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Letters to the Editor:

The response to articles and issues printed in the Grass Roots is most gratifying. The first letter is from Mr. Alexander Radko, National Director of U.S.G.A. Greens Section.

Mr. Radko visited my course while I was in Troy, Ohio, and I met him on numerous occasions while in school. He has dedicated his whole life to the betterment of Golf Turf. He is respected by all who know him. His ideas and views are most welcomed.

The second letter is from Dr. Gayle Worf, Plant Pathologist with the University of Wisconsin. His letter deals with the status of mercury. I'm sure we all appreciate the attention Dr. Worf has given to our Profession and we appreciate so much his effort when it comes to helping us with our Disease Problems.

Dear Dan:

Carl recently forwarded a copy of the March '76 issue of the Wisconsin GCSA publication "Grass Roots". I was

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very much pleased to see your comments about the Green Section. We, like you, have worked diligently over the years for golf turfgrass betterment and we are pleased to say that we truly enjoy our great rapport with golf course superintendents throughout the country. It is always a pleasure to visit, to exchange views, and to just have "a good old brainstorming session" with superintendent groups whether on their golf course, at local meetings, at the national meetings, or just anywhere.

By way of comment which may be of interest to your readers, the Green Section is the oldest organization established for the purpose of golf turfgrass improvement. Established in 1920 by USGA executive action as follows:

"RESOLVED, That a Green Section of the United States Golf Association be and is hereby created for the purpose of collecting and distributing...information of value respecting the proper maintenance and upkeep of golf courses.

That purpose has remained constant throughout the succeeding years. The Green Section has developed many grasses, materials and methods now in standard

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use. It has greatly raised the level of golf course conditions and, according to one outside source, has saved America's courses many times all the money paid for USGA dues in history. The Green Section was the pioneer and still is a chief authority."

We look forward to the pleasure of making new friends at all times and would welcome the chance to visit with your group sometime when in the midwest area.

Sincerely,
Al Radko

Dear Dan:

On Monday of last week I called the EPA, Washington, D.C., to obtain further clarification of the announced ban on the use of virtually all fungicides containing mercury in the United States. My principal interest, of course, was confirmation of the news releases which reported loss of such materials in turf disease control, one of the areas where pending loss had been seriously contested.

I am writing you, Dan, since you may be able to share the information with colleagues through the Association's newsletter.

Dr. Eugene Wilson with the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs, Washington, D.C., confirmed that Administrator Train has formally ruled that only three very minor uses for mercury-containing fungicides will remain after presently manufactured supplies have been used up. One is

for brown stain disease control in the lumber industry of the west coast; another is for the use of PMA in the manufacture of certain awnings and tarps for outdoor use; the third, curiously enough, is for "Freir's Dutch Elm Disease Arrester" which has been registered for years, but the use of which is not condoned by any shade tree researchers. The rationale for permitting the latter is that (1) the minute quantity of mercury used is injected within the tree where environmental contact is almost non-existent; (2) there may be some benefit in isolated instances; and (3) the legitimacy of such use must be determined by October, 1977, anyway which is the date that all other pesticides must have passed re-examination and be classified as to restricted or general use category.

When asked if the Administrator's ruling was binding and final, Dr. Wilson indicated that the route of appeal through the courts is still open. It is his

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opinion that the decision will not be reversed, however.

I am personally disappointed that mercurials were not retained as a restricted use chemical for snow mold control purposes. The earlier optimism that such would occur was obviously not justified. I believe that we can effectively control the disease complex in most instances in southern Wisconsin with alternative compounds, but probably not with the same level of confidence from season to season as we would like to have. Courses further north will face additional concerns.

Mercurial fungicides already manufactured may be used up. No cut-off date has been announced.

If I receive additional information, I will plan to share it with the Golf Course Superintendent's Association.

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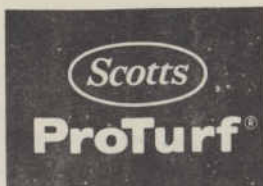
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Sincerely,
Gayle L. Worf, Professor and
Extension Plant Pathologist

* * * * *

GCSAA ACTION REQUEST:

As you know, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America will be 50 years old on September 13, 1976.

This is, of course, an auspicious occasion in the history of any association. This occasion will be celebrated at the place of our founding, Sylvania Country Club, Sylvania, Ohio, with exhibits, a banquet and a golf tournament, September 13, 14, & 15, 1976.

We have requested the President of the United States to designate the week of September 12-18, 1976, National Golf Course Superintendents week. This matter is under consideration by the President and was accomplished through our Senator and local Congressman.

It would be extremely helpful if each of you could take some action through your individual senator and Congressman in this regard. It would show the President the national character of the Association and bring the name of the Association and superintendents in particular, to the attention of the public.