated without removing it from the roadsides. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has promised a ruling by June 4 on whether it will grant the state an exception to federal regulations so that it can make the in-place treatment.

If EPA fails to approve the exception, the state will have to scoop up thousands of tons of contaminated dirt and haul it to a disposal site.

Langdon, who farms about 500 acres in Johnston County, said he has invested about \$2,000 in the signs.

The state transportation department asked Langdon to move one of the signs on N.C. 50 last weekend because it was on the state right of way. He moved it, but it was still visible from the highway.

"We've got 100 more signs on the way," the 27-year-old farmer said, adding that he hopes to persuade other eastern North Carolina residents to put up signs expressing their dissatisfaction.

"After you exhaust every avenue, give the state every chance to act, public opinion is the only way you can force the state to do something," he said. "The Hunt administration has messed around long enough."

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## Physician Gets Digger Out Of Hole

PHENIX CITY, Ala. (AP) — Publicity stunt artist Digger O'Dell has given up his protest of rising gasoline prices because a doctor ordered him out of his underground tomb when he began suffering chest pains.

O'Dell, whose real name is Herbert O'Dell Smith, came out of semiretirement June 1 and had himself buried alive on the grounds of a mobile home dealership, vowing to stay underground until gasoline prices started dropping.

But O'Dell, who celebrated his 63rd birthday underground Sunday, gave up his publicity stunt protest Monday night after suffering chest pains for several days. A similar stunt was aborted three years ago when he suffered a heart attack.

"I'm sorry folks," O'Dell told about 100 cheering spectators as he was removed from the underground chamber. "But life ain't worth living if you don't do something about it."

He was treated at Cobb Memorial Hospital and released.

"He was supposed to be admitted but I guess he told them he was strong enough to go home," said his physician, Dr. Mike Hoffman.

Hoffman said O'Dell was suffering from exhaustion, laryngitis and strain on his heart, but that his condition was not serious.

Firemen and rescue workers had cut through five inches of concrete, five feet of dirt and a wooden top on the vault to remove O'Dell.

His underground abode was 32 inches wide, 6 feet long and 3½ feet deep. Along with a small chemical toilet, he had a television set, a radio, a fan, two telephones and a CB radio.

The 10 days, 2 hours and 34 minutes that O'Dell spent underground was far short of the 78-day record he set in 1970, when he had himself buried to protest the court



**Acquitted In PCB Conspiracy**  
Ward With His Family At Halifax County Courthouse

(AP Laserphoto)

gua after being airlifted from President So-  
moza's private airfield outside the embattled  
capital city of Managua (AP Laserphoto)

## Truckers Tell ICC Chief Their Woes

WASHINGTON (AP)—For nearly two hours Tuesday, 15 self-employed truckers laid their troubles before A. Daniel O'Neal Jr., chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

They told him that the price of fuel was driving them out of business, that fuel was so hard to find in some places that they could barely limp their rigs from one truck stop to another and that government regulations—from the 55 mph speed limit to state weight limits on trucks—only made matters worse.

O'Neal sympathized but said he couldn't do much for them. Few of these matters were in his jurisdiction, he said.

"There's no way to wave a magic wand," he said.

That answer left the truckers—representatives of independent owners and operators from New Jersey, Missouri, New York, Michigan and Maryland—disappointed.

The meeting occurred at a long conference table at ICC headquarters against a background of rising trucker discontent. The Independent Truckers Association, saying it spoke for 30,000 truckers, said it was calling a nationwide shutdown for Monday.

At ICC headquarters, Mrs. Loretta Carlucci Jr., who is with the Council of Independent Truckers of New Jersey, told O'Neal she would return home to tell the