

## Progress in Science and the Law

THE MILLER PESTICIDE RESIDUE AMENDMENT (H.R. 7125, now Public Law 518) was signed by President Eisenhower nearly two months ago. A great deal has been said about this law and the situations to which it pertains. But there are some aspects, in addition to the strictly legal, which deserve emphasis.

This law appears to be a strong step forward. Doubtless, many feel that it is less than perfect. But perfect law still is a goal for the future. The Miller bill is a bit of progress. It represents more than just that. It is a result of hard work, of planning, and of cooperation in an atmosphere where agreement may have been less than perfect.

In the development of this bill, decisions had to be faced even though procrastination would have been easier; agreements had to be reached, even though ego or special interests suggested that fights would be more palatable. Something has been accomplished.

The new law makes two fundamental changes from that which existed. Both changes are designed to simplify and speed up the establishment of safe tolerances for pesticide chemical residues on raw agricultural commodities. Agricultural functions are assigned to the Secretary of Agriculture and health functions are assigned to the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The new law emphasizes informal procedures, specifically designed to facilitate action, and gives scientists a stronger role. Formal legal hearings will be utilized as a last resort. Thus the scientific aspects of the regulations will depend on the judgment of scientists while the lawyers carry the legal end of the action. This is a desirable approach to the problems of science and the law.

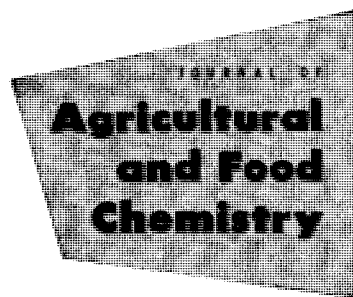
The next phase in the move for improvement through the Miller bill will be its application. Last week in comments before the National Agricultural Chemicals Association, Lea Hitchner, executive secretary of the group, said "The passage of the law in itself solves nothing. The value of any legislation depends upon the intelligent administration and the cooperation of those regulating it." He continued: "The present legislation, however, with the unanimous support and cooperation of all interested groups, and particularly the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, we believe has an excellent chance of becoming an effective instrument in protecting the public health and making possible production and safe use of pesticides."

At the same meeting where Mr. Hitchner's statement was made representatives of the USDA and the FDA spoke in support of the bill.

The bill was developed with the cooperation of government and industry. It was a successful and productive cooperation. We hope that such an attitude will continue. All of the groups mentioned above have an obligation to support the application of the Miller bill. It can mean progress for the pesticides industry.

## Research and Commercial Development

LAST SUNDAY NIGHT at the AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY meeting, the Chemical Marketing and Economics Division of the AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY and the Commercial Chemical Development Association held a dinner, before which Joseph G. Davidson of the Carbide and Carbon Chemical Company presented some interesting history and projections on the importance of



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commercial chemical development. Among the things he predicted were the virtual replacement of natural rubber by the synthetic product within ten years and very important developments for synthetic materials in the food industry.

Later in the meeting Byron T. Shaw of the Agricultural Research Service of the USDA told the luncheon meeting of the Division of Agricultural and Food Chemistry that, given the proper research support, we can expect our agriculture to begin wearing a new look in the next dozen years or so. Dr. Shaw said that he believed this new look is likely to be as great a change from the present as the present is from the agriculture of a generation ago. Research, he said, will be the catalyst. He suggested such important changes as the redesigning of cattle as a result of present breeding experiments. Other comparable developments were either mentioned or implied.

Research, such as Dr. Shaw emphasized, and commercial development, as pictured by Dr. Davidson, are factors important to the chemical industry in recent years, which, going hand in hand have worked changes that are almost sensational in review. The future of agriculture and the food industry are intimately connected and it can be seen that this combination of research and commercial product development holds possibilities for the next decade which are much greater than anything we have seen in a comparable period in the past. To select a striking example, look to the history of antibiotics, which only seven years ago were considered exclusively medicinal products. Today we hear opinions that the future of antibiotics may lie as much as 90% in nonpharmaceutical uses.

The food industry can look back on such developments as the frozen juices to see the speed with which new products can be developed to replace those which were the standard accepted forms of only a few years ago. To look further at discussions from the ACS meeting, we see in the research on odor and flavor a considerable attack on a tough problem which may lead to extremely important knowledge in the next few years with a very great influence of food development following.

The new Miller pesticides residue bill can be expected to give more order to one of the important relationships in the agricultural chemicals-food picture. It is encouraging to research and to the sound commercial development of good pesticide materials.

Research will be the catalyst for rapid change in the agriculture and food picture in the next ten years, but commercial development must follow vigorously in a sound fashion if the research is to achieve the results which are possible. Those whose future has a stake in the chemicalization of agriculture would do well by studying the interesting story told by Dr. Davidson. Commercial development has an important place in the future of those industries leading to production of better food products.