

# NEWS OF THE INDUSTRY

## Grand Jury Studies Fertilizer Industry

A Federal grand jury is investigating the fertilizer industry for possible antitrust violations, Justice Department officials in Washington have said.

In related news, the continuing price slide of fertilizer stock market stocks is causing some analysts to reexamine the industry's long-term outlook, and there is concern in some quarters that oversupply could appear as early as next year.

It has previously been reported that the grand jury in Chicago was investigating the potash industry. The investigation took on a broader extent when International Minerals & Chemicals Corp. said it has been subpoenaed by the panel to produce documents on the production and marketing of phosphate rock and phosphatic fertilizers. The company

had been asked for similar information of potash earlier. "The government has indicated that it plans to investigate various industries which have had recent significant price increases and it is assumed that this investigation is part of that program," an IMC spokesman told GOLF-DOM.

Analyst Harry M. Flavin of Houston said of the possibility of oversupply in the fertilizer industry: "We suspect we have seen a peaking in product prices for this industry. In our view, the first cracks are clearly evident and the risk of substantial overcapacity is quite real." Flavin recently completed an appraisal for supply and demand factors in the industry.

Other industry experts continue to dispute this view, however. They

do not believe overcapacity is a near-term factor. They say the first area where supply might come into balance with demand is phosphates, in about 12 to 18 months, but they also expect a lot of new ammonia plants that have been announced will not be built or will become operative later than expected.

Flavin expects most ammonia pricing to remain firm this year, but thinks that by the middle of 1976, prices will be discounted appreciably, reflecting substantial additions to capacity. He did not elaborate on how much he thought prices would be lowered.

## 1200 Attend CMAA Meeting; Simmons Chosen President

John R. Simmons, of Tacoma Golf & Country Club, Washington, was chosen new president of the Club Managers Assn. of America at their annual meeting last month in Vancouver.

New vice president is Harry J. Gray, of Exmoor County Club, Highland Park, Ill., and new secretary-treasurer is Joseph Auerbach, of Wichita Country Club, Kansas. More than 1200 managers attended the meeting held at the new Hyatt Regency in Vancouver, and many of the educational sessions will be on cassette tapes later on this year available from the CMAA. Also, plans are now being made for next year's annual meeting to be held Feb. 11-14 at the Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. as part of the bicentennial celebration.

New directors elected to three-year terms were: Whitney Travis, Stock Exchange Luncheon Club, New York; Ray Watts, Houston Club, Texas; Bruce Lloyd, University Club of Los Angeles; Richard Maymes, Oahu Country Club, Honolulu.

Outgoing president Peter D'Angelo of Hampshire Country Club, Manaronek, N.Y. will serve one year on the board of directors, and other directors who still will serve on the board are: George Burton, Oak Ridge Country Club, Hopkins, Minn.; Mead Grady, Milwaukee Country Club; Gene Gilmartin, Cleveland Yachting Club; "Ed" C. E. Mills, Kansas City Club, Mo.; and Richard Worthington, Commerce Club, Atlanta.



National Match Play Champion Bob Brue (second from right) and runner-up Bob Erickson (second from left) receive trophies and checks for \$2,000 and \$1,500 respectively from Victor Golf President Jim Butz (left) and Charles A. Eaton Co. Vice President Wally Phillips. PGA-Victor and Etonic co-sponsored the 1975 Match Play Championship held at Disney World in January.