**A Clarification**

Elsewhere in this issue spokesmen for regional trade groups discuss the pros and cons of a national association of weed, turf, and tree spraymen. At the Horticultural Spraymen's Association of Florida Convention in Ft. Lauderdale next month (Pier 66 Hotel, November 5-7), delegates will actually establish such an organization, it is reported.

While W&T has stood squarely behind this movement from the beginning, we feel obligated to clarify our position. *Weeds and Turf* feels that a hard-working group of applicators, functioning within the framework of a well-conceived nationwide association, can do the industry immeasurable good.

Advantages, for example, include a national voice for influencing legislation; a coast-to-coast means to improve the industry image; and the opportunity for applicators from all over the country to exchange technical know-how and business insights. A fringe benefit, of course, is the effect such a confederation might have on suppliers, who would better understand the nature and scope of the industry, and thus could cater more adequately to its specific needs.

However, this magazine does not endorse any single alliance to the exclusion of another. In addition to HSAF, societies in Portland, Oregon, and Seattle, Washington, for example, are considering national status. There are also groups in Oklahoma and Texas, and elsewhere in the Midwest. Communications among many of these assemblies were originally initiated by W&T staff members, because we seek only to better serve industrymen everywhere by making them aware of the advantages inherent in a well-managed trade association. Our goal is to disseminate information about various federations which are considering national status. We hope that the several regional divisions will be surpassed, and that all industry representatives will find it possible to fuse their several organizations into a coalition which all will find acceptable.

We have devoted much space to discussions of the need for an action such as that to be undertaken next month in Ft. Lauderdale, and which was discussed last month at the Pesticide Sprayers Association of Portland (Oregon) during a joint meeting with other Northwest groups. We welcome the opportunity to tell our readers about the progress which is being made, so that each can decide for himself the course he wishes to advocate in the establishment of a single convocation which can effectively promote the weed, turf and tree maintenance industry in the US.