

## 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.