

## Joint Task Force to Investigate Eutrophication

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall and representatives of the soap and detergent industry recently announced their establishment of a joint task force to make recommendations on a cooperative program to research the problem of controlling eutrophication (overfertilization) of lakes, including the role of phosphates and any possible replacements.

The task force resulted from a Monday meeting, the first in a Department of the Interior series of meetings with many industries to set up a cooperative government-industry program to investigate solutions to the complex and incompletely understood water quality problem known as eutrophication.

Eutrophication is the excessive fertilization of algae and other aquatic plants with nutrients, principally phosphates—a common element found in municipal sewage, human waste, agricultural fertilizers and industrial discharges—and nitrates.

The aquatic plants increase as man's activities add more nutrients and die. Organic deposits pile up on the lake bottom, and the lake becomes smaller, shallower, warmer and organic decay depletes the supply of oxygen. In time the lake becomes a marsh and eventually disappears. The most serious example of eutrophication in the United States is Lake Erie, where much of the oxygen has disappeared and aquatic plants are filling the Lake.

Many industries are being enlisted by the Department of the Interior to aid in the solution of the problem—fertilizer, chemical, and phosphate producers, agriculture and other industries which discharge wastes containing phosphates and nitrates.

The Department of the Interior began its program of cooperation with these industries to solve eutrophication by meeting with the soap and detergent industry, which Secretary Udall said "has demonstrated a responsible attitude toward the public interest in clean water."

The task force established by the Department of the Interior and executives of five major detergent manufacturers and the Soap and Detergent Association will recommend a broad-gauge program of research which may be initiated by government and industry. The industry representatives stated their considered opinion that the likelihood of finding a practical solution to eutrophication is greatest if an over-all research approach to the problem of eutrophication is pursued.

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## Four Corners . . .

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During the symposium the following papers were presented:

G. Clément (Science Faculty of Dijon University), *Animal Fats in Human Alimentation*.

L. Travia (Alimentation Science Department of Rome University), *Nutritive and Alimentary Importance of Fats*.

A. Montefredine (President of Italian Oil Chemists' Society), *Swine Fats in Gastronomy*.

B. Ostric-Matijasevic (Yugoslav Institute of Meat Technology, Beograd), *Animal Fat Utilization in Other Industries*.

E. R. Guillaumin (ITERG, Jean Ripert Laboratory, Paris), *Particular Problems in Animal Fat Refining*.

A. Uzzan (ITERG, Paris), *Actual and Potential Utilizations of Animal Fats*.

G. Giolitti (Institute of the Inspection of Animal Origin Foods, Milan University), *Fat Transformation During Sausage Products Curing Period*.

G. B. Martinenghi (Fellow member of Milan University), *Trade Terminology, Characteristics and Requisite Properties of Swine Fats*.

A. Paleni (Fellow member of Bologna University), *Micronic Filtration and Adsorption in Fat Purification*.

B. Doro (Director of the Provincial Chemical Laboratory, Trieste), *Gaschromatographic Researches on Pork Fat-Derived Lard*.

## Pilot Plant for Fat Refining

The National Center for Lipochemistry of the National Research Council is located by the Experimental Station for Fat and Oil Industries in Milan.

In the course of 1966 the Center acquired a pilot plant projected by the technicians of the Center and of the Experimental Station, suited for studies on the various steps involved in batch chemical refining of an oil or a fat.

The stainless steel equipment comprises: neutralizers, washers, settling tanks, reactor for olefin removal, vacuum decolorizer, deodorizer, in addition to filters, pumps, collecting tanks, etc.

The machinery has been already intensively tested in the course of the year and it has been used for several refining tests on different olive oil types, sunflower, colza, palm oils and other ones. A particular application of the pilot plant was that for the study on elaidinic acid formation during olive oil refining.

The installation is particularly fit for investigating, under conditions analogous to industrial ones, whether an oil is or is not refinable by chemical way, in what measure and with what results; it is also possible, through the tests run, to trace back operating costs.

The plant is put at disposal of those industries desirous to inspect chemical refining procedures, or particular products to be refined.

## Inauguration of the New Westfalia Separator Italiana Building

The new seat of Westfalia Separator Italiana was dedicated in Milan on March 18, 1967.

The building has been designed and constructed with a view to expanded prospects of the German Company, with increased sales of the centrifuges and better service for customers.

The welcome to the guests was given by the General Manager of Westfalia, Otto Mueller Habig and by the Director of Westfalia Italiana, Rolf Engelmeier.

The story has been delineated of Westfalia Separator AG, started in 1893 with the manufacture of the first skimming machine and developed during the past 50 years under the guidance of Werner Habig up to its present stage.

In the oil production field the Westfalia centrifugal separators are among the most widely used. Westfalia Separator Italiana was founded in 1958.

The inauguration ribbon was cut by Mrs. Margot Mueller-Habig. After a visit to the new edifice, a luncheon was offered to the guests by Westfalia Separator.

## New Industrial Plant of "Olearia Tirrena"

A new industrial plant of Olearia Tirrena was inaugurated at Aprilia (Latina, Italy) on June 14, 1967.

The plant is located in the neighborhood of Aprilia; capital stock: 1 billion, 45 millions Lire, with ownership one third, Società Rumianca, and two thirds, Dr. Giorgio and Oliviero Coreos.

The installations among the largest and most up-to-date in Europe, cover an area of over 110,000 square meters. Their production potential attains 300,000 kos. seed oil/day, equal to one fourth of the entire seed oil production in Italy.

All operations are fully automated and performed under technical and scientific control through the utilization of electronic apparatus.