What's Happened?

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MOTT CORPORATION 514 Shawmut Ave. La Grange, Ill. 60525 "What's happened to the National Association of Spraymen?" Many have asked this question. Apparently, the answer is "nothing."

Last fall a group of contract applicators met in Cleveland at Weeds Trees and Turf's offices to evaluate accomplishments and to decide the further steps needed to charter the association. It was agreed a membership drive should be undertaken and that an organizational convention would be held in 1966. The fall meeting was attended by the NAS acting secretary-treasurer Craig Anderson of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., and board members Carl Ripper of West Des Moines, Ia., Jim Omura of Denver, and WTT's editor. By telephone NAS acting president Larry Nipp of Ft. Lauderdale, and Bill Owen of Clackamas, Ore., joined in the discussions. All were enthusiastic over how the association would strengthen the industry nationally. WTT pledged the full support of its editorial pages. A report of the Cleveland meeting and a membership application blank were included in our October issue.

Since then, however, there has been no agreement on a time or place for the convention to adopt a constitution and officially elect officers. Nor have there been any communications from the association on developments since the meeting in Cleveland. Board members have expressed their amazement at the "blackout" of information and some have suggested dues be returned if the organization is not going to become a reality.

In our January editorial about NAS we recognized that all industrymen have many obligations, the first being to the welfare of their own businesses, and so development of the association could expectedly be slow. But, when membership funds are solicited, isn't there also an obligation to let contributors know what has been accomplished?

We still believe there is need for a *national* association to represent interests of commercial spraymen across the country. Only the voice of a truly *national* group will carry any weight in Washington on legislative matters. It requires dues from representatives in all sections of the country to finance an executive secretary and to bring public recognition of the services members have to offer. There is a place for state and regional associations which can become members of a national group. Leadership is needed. We hope someone in the industry will emerge to carry through the job so the National Association of Spraymen won't die by default.

WEEDS TREES AND TURF is the national monthly magazine of urban/industrial vegetation maintenance, including turf management, weed and brush control, and tree care. Readers include "contract applicators," arborists, nurserymen, sod growers, and supervisory personnel with highway departments, railways, utilities, golf courses, and similar areas where vegetation must be enhanced or controlled. While the editors welcome contributions by qualified freelance writers, unsolicited manuscripts, unaccompanied by stamped, self-addressed envelopes, cannot be returned.