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We wish to thank Dennis Willms, Superintendent of West Bend Country Club, not only for hosting the March meeting, but initiating it. It is so important that we get together and discuss topics which we all are interested in. I, for one, hope that the March meeting will be a permanent addition to our meeting schedule. The moderator for this meeting was Jim Latham. Input was good. Everyone participated and that was the key to it's success.

* * * * *

There is a Bill in our State Legislature concerning the banning of Phenoxy Herbicides. I will attempt to follow our organizations action from the time of us learning about it to press time.

The Bill, 347, was introduced by Representative Mittenness on Feb. 13, 1975. The Bill reads as follows:

This bill prohibits the use of phenoxy herbicides for herbicidal purposes. Included in this prohibition are compounds commonly known as 2,4-D; 2,4,5-T; 2,4,5-TP; MCPA; and 2,4-DB. The penalty provisions in section 94.71 (1)



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of the statutes apply to violations, namely, a fine of \$100 to \$200 or not more than 30 days' imprisonment or both for the first offense and for any subsequent violation within 5 years, a fine of not less than \$200 nor more than \$500, or imprisonment not less than 30 days nor more than 90 days, or both.

On March 12, Ham Hanneman introduced a motion that the Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association draft and deliver a letter to the open hearing, held March 19th and 20th opposing Bill 347. Motion was carried unanimously.

Al Vrana, President, named a committee, made up of the following members: Bill Eckert - Chairman Environment Committee, Al Vrana, Monroe Miller, Randy Smith, Jack Soderberg, Bill Brazeau and Ron Verhaalen.

On March 14, this committee met and drew up testimony in favor of the phenoxy herbicides. This testimony was presented on

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March 19, 1975, at the hearing in Madison for Bill 347.
The speaker for the committee was Bill Eckert.

Bill brought out the fact that this committee represented over 300 golf courses and hundreds of thousands of golfers. He pointed out that there were no alternatives to weed control. Also included in the testimony, the committee outlined several characteristics related to phenoxy herbicides dealing with weed control programs on golf courses. They are as follows:

1. Effectiveness. Phenoxy herbicides are effective in selectively controlling broadleaf weeds in established turfgrass stands. This selectivity permits control of broadleaf weeds at rates many orders of magnitude below levels toxic to desirable grasses.

2. Safety. Phenoxy herbicides are readily broken down following application. Control is accomplished at low volumes. They present low toxicity to applicators, golfers, and other organisms in the environment.

3. Cost. Alternatives to phenoxy herbicides, whether mechanical or chemical, are either prohibitively expensive or much more hazardous to use.

Bill also commented on golf courses being an important part of Wisconsin's Tourist and Recreation Industry and this appeals to people from outside our state. The testimony stated that this proposed ban would place Wisconsin's Golf Courses at a distinct disadvantage in terms

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of golfing conditions compared to the courses in neighboring states.

The testimony also pointed out the strong professional ability of the golf course superintendent, reassuring the committee that these herbicides were being used by very capable and well trained individuals.

Bill Brazeau also presented testimony representing the Westmoor Country Club. We all know that Bill Brazeau is as good a public relations person as you could find and his presentation was as we would expect, excellent.

Many members contacted their local representatives, wrote letters, contacted organizations and individuals in an effort to fight this Bill.

I could not begin to list everyone. There is one thing that you all can be assured of, this is a strong association dedicated to each others needs and the profession.

Danny H. Quast,
Editor

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