from Washington

The FDA is developing a proposal on if and how the term "cholesterol-free" should be premitted in naming and labeling of food products. The specific petition involved is a proposal to use the phrase "cholesterol-free egg substitutes." In its semi-annual listing of policy-significant regulations, FDA says, "The broad issue of cholesterol labeling needs to be discussed and a policy established. The issue is one that is undergoing considerable study in the bureau. This proposal deals with the use of the term cholesterol-free being used in the name of food products." As noted in February JAOCS, the Federal Trade Commission is in the midst of adopting rules affecting use of the term cholesterol in consumer advertising. The list of FDA policies in formation includes proposals on colors for food, drugs and cosmetics, vegetable food protein labeling requirements, and others. Details: Federal Register, Friday, Jan. 19, 1979, p. 4176.

The Institute of Shortening and Edible Oils has said that FDA proposals to limit use of tocopherols to "good manufacturing practice levels" is not justified, Food Chemicals News reported Feb. 12. The institute said firms should be permitted, after processing, to add tocopherols, natural antioxidants, to the level at which they are normally found in vegetable oils. The problem, the institute said, is that the proposed rules would make adulterations out of any uses other than current good manufacturing practices.

The National Center Institute's Clearinghouse on Environmental Carcinogens has said the antioxidant BHT (butylated hydroxytoluene) was found not carcinogenic in rats and mice, Food Chemical News said. The bioassay report did urge the NCI's Chemical Selection Working Group to consider a re-test of BHT because of indications it may be involved in experimental induction of liver and lung tumors.

The Environmental Protection Agency published on Jan. 10, 1979, its proposed rules on premanufacture notification requirements and review procedures under the Toxic Substances Control Act. Basically the rules require a firm to give EPA 90 days' advance notice of its intention to manufacture or import a new chemical substance. EPA would have the option of prohibiting manufacture if it decides the substance is too dangerous. Items on the EPA chemical substance inventory published the first half of this year are exempt from the "new chemical substance" procedures. Small quantities of new substances for research and development are exempt. Details: Federal Register, Wednesday, Jan. 10, 1979, p. 2242.

On Feb. 16, the federal Environmental Protection Agency published a number of amendments to regulations and proposed rules affecting its hazardous substances programs. Part of the changes were to comply with a court decision that struck down some previous regulations, and to clarify some definitions. The agency also added 28 materials to the list of hazardous substances under the Clean Water Act. The proposed rulemaking affects designation of future hazardous substances. EPA said it is considering "expansion of the selection criteria for hazardous substances to include severe chronic and long-term effects; these would include such factors as carcinogenicity, mutagenicity, teratogenicity, bioaccumulative effects, synergistic and antagonistic chemical effects and radio activity." The EPA also set regulations for what are "reportable quantities" of hazardous substances; they are necessary because a court decision struck down the previous designation of "harmful quantity." Details: Federal Register, Friday, Feb. 16, 1979, Part IV, p. 10265.

The Environmental Protection Agency has approved a tolerance of 0.1 parts per million residue for the herbicide metolachlor in soybeans. The agency also set a residue tolerance of 0.02 parts per million in the meat, fat and meat by-products of cattle, goats, hogs, horses, poultry and sheep. Details: Federal Register, Tuesday, Feb. 20, 1979, p. 10385.

The EPA has approved a residue tolerance of 0.2 parts per million in cottonseed for the insecticide cyano(3-phenoxyphenyl)methyl-4-chloro-*a*-(1-methyletyl)benzeneacetate. A residue tolerance of 0.02 parts per million was established in fat of cattle, goats, hogs, horses and sheep. Details: Federal Register of Wednesday, Jan. 31, 1979, p. 6098.

The EPA has extended a temporary residue tolerance in soybeans of 0.01 parts per million of a herbicide, mefluidide (*N*-2,4-dimethyl-5-[([trifluoromethyl] sulfonyl)amino] phenyl acetamide). The temporary tolerance expires March 30, 1980. Details: Federal Register, Wednesday, Jan. 31, 1979, p. 6198.

The FDA has proposed confirming sodium oleate and sodium palmitate as generally recognized as safe (GRAS) when used as indirect food ingredients (in food packaging material or as a lubricant). Details: Federal Register, Tuesday, Jan. 31, 1979, p. 5905. ●

AOAC Annual Meeting Oct. 15-18

The Association of Official Analytical Chemists (AOAC) will hold its 93rd Annual Meeting Oct. 15-18, 1979, at the Marriot Hotel, Twin Bridges, Washington, DC. Deadline for submitting abstracts for papers is July 6, 1979. All manuscripts must be postmarked by Aug. 31, 1979. The meeting will review current developments in methodology pertaining to agricultural, environmental, and public health areas. For further information, contact Kathleen Forminaya, AOAC, Box 540, Benjamin Franklin Station, Washington, DC 20044. ●

Kraft promotes Applewhite

Former AOCS President Dr. Thomas H. Applewhite has been appointed Director, Research Services, for Kraft Inc. with responsibilities for the firm's Basic Food Science, Nutrition, Microbiology and Product Evaluation laboratories. He had been manager of Kraft's Edible Oil Products Laboratory in the R&D center in Glenview, IL, since 1969.

Dr. Applewhite served as general chairman for the World Conference on Oilseeds and Vegetable Oil Processing Technology in 1976. ●