THEY'RE CHOPPING THE TREES at Buckingham Palace and Christopher Robin went down with Alice . . . Dutch Elm Disease has invaded the royal courtyard and claimed 11 elms. The elms were part of the palace’s landscaped garden skyline. About 60 trees have been felled in royal parks in London and suburbs. About 1,300 are threatened.

A 4-H WEED PROJECT is one way to get your son or daughter interested in the science of weed control. At the University of California there’s a beginning, intermediate and advanced project in weeds that help youngsters learn about this $5 billion business. The project has two parts. Learn by doing entails collecting, identifying and mounting weed plant specimens. The second part is on ways to control weeds in your garden, lawn or on the farm.

MIDWEST TURFGRASS GROWERS ASSOC. have elected new officers. They are: Don White, Des Moines, Iowa, president; Ed Keeven, O’Fallon, Mo., vice-president; Bill Latta, Kansas City, Mo., secretary-treasurer; Glenn Hyde, Gothenburg, Nebr., director; Paul Whitters, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, director; and Bernard McMurphy, Atlantic, Iowa, director.

HAROLD W. GROTH, 74, has retired as director of the Cleveland Metropolitan Park District. The park, which covers more than 200 miles in and around Cleveland, is recognized throughout the country for its utility to the citizens of Cleveland. Groth is the second director to run the park system. Deputy director O. Dale Graham has been appointed acting director.

REMEMBER THE POEM “Trees” that started “I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree.” The author was Joyce Kilmer and he lived in New Brunswick, N. J. The State now owns the 130 year old Kilmer house. But the N.J. Arborists Association is interested in using the first floor of the house as its state headquarters. So New Brunswick mayor, Patricia Q. Sheehan named Howard B. Voorhees of Livingston vice chairman of the restoration committee. Voorhees has been Arbor Day chairman for the state for the past four years. In fact, the State Arbor Day ceremonies this year are planned for April 28 at the Joyce Kilmer home where one of the whips from the original Kilmer tree will be planted in memorium. The N.J.A.A. will renovate the Kilmer parlor as an office and the adjacent meeting room, formerly used by the American Legion post, will be retained and refurbished. “. . . Poems are made by fools like me, but only God can make a tree.”

EXOTIC FISH may be great in the home tank, but more and more fisheries biologists are concluding that exotics are not the answer to aquatic weed problems. The current culprit is the white amur or grass carp, although at least four other exotics have reeked vengeance in southern coastal and inland waters. Early trials in confinement areas gave indications that the amur would clean up the weeds which choke the lakes and rivers. Almost everyone thought that we had a silk purse by the tail. But data coming out of Missouri and Arkansas would now indicate that the fish is more like a sow’s ear. Evidence suggests that the white amur has told a white lie about its herbaceous habits. It really prefers amphipods (shrimp) better than a salad diet. Who doesn’t? In fact, preliminary data has it that Mr. Amur will eat weeds if weeds are the only choice. All this means that the amur competes with the native gamefish for what some describe as a diminishing food supply. The situation may well be already out of hand. It was reported at a recent national weed society meeting that white amur fingerlings are readily available through a midsouth fish magazine.

And remember the white amur that was found in an Illinois river? One biologist estimates that the fish is already in 40 states. Texas has banned importations of the species. How do we get rid of the problem? No one knows, yet. Maybe there is a weed like the Venus fly trap that likes white amur.

LOOKING FOR A PROTEIN DIET —try leaves. Agricultural engineers at the University of Wisconsin have developed a way to get protein from fresh-cut vegetation. It’s called “wet fractionation.” They’ve found that the squezein’s from foliage can be used as a source of protein. Farmers are already doing it with alfalfa. In tropical areas already-present foliage could be used rather than crop foliage. Makes good feed for cows and with a little American ingenuity it could make an even better steak.

SPEAKING OF INGENUITY, people in California participating in the food stamp welfare program have put a modern touch to the old cat and rat story. Iowa Congressman H. R. Gross has discovered the con game. These people are actually making a profit while eating for nothing, he reports. For a half-dollar a person can buy $28 worth of food stamps. Now for the kicker! The clever ones buy exactly $27.51 worth of groceries and receive 49 cents in change. This is the maximum change they can receive on any purchase. By adding one cent to the change, they have enough to buy next week’s quota of stamps. In a month a person can buy $112 worth of stamps for 53 cents. Some people sell the stamps they don’t need and actually make a profit.