

200 Attend 'Mini-Mega-Seminar'

Two hundred members were registered for the Mini-Seminar, held at the Mall of America on March 13. Fred Taylor and his committee did a fine job lining up this event.

"Controversial," was the way Fred categorized two of the speakers and many in attendance may have agreed. Don Strot from the state OSHA office along with a panel consisting of Joe Moris, Tartan Park; Gary Coulson, Toro Co., and moderator Rob Panuska from Waseca Lakeside C.C. discussed the recent OSHA regulations. Everybody had a lot of 'What if' questions, the result of which left many people a bit confused, especially the hard-hat issue. Even though this is a gray area, the fines are definitely black and white. \$1,500 is the smallest fine with the ROPS violations starting at \$4,000.

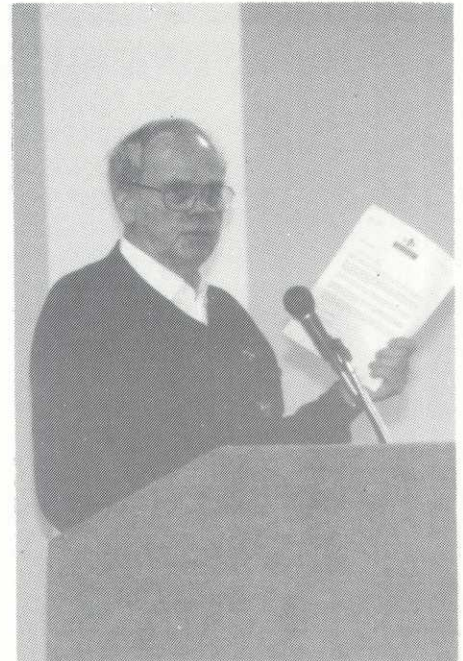
The other "controversial" speaker was Dr. Don Gordon from Mankato State University. Golf courses are not necessarily good for the environment, according to the statistics Dr. Gordon presented. Not only pesticide use but in many parts of the world water used for golf courses could have an impact on the environment. He referred to the fact that only 10% of the people in the world play golf but golf courses take up 5.0 million acres.

"It is a mistake to put troubles of golf courses on the back of the media and environmentalists," says Gordon. "Environmentalists are not irresponsible money grubbers."

Perhaps we can sometimes all agree with him when he says the biggest problem of golf is the golfer. Golfers want green color, fast greens, no earthworms, closely cropped fairways, a monoculture of turf and use television as their guide to how a course should look all season.

Dr. Gordon may have thought another speaker, Mona Bond, was controversial. She discussed imagination, determination and focus as they related to environmental concerns. Common sense about pesticides doesn't capture the imagination of the media, and not many people read scientific journals to get the facts. She mentioned that determination to get money, members and media was the drive behind most environmental groups. Focus is what we must do to get the facts out about pesticide use as it pertains to golf courses. She reminded us to react as a group if something negative happens, such as having a public relations plan.

— Tom Johnson



DON STROT, (above) from the state OSHA office, along with a panel consisting of Joe Moris, Tartan Park; Gary Coulson, Toro Co., and moderator Rob Panuska from Waseca Lakeside C.C., discussed the recent OSHA regulations.



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