

Lake Placid Short Course Draws Good Attendance

metasilicates to the much milder "liquid" silicates. He pointed out that with the unavoidable decrease and eventual total elimination of phosphate content from all kinds of detergents, new effective detergent builder systems are urgently needed. The soluble silicates are uniquely suited by themselves or in combination with other materials to take over this function. He presented evidence that these soluble silicates, particularly in combination with carbonates, can be used very successfully in detergent systems providing good alkalinity, sequestration and soil removal, and corrosion inhibition. Peter Stensby, Ciba-Geigy Corp., predicted changes to be expected in optical whitener requirements in the 70's. These changes would be the consequence of changes in technology, changes in ecology and toxicology which will force the laundry manufacturers into various reformulations. These reformulations will have an impact on whitener requirements. In addition to this, fashions will undoubtedly undergo change before this decade is over and he predicted the return of the white shirt.

Safety and Environment Session Highlights the Meeting

The Wednesday morning session on Safety and the Environment lived up to Short Course Chairman Larry Garrison's prediction of being controversial. A number of major companies sent special representatives to cover this session. The session was chaired by Eric Jungermann, Armour-Dial, Inc., who pointed out the extreme timeliness of this meeting, since it coincided with the FTC hearings on phosphate detergents held in Washington that day. In his introductory remarks, he stated that the present decade certainly has introduced a host of new topics, even a new vocabulary, to the public and to industry. There exists now a high level of concern for product safety, ecological and environmental questions, truth in packaging, truth in labeling and truth in advertising.

The first speaker, O.E. Fancher, Industrial Bio-Test Laboratories, discussed new regulations and safety testing for consumer protection. He pointed out that the public is more gravely concerned today than ever before with the real or imagined hazards that might be associated with voluntary or involuntary exposure to chemicals in the form of drugs, cosmetics, consumer products, food and water residues, and environmental contaminants. He reviewed present regulations for safety evaluations and indicated trends towards more stringent and more comprehensive controls which are certain to be defined in the future. He was followed by Jim Williams of Armour-Dial, Inc., who presented a talk on the safety of phosphate and nonphosphate heavy duty laundry detergents. He classified nonphosphate detergents into two types: Type 1 use a combination of liquid silicates and carbonates; Type 2 nonphosphate detergents using carbonates and metasilicates. Williams' study contained an extensive comparison of a Type 1 nonphosphate detergent with many of the major brands of phosphate detergents now on the market. Tests included oral toxicity, skin irritation, eye irritation, using several species of animals and human use tests. Altogether, nine different tests carried out by three different testing laboratories were reported. Data presented indicated that Type 1 nonphosphate detergents had similar safety characteristics to leading phosphate detergents and that they should therefore be treated from a safety and labeling point of view in a similar fashion.

The question period following this paper proved lively beyond expectations. Leading manufacturers challenged the Williams data, comparing it with work done in their own laboratories. A spokesman for Procter & Gamble,



Stopping to chat during the coffee break are, from left: General chairman Larry Garrison; J. Fred Gerecht, Colgate-Palmolive Co.; Mrs. Eva Jungermann and Eric Jungermann, Armour-Dial.

who just happened to have slides with him, insisted on showing them, setting a new precedent in AOCS procedures. It was unfortunate that the P&G spokesman had not submitted the paper for a more formal and detailed presentation which would have been more instructive and less disruptive.

It is interesting to note (ed.) that another spokesman for Procter & Gamble, T.F. Waters, Director of Professional and Regulatory Services, submitted similar testimony at the Federal Trade Commission hearing on the very same date in Washington, D.C., and under questioning by the Commission, admitted that the tests carried out and presented by Armour-Dial at the AOCS meeting at Lake Placid were "based on test methods and procedures described and used by the Food and Drug Administration under their Food and Hazard Act."

The final paper of the meeting was presented by L.E. Kuentzel, BASF Wyandotte, who reported the state of the art in the phosphorus versus carbon controversy in eutrophication. His very extensive literature survey suggested that biological oxygen demand (BOD) is a major factor in causing massive algal blooms and should be included in programs designed to control such growth.

It is hoped that many of the attendees at the meeting who were not members of the American Oil Chemists' Society had found the Short Course of sufficient interest to become members of this Society. Special favorable terms were made available to those interested in joining. Further details of this successful meeting will be presented in the next issue.



Participating in the Monday evening session were, from left: Jim Trowbridge and R.B. Wearn, chairman, Colgate-Palmolive; T.B. Albin, Shell Development Co.; and R.M. Kelly, also from Colgate-Palmolive.