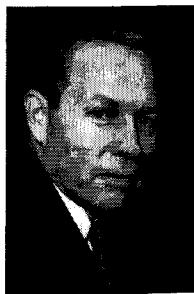


cides. Such committees, from the National Research Council for example, have been of great value in some of our most difficult problems. We have had no part in choosing the membership of these committees. They have been selected by the NRC, but our administrative actions have repeatedly been guided by their scientific conclusions. We believe that an independent scientific group is better for this advisory work, than a scientific arbitration committee.

Research Needed to Reduce Unit Costs

J. Earl Coke

Assistant Secretary
U. S. Department of
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MANY OF US in the Department of Agriculture are giving much thought these days to developing an improved farm program. Secretary Benson has asked the farm people for their opinions on the question.

This does not mean that we are scrapping existing farm programs. But there are some programs which need to be altered or eliminated to do the job for which they were intended. There are three basic long range needs of American agriculture: to reduce costs of farm operations and farm products, to improve the quality of the farm products, and to expand agricultural markets at home and overseas. The only sound approach to these problems is thorough research and education. Secretary Benson has stated: "Inefficiency should not be subsidized in agriculture or in any other segment of our economy."

Sometimes people ask if we need to expand research when we already have surpluses in several commodities. My answer is yes. We want to give farmers all the help we can to help them produce efficiently. This is the surest way to cut the costs of production.

In less than one generation agricultural chemicals have become a vital production necessity on American farms. In looking ahead to the next 20 years, our greatest concern should be that we have enough foods, fibers, and other farm products.

Every new product that helps to reduce the heavy toll of insects or pushes back the weeds or brush which threaten to take over millions of acres of cropland is a major contribution to meet the challenge of the next 20 years. A population of close to 200 million will make it imperative that we increase efficiency in

production and take better care of what we produce.

Safety Is Basic Consideration

R. O. White

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ONE OF THE PURPOSES of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act is the protection of the public through sound labeling requirements. Fundamentally the law requires that a product should be labeled so that the user will know what he is using and how to use it safely and effectively.

Safety to man and useful animals is the basic consideration in the use of pesticides. The data required to evaluate a chemical from the standpoint of safety will vary with the end use of the product. There are three general categories of such end use: field or garden use on nonfood crops, household or interior use, use on food crops.

In the first two categories the primary evaluation is operator hazard. This involves determining of degree of danger from skin absorption and inhalation.

Poisons to be used on food crops are also subject to stringent examination for the protection of the user, and in addition must be checked for possible detrimental effects if residues are left on the food.

Closely related to the subject of hazards involved in the use of pesticides is the problem of adequate precautionary labeling. This matter is complicated for such labeling must be clear brief, and yet informative enough to guard the ultimate user. In considering labeling the ultimate user must be kept in mind. From a regulatory standpoint we must recognize that the unrestricted distribution of a product will probably place it in the hands of those quite unfamiliar with chemicals and the hazards of their use. Precautionary labeling must be aimed at advising this group.

Another problem which has developed rather rapidly since last Spring has been that of insecticide-fertilizer mixtures. The addition of the insecticide makes the product subject to registration and other provisions of the Federal Economic Poisons Act. The labeling requirements for these mixtures are, in general, the same as for other economic poisons.

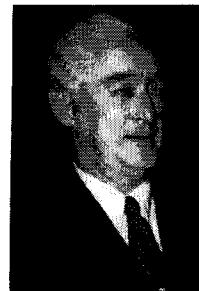
Regulations for the re-registration of pesticides at the end of the initial five-year period were published last December. The process of re-registration has begun and it appears to be progressing

without any major difficulties. There is one point which might be emphasized. If a product has been discontinued from manufacture, but if there are stocks on hand which might enter into interstate commerce, the registration of that product should be continued as long as there is any chance of the interstate movement.

Trade Association Excellent Example of Cooperation

Joseph F. Battley

President, National Paint, Varnish, and Lacquer Association
Washington, D. C.



MANY OF OUR NATIONAL trade associations are excellent examples of the cooperative efforts which are characteristic of so many segments of American life. They not only promote the best interests of an industry through better understanding of mutual problems among the members of that industry, but they also demonstrate how industries, through their trade associations, can cooperate with government agencies for the welfare of both.

Your association and the National Paint, Varnish, and Lacquer Association have common objectives: the promotion of the best interests of its members by creating favorable public acceptance, protection against unfair or discriminatory governmental action, maintenance of standards of products and ethics, and the expansion of markets.

The National Paint, Varnish, and Lacquer Association has what is considered by public relations experts a well-balanced and effective public information program embracing publicity, promotion, and public relations. We are now conducting a comprehensive program to educate users of paints in the problems caused by excessive moisture in homes. For this, we have prepared two traveling exhibits for showing at state fairs, home shows, and other large meetings throughout the country. A slide presentation has also been prepared for showing before builders, financial groups, and others in the industry. In addition, we have a color motion picture and two booklets on this subject.

In routine activities, the public information division works through many different channels, providing a short-item or filler service and "how to" information for householders. Material is especially prepared for specific audiences, for schools and colleges, extension workers, and women's clubs.