public has become concerned over the possible public health hazard problems that might be associated with the use of insecticides and pesticides in general. Despite the assurances of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, the U. S. Public Health Service, and the National Research Council that these hazards are potential, not real, and that there is no cause for alarm, there are individuals who insist that the use of pesticides is wholly unjustifiable. Skeptics may do well to recall that in 1948 Dr. Paul Miller was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine in recognition of his work in demonstrating the importance and value of DDT insecticides in the field of hygiene and preventive medicine.

Commissioner Paul B. Dunbar, in the annual report of the Food and Drug Administration for 1947 (page 502), said: "The wastage of food consumed or defiled by rodents and insects during the period when millions of people throughout the world are hungry is tragic and inexcusable."

Some point to the surplus corn, wheat, dairy products, and other commodities held by USDA as evidence of overproduction. But we need only to point out that modern technology has doubled or trebled production in the last 100 years, whereas the current surpluses represent a small fraction of our annual production. The more fanatical of our critics go so far as to say that all use of chemicals is wrong and that we should let nature take its course. The American Indian followed such a course for centuries, and found that under this policy the North American continent supported a population of about 1,000,000 souls. We now have a population in excess of 170,000,000 in the United States alone.

There seems to be little question but that insects will continue to demand tribute of enormous proportions which will have to be paid in terms of insect damage, pain, and suffering, or expenditures for insect control. Man may, through judicious expenditures for research and practical insect control measures, reduce or minimize the tribute to be paid, but he can never eliminate it entirely.

In this connection, it should again be noted that entomology is not static. Insects, as highly versatile living organisms, are constantly changing to meet each change in the environment, whether it be biological, physical, or chemical. Therefore, if we are to hold our own in this continuing battle, research must continue undiminished; and if we are to make progress, research must be expanded.

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