

## Upon Checking Your Pulse and Ours

**A**BOUT THE FIRST THING a doctor does to determine the well-being of his patient is to check his pulse and blood pressure. Two things are required: The patient must cooperate, and there must be a degree of personal or direct contact.

Sometimes Doc simply uses his fingers on your wrist. (You note his pretty nurse never does). Other times he uses that "rubber inner-tube"—and in my case if I'm not convinced of my frailty by the 10th wrap-around, I am the instant he puts on the squeeze with the air pump.

This magazine, in serving the tree and turf care and weed control industries, occasionally wants to determine the well-being of its "patient."

*And we, also, believe that personal contact and direct contact by other means are indispensable first steps to knowing what the industry needs and wants.* This is why, for example, representatives of WEEDS TREES and TURF try to attend as many association meetings, educational conferences, and field days as are physically possible.

Our "inner-tube" approach (and granted it would sometimes appear that we're trying to put the squeeze on you) is to send you questionnaires. We ask your cooperation, so that we may help prescribe what you need and want.

We use the statistics you provide to us anonymously and individually for two general reasons: (1) We report back to you, telling what your industry, collectively, is doing, where it appears to be headed, what its problems are; and (2) We use the statistics to inform manufacturers concerning the products and services you are using, and those you need or otherwise might be interested in.

The whole system works something like the merry-go-round on the playground. It turns fastest and easiest if all the riders have one foot pushing on the ground. And everybody enjoys the ride more.

So when you hear from us occasionally in the future, we hope you won't overlook these opportunities to serve others—and yourself.

**O**UR REACTION TO THE WORD on 2,4,5-T, causes our pulse to quicken and blood pressure to rise as though they were being checked by the doctor's pretty young nurse.

It is still unbelievable how quickly the current administration's cabinet officers reel in an effort to save their political hides. How soon, we wonder, will that reeling take them over the cliff of political suicide?

We challenge some young researcher who wants to make a name for himself to inject mice with any number of things we come in contact with daily—drugs, alcohol, fingernail polish, aspirin, table salt, paint, glue, nicotine, turpentine, and so on—in excessive dosages comparable to ones that have been the basis for restricting or banning environmental protection chemicals. Then publicize the effects on pregnant mice and pose the dilemma to the same appointed and elected officials.

*We ask this research in the interest of putting perspective back into public health, and reason and responsibility back into politics.*

During one of the Ohio pesticide regulation hearings recently, a concerned custom applicator asked if there had been evidence in the state of pesticide contamination. None that he was aware of, replied Director of Agriculture John M. Stackhouse. Has there been reports of widespread misuse of chemicals by custom applicators? asked another visitor. None, replied Stackhouse. Have any citizens reported sickness, injury, or death attributed to chemicals? asked still another. None that he knew of, replied Stackhouse.

Then why do we need to consider more pesticide regulations? asked the first questioner.

"Well you must come to realize," Stackhouse replied softly after a pause, "that we live in a strange time in which we have banned DDT, perhaps the most beneficial material to mankind the world has ever known, and are on the verge of legalizing marijuana and LSD."

*Gene Ingalsbe*