

## Publisher's Point



figures on pesticides and safety into perspective in an article in *Farm Chemicals*. Barrons, who has written two books and discovered dalapon herbicide, cited data from the National Center for Health Statistics as published in *Vital Statistics of the United States* and National Study of Hospital Admitted Pesticide Poisonings, published by the Environmental Protection Agency.

According to Barrons, "The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has made estimates of the deaths associated with pesticide exposure (accidental plus intentional) by projection from data recorded by representative hospitals.

Deaths have went down from 152 in 1956 to 52 in 1974. Most of the non-occupational deaths involved drinking pesticides stored in unmarked bottles, having storage areas accessible to children or incompetents, grossly careless use of fumigants or poison baits, and allowing children to play around a loaded sprayer where valves could be opened. The EPA estimates that nearly 40 percent of non-occupational hospital admissions were children under five years of age.

### REGULATION

#### Congress now has power to veto new pesticide regs

A bill sponsored by Rep. William C. Wampler (R-Va.), senior Republican on the Agriculture Committee, and Rep. Kika de la Garza (D-Texas), chairman of the House Agriculture subcommittee on department investigations, and passed by the 96th Congress, gives the House and Senate authority to veto any proposed federal controls on pesticides. It also provides formal methods for scientists to evaluate major studies used as a basis for regulation by EPA.

Any new pesticide regulation would have to be referred to Congress for at least 60 days. If neither the house nor any committees took action within that period, the regulation would go into effect. If either adopted a disapproval resolution, the regulation would remain before Congress for an additional 30 days.

Those who were primarily responsible for organizing and implementing last month's International Turfgrass Conference and Show in Anaheim certainly earned kudos - credit for an achievement - in the highest sense of the term. Speaking from the critical eye of past working experience with GCSAA's annual gathering, it was an outstanding conference and show in every respect. Special kudos to the headquarters staff in Lawrence for their efforts and professionalism in carrying to successful conclusion the numerous events and activities that made the 52nd Annual Conference and Show outstanding.

My principle regret after the week in Anaheim was the fact that less than 50 percent of the nation's superintendents attended. Yes, the number of conferees seems to increase each year and new attendance records are set. However, the fact remains that less than 50 percent of the profession is taking the initiative to attend and take advantage of the greatest concentration of useful information and displayed products in the world for the turf maintenance industry. Upon returning to Atlanta, I decided to contact several superintendents and learn why they didn't attend. Here are some of the answers I received.

"I thought you had to be a GCSAA member to attend." I quickly answered with an emphatic no. The association sponsors the conference and show and provides some activities for GCSAA members only, but the educational sessions and exhibits are open to all those who register. The registration fee for non-members is a few dollars higher; but insignificant for what you gain by attending.

"I was really busy and couldn't take the time to go." This is definitely a worn-out excuse. Unless the world is on us, we can make the time and plan ahead to do most anything we want. For those who

continually can't find the time to pursue additional projects and interests, several of the educational sessions in Anaheim would have been of great benefit to you.

"The trip to the West Coast was too expensive. I didn't put it in the budget." There is no doubt that many budgets were tight, but generally money can be found for good purposes. Ideas picked up at a national conference can, and often do, save the course more than it expended to get the superintendent to the conference. Additionally, what is seeing the world's largest turf maintenance trade show worth to you and your course? In my opinion, a great deal.

"I didn't think my boss would approve me going to the conference." This reason was given numerous times. In most cases, when pinned down, the individual never asked; just assumed that the answer would be "no". If developing your skills, professionalism, and personal growth are important to you, don't make negative assumptions when considering opportunities that enhance your development. Several green chairmen told me that they were not aware that their superintendent was eligible to attend or that he wanted to attend. Each in turn, said they would have authorized the trip had they been approached.

Next year after the New Orleans conference and show, I hope that I can report that the majority of the profession was in attendance. Mark January 31-February 5, 1982 on your calendar now and make sure New Orleans is in your budget.

For many of you, there are still regional turf conferences this spring, in your area, which you should plan on attending. These conferences provide outstanding educational programs and in many cases, exhibits. Check the 1981 Golf Business Calendar of Events for the nearest conference to you. . . and no excuses.