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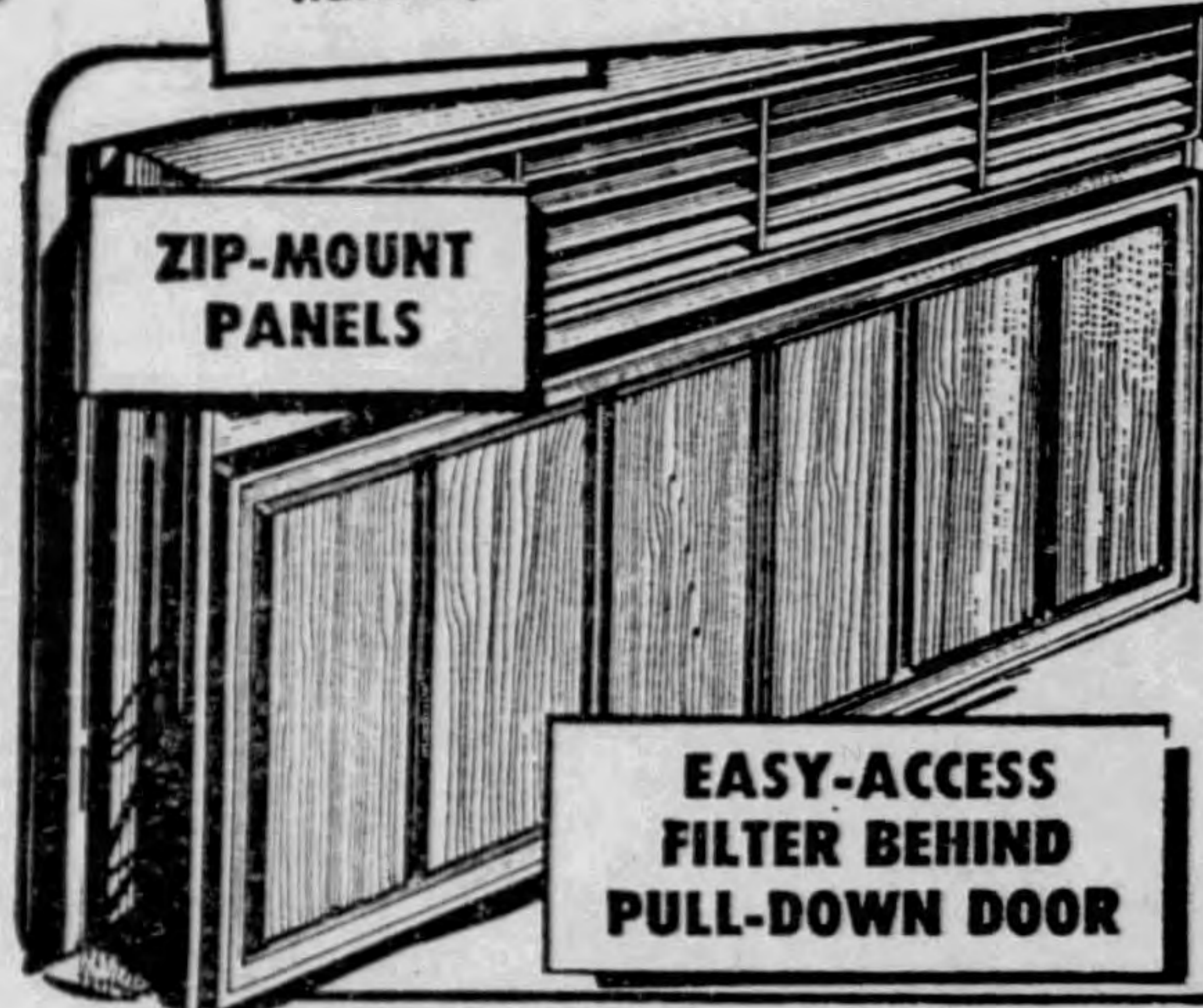
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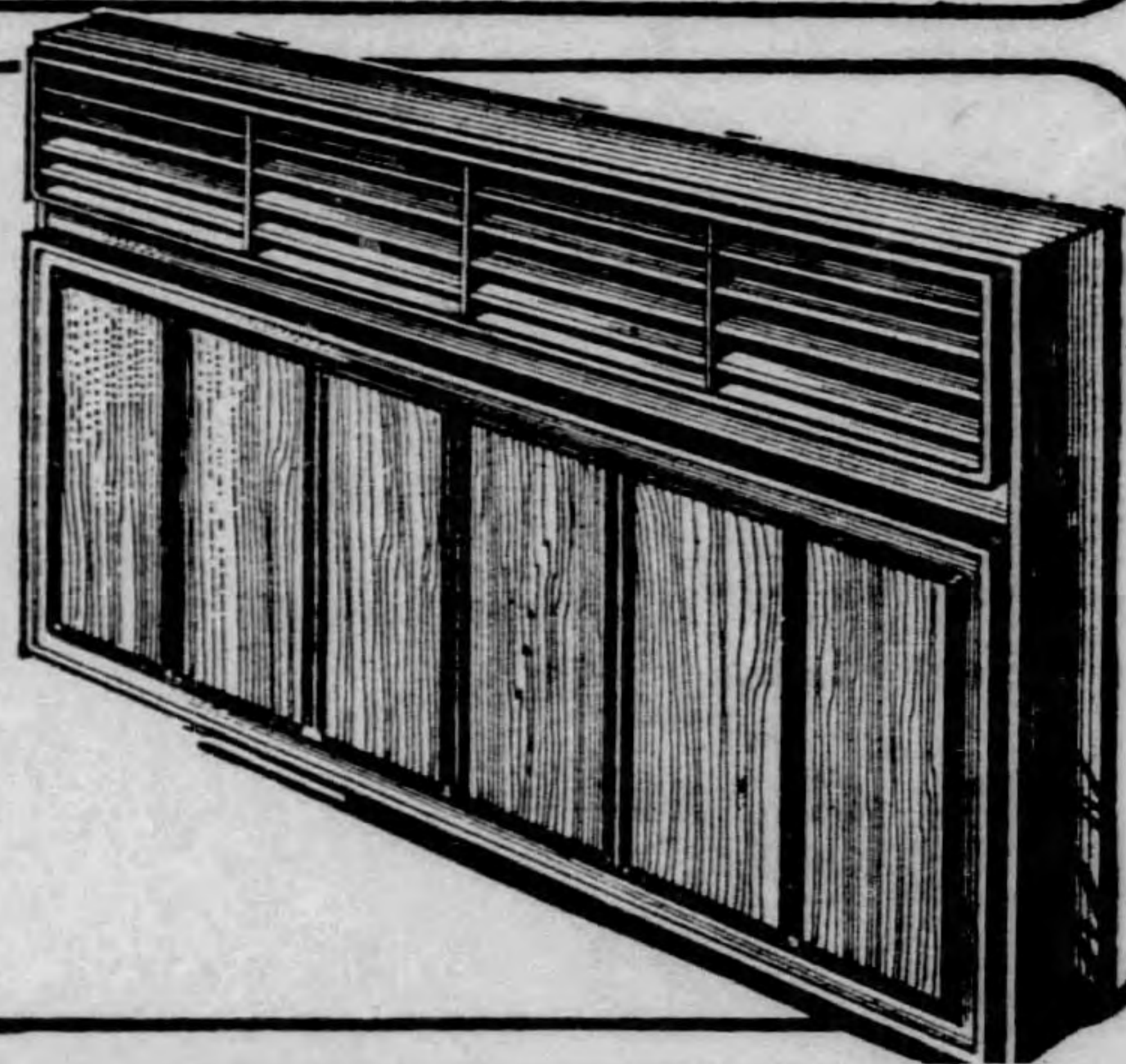
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Bass Fishermen Agree Bill Is No Compromise

By Bob Wacker

Sports and commercial fishermen agreed on one thing yesterday: that a proposal to protect striped-bass fishermen rather than the fish is not a compromise of their long-standing dispute. But several state legislators, who originally favored a ban on the netting and sale of the fish, said they are now inclined toward the new version.

"It's a big fat nothing, that's what it is," said Fred Hodgson, president of Save Our Stripers, after the sports-fishing group's directors voted their disapproval of the new proposal. Richard Miller, executive director of the Long Island Fishermen's Association, a commercial fishermen's group, said it is "an alternative, not a compromise." But, he added, his group is for it: "We feel that this is the only way that two different groups . . . can work out their differences."

The new proposal, worked out at a nine-hour meeting Friday night and Saturday morning in the Syosset home of William Muller, a sports-fishing writer, would replace a proposed measure limiting striped bass fishing to hook or spear-fishing and banning sale of the fish in New York. The new measure would make harassment of any fisherman, sports or commercial, a violation of the fish and game laws. It also would authorize state wildlife authorities to set beach priorities if cases of harassment made them necessary. Commercial fishermen would have first chance at beach fishing spots on weekdays and sports fishermen would get priority on weekend. Most stripers are caught from the beach, by surf-casting sportsmen or by commercial haul seiners who drag nets offshore by dory and haul them back by truck and jeep.

Several Democratic assemblymen who had supported the original netting ban—including the bill's author, I. William Bianchi of Bellport, and the chairman of the Conservation Committee studying it, Herbert Posner of Far Rockaway, Queens—said yesterday that they now favor the new version instead. Posner said he did not know if his committee would even take a vote on the original proposal, adding that he believed it would be defeated if it did come to a vote. He said his mind had been changed by evidence presented at an April 22 hearing showing that stripers, far from being an endangered species, are undergoing a population boom.

Binchia and two Democratic sponsors of the bill, George Hockbrueckner of Coram and Paul E. Harenburg of Bayport, said they had been swayed by the evidence on the fish population and by reluctance to deprive the commercial fishermen of their livelihood. Bianchi said, however, that he would not make up his mind until he hears from the sports group. Hodgson said the sports-fishing group "still has quite a few options open. We're still picking them out."

Franzese Son Among 4 Dropped From a Trial

Mineola—A trial that started three weeks ago with seven defendants charged with conspiracy and attempted extortion, including the stepson of imprisoned underworld figure John (Sonny) Franzese, will go to a Nassau County Court jury today with only three defendants remaining.

All seven originally were charged with conspiracy and attempted grand larceny by extortion stemming from an alleged dispute over a business ownership. The charges against Michael Franzese of Roslyn and co-defendants Jerome Zimmerman of East Meadow and Peter Frappolo of Massapequa, business associates of Michael Franzese, have been dropped. The case against another defendant, Robert Verrastro, who apparently suffered a heart attack during jury selection April 3, has been severed for separate action later.

The Nassau District Attorney's office did not contest a motion by defense attorney John Sutter to drop the counts against Zimmerman and Frappolo at the end of the prosecution's case on Monday. Judge Henderson W. Morrison also cleared Franzese, despite the prosecution's objection.

Still on trial, on a reduced charge of attempted grand larceny, are Albert F. Straus, of 57 Spruce Ave., Floral Park; Oscar L. Teitelbaum, of Ozone Park, Queens, and John R. Verrastro, of Bellerose, Queens.

Officers of the Nassau Police Department's criminal intelligence bureau had alleged that the seven men conspired to extort \$1,500 from Anthony Morano, Michael Franzese's partner in the MBE Auto Leasing Co., West Hempstead, and that they physically abused him. The seven was arrested at the firm Jan. 24, 1974. Morano also was threatened with maiming and death, according to the indictments. The defense charged that the arrests were harassment of Michael Franzese because of his efforts, subsequently unsuccessful, to obtain a new trial for his stepfather, who is serving a 50-year prison sentence for bank robbery conspiracy.

Trial summations ended yesterday, and Morrison was to give his instructions to the jury this morning.