

Guest Editorial

By JOE SNOOK
Riverbend Country Club

One by one, our pesticides are being confiscated by a bureaucratic system which seemingly feels that we should all suffer because of the misuse by a small number of applicators.

Why are our elected officials and government employees not following their guidelines and existing laws? (The Florida Department of Agriculture recommended the excessive rates of EDB as a buffer treatment in citrus groves — more than 10 times the highest rate indicated on the label!) Golf course superintendents were advised during pesticide licensing of a fine of \$25,000 and a prison term of up to one year for knowingly misusing a pesticide.

The headline in local newspaper, as some of you may have already seen, stated "EDB Ban Is a Mistake". Quoting from that article, "We are concerned that the decision to ban EDB is based on the momentum of hysteria and is not scientifically based" said Dr. Elisabeth Whelen, Director of the American Council on Science and Health. Dr. Milton Ovyne, National Coordinator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture said that he believes banning EDB was imprudent. He stated, "EDB isn't even in the same league with cigarettes"!

If enough pressure is exerted by the Florida G.C.S.A. and G.C.S.A.A. along with an edict for a change of the political boondoggling we have grown accustomed to, perhaps we can retain and have returned to us that which is rightfully ours. I have advised my representatives, both state and federal, of my feelings concerning total banning of pesticides without total regard of all segments affected. The next time you receive a questionnaire from your congressman, please take the time to express our concern on this matter. Hopefully, we can put an end to the massacre of our valued chemicals.■