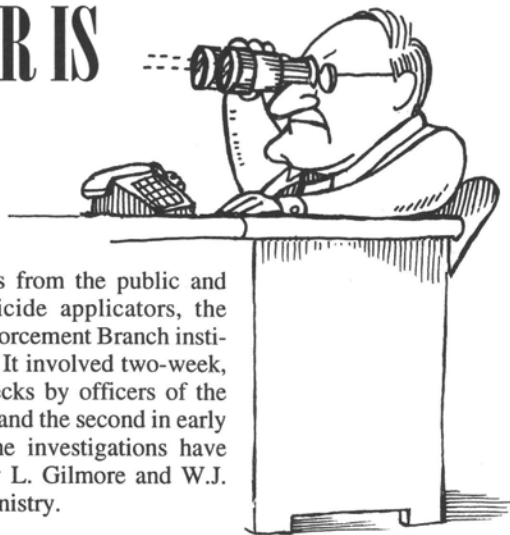


BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING



As a result of complaints from the public and properly-licensed pesticide applicators, the MOEE Investigations and Enforcement Branch instituted project "Herb" in 1994. It involved two-week, unannounced compliance checks by officers of the Branch, the first in early June and the second in early September. The results of the investigations have recently been summarized by L. Gilmore and W.J. Cowie and released by the Ministry.

The following table summarizes their report.

TYPE OF INSPECTION	NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS	NUMBER OF CHARGES	NUMBER OF WARNINGS
Residential/Park	311	113	224
Office/Storage	89	18	81
Golf Courses	147	38	187

Thirty-five percent of the charges laid under the Residential/Parks group involved failure for an unlicensed applicator to carry a certificate of supervision, 16% involved posting offenses, 12% left pesticides accessible to the public and 6% were caught applying pesticides without a licence. Not having a vehicle chemical warning sign was another offence for which charges were laid.

Ninety-six percent of the charges laid under the Office/Storage Location category involved storage violations under Sections 21, 121 and 122 of Regulation 914. Other charges were laid as a result of failing to notify the fire department of pesticide storage premises on golf courses and failing to secure containers during transport to prevent spillage.

The majority of the charges assigned on golf courses were also under storage violations. They also involved unsafe use of water from a water-course where ineffective back-flow equipment was in use.

Several stop work orders were issued as a result of leaking equipment and for spraying in windy conditions.

In general the programme received favourable acceptance by the industry. The programme should increase the awareness of the industry of the legislation of pesticide application, storage, transportation and posting through compliance checks, which in turn protect public health and safety by reducing misapplication and misuse of pesticides. It should also reassure the general public that the application of pesticides is being regulated through licensing and that compliance to those regulations is being enforced.

The project may be expected to be continued in 1995.



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