

Screen asks officials to oppose PCB burn

By **ANGIE FRANCALANCIA**
Advocate staff writer

Mayor Screen sent a letter on Friday to Louisiana's two U.S. senators and two area congressmen, urging them to oppose the burning of PCBs in East Baton Rouge Parish by the Rollins Environmental Services.

Screen's letter was sent to Sens. J. Bennett Johnston and Russell B. Long and Reps. W. Henson Moore, R-Baton Rouge, and Gillis W. Long, D-Alexandria.

Screen said in his letter that 1,500 people appeared at the Dec. 10 "town meeting" at the Centroplex to voice their opposition to the burn.

"There were numerous notable observations, including the following," the letter states.

- "Rollins' past record which clearly demonstrates it has been a poor industrial neighbor.

- "Testimony by Dr. Louis J. Thibodeaux, director of the Hazardous Waste Research Center at LSU that the Rollins incinerator was 'barely adequate.'

- "That Rollins had not even done an analysis to identify potential mechanical malfunctions, risks and solutions.

- "That after the test burn, there is no intention or ability to monitor PCBs being emitted into the atmosphere."

Screen said in his letter that he was aware that the parish provides numerous chemicals and "inherent in supplying these chemicals, it has been understood that we have an obligation to take certain minimal risks associated with their production.

"However, the proposed Rollins incineration of PCBs falls far outside the realm of risk that any citizen, or community, should be called upon to assume," he said in his letter.

"On behalf of the people of East Baton Rouge Parish, I ask for your complete and strident opposition to the scientifically unsound and hazardous procedure that a corporation, which has arguably the most sordid record of any in Louisiana, proposes to undertake," he said in his letter.

Screen also said he planned to send the representatives a complete record of the Centroplex meeting when it is transcribed.