

from Washington



A report on soy protein isolate by a committee of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology will not affect FDA actions on soy protein for the present, *Food Chemicals News* said in its April 24, 1978, edition. The report had called for further studies about the presence of low levels of lysinoalanine and of up to 50 parts per million of nitrite in some soy isolate samples. Soy protein isolate will remain in GRAS (generally recognized as safe) status pending on final report from FASEB and evaluation of that report.

The Manufacturing Chemists Association announced in late March that it has contracted for a literature search on butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT). FDA has proposed moving BHT from the generally accepted as safe (GRAS) category until more tests on its safety in man have been conducted. The literature search is expected to help decide what questions are still unanswered. Research and tests to seek answers to those questions would follow. *Food Chemical News* said in April that the firms sponsoring the study are Ashland Chemical Company, Dart Industries Inc., Koppers Company, Inc., Shelly Chemical Co., and Uniroyal Chemical Co.

Action is expected early this summer on a proposal by the International Trade Commission to convert current specific and compound rates of duty to ad valorem rates. The action was proposed to compensate for price rises attributable to inflation. Hearings were held in late April, and the ITC report to the President's Special Representative for Trade Negotiations was due by June 1. Oilseeds and oils are included as TSUS (Tariff Schedules of the United States) items No. 175 through 178. Copies of the schedule may be ordered by telephone ordering service (202-523-5178). Conversions from specific and compound rates to ad valorem rates were based usually on the 1976 rates, but figures back to 1973 were examined.

Food Chemicals News reported in its April 10, 1978, edition that the Select Committee on Generally Recognized as Safe Substances has said that monomeric and polymeric methyl and ethyl acrylates and sodium oleate and palmitate are safe when used as ingredients of paper and paperboard food packaging as they are now or as they might reasonably be used in the future.

USDA researcher Kay M. Behall said a study on high fiber diets showed that serum levels of triglycerides, free fatty acids, cholesterol, glucose, lactate, insulin, and other compounds were not significantly affected by increasing the fiber content of diet. The summary of her findings was in *Food Chemical News* of April 17, 1978. The USDA meanwhile reported on research by Dr. Juan M. Munoz, a medical officer on USDA's staff, who reported at the same meeting that eating some experimental high fiber diets lowered the blood serum cholesterol levels of male volunteers by 12 to 17%. The experiments were conducted at the USDA Human Nutritional Laboratory in Grand Forks, ND, the announcement from the USDA said.

During a Senate appropriations subcommittee hearing, FDA Commissioner Donald Kennedy said he believes the agency will seek authority to require complete order or predominance labeling on all foods, including standardized

foods, and authority to require nutritional labeling whenever it would be useful, not just on medical or special dietary foods. *Food Chemical News* of April 17, 1978, included a report on the hearing.

The Center for Science in the Public Interest has urged the FDA to require sugar and fat labeling of foods based on a percentage-of-calories concept, rather than as a percentage of weight. Thus hot dogs would indicate "80% of calories from fat" and milk would show 50% of calories from fat. *Food Chemical News* described CSPI's report in its April 17 edition.

The Environmental Protection Agency has published its Addendum III for its candidate list of chemical substances, part of the process in compiling its inventory of chemical substances manufactured, processed, or imported for commercial purposes. The publication covers primarily substances whose compositions cannot be represented by a definite chemical structure diagram. Included in the report are substances from natural fats and oils and synthetic long chain alkyl substitutes, used extensively in the soap and detergent industry. The alternate procedure for identification and reporting was developed by The Soap and Detergent Association with the EPA. Also included are tall oil, and tall oil fatty acids, salts, natural oils and extractives (developed in conjunction with the Essential Oils Association), and selected polymers, including many incorporating soybean, castor, coconut, safflower, linseed, cottonseed, and other oils. The document is available from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Toxic Substances, Washington, DC 20460. Full title of the report is "Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) PL 94-469, Candidate List of Chemical Substances, Addendum III Chemical Substances of Unknown or Variable Composition, Complex Reaction Products and Biological Materials." ●

Committee Spotlights

Monograph Committee

The Monograph Committee is composed of nine members spread across the United States representing industry, government, and academic environments. Our purpose is to promote the publication of monographs in areas that are of interest to our AOCs members. The committee consists of T.H. Smouse, chairman, and the following members: R.R. Allen, T.A. Foglia, R.T. Holman, E.G. Perkins, W.H. Tallent, N.O.V. Sonntag, L.A. Witting, and R. Wood.

The first monograph the society published was "Tumor Lipids," edited by Randall Wood in 1973. It was such a successful publication, we have followed it with "Analysis of Lipids and Lipoproteins," edited by Ed Perkins, "Glycolipid Methodology," edited by Lloyd Witting, and "Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids," edited by Wolf H. Kunau and Ralph Holman. The last monograph was published in the fall of 1977. All monograph sales have been good, and the expense for publication and promotion of each book has been recurred after several month's sales. At present we have the fifth monograph in preparation with hopes for release during 1978. It will be on the subject of fatty acid chemistry and is being edited by Everett Pryde.

For the first five monographs, none of the editors or contributors has been remunerated in any manner. The assets from each book have been used to help keep our membership fees reduced. However, the committee is presently studying and evaluating several methods for remuneration and hope to present a method to the Executive Board for their approval in the near future.

Our plans for the future are to attempt at least one monograph each year. For material, we hope to cover the recent symposia that are offered at the national AOCS meetings and any short course the society offers which may be published and made available to our entire membership.

From the monographs sold to date, we have found that many sales are outside the society which can only benefit the AOCS by promoting the high caliber of publications the society is noted for in the field of fats and oils.

T.H. Smouse, Chairman

National Program Planning

The National Program Planning Committee serves as a resource to and advisor to local program committees to help arrange balanced and interesting technical programs.

During 1977-78, the committee helped the program committee in St. Louis to develop a comprehensive technical program. The committee already is involved in assisting the San Francisco program committee and expects to begin work with New York committee members.

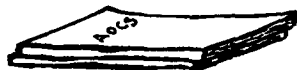
One problem being discussed is how to handle the huge influx of papers submitted for publication immediately following a national meeting. Suggestions as to how to ease the load on the Publications Committee would be appreciated.

The National Program Planning Committee has added one new subcommittee, oilseed protein. Eleven new members have been named to the committee, bringing total membership to 27 among the nine subcommittees. E.R. Lowrey of Procter & Gamble is committee chairman; T.H. Smouse of Ralston Purina is first vice chairman, and R.G. Krishnamurthy of Kraft Co. is second vice chairman. ●

Oilseed Exports

U.S. oilseed and oilseed products exports during October 1977 to January 1978 totaled \$2.6 billion compared to \$2.27 billion for the same period in 1976, according to the USDA's March report on Foreign Agricultural Trade of the United States. Soybean shipments were up 17% with prices averaging \$220 a ton compared to \$250 a ton in the same period a year ago.

U.S. exports of oilseeds during 1977 totaled \$4.8 billion, according to the USDA's March report on foreign agricultural trade. Among the top purchasing nations (with value in millions of dollars) were: Netherlands (\$987), Japan (\$965), Germany (\$484), Spain (\$323), Italy (\$241), Taiwan (\$195), United Kingdom (\$160), Soviet Union (\$159), Canada (\$150), and France (\$147). ●



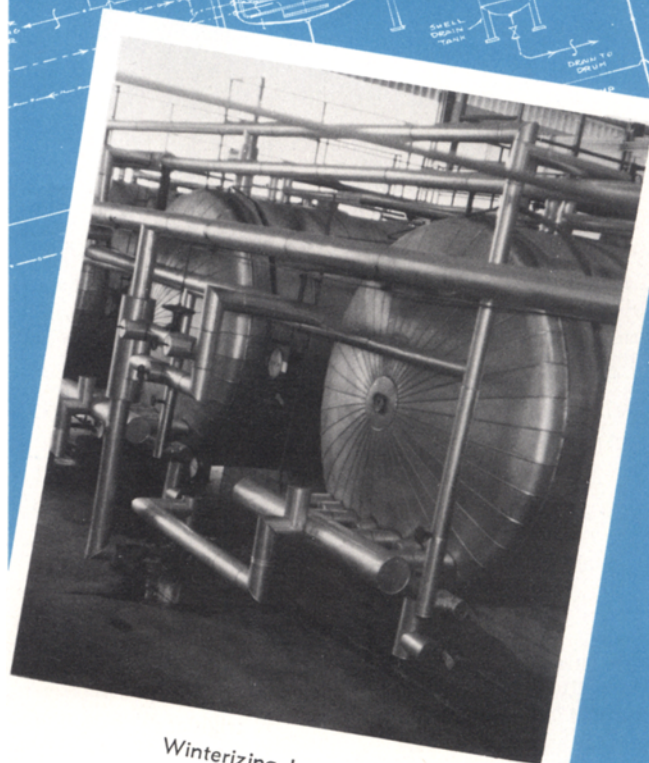
AOCS needs the following back copies of the *Journal of the American Oil Chemists' Society*: Volume 51(1974), July, Volume 52(1975), January, and Volume 53(1976), January; Lipids: Volume 12(1977) January and February.

The Society will pay \$1.50 for each copy received in reusable condition. Send to AOCS, 508 South Sixth Street, Champaign, IL 61820. ●

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