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Teeth For Safety Act The new Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 went into effect April 28. It requires a record of all accidents involving employees and a healthy working atmosphere. It affects any business with employees which might be termed a store, plant or business. To date, there's been little or no enforcement, but 70 plus inspectors are now being trained each week by the Labor Department to beef up the enforcement staff. Look for a check of your operation this next year. You can get a copy of the Act from the U.S. Labor Dept.

Animal and Plant Health Service A new department of the Federal government and a new regulatory agency. Proposal is that the new arm will handle USDA Agricultural Research Service regulatory functions including plant protection and others. Acting administrator is Dr. Francis J. Mulhern, now associate administrator of ARS.

Environmental Pesticide Control Act Passed the House by a 288 to 91 vote. Activity now shifts to the Senate. An amendment adopted by the House would allow states to restrict either general use pesticides or restricted use pesticides more drastically than the Environmental Protection Agency. Originally the House committee version would have prevented states from exceeding Federal restrictions on general use materials. Uniform labelling is still a part of the House approved package. The Senate committee on Agriculture and Forestry is expected to conduct hearings shortly on the bill.

Gypsy Moth Spread Acute USDA's Animal and Plant Health Service is designing intensified regulatory and control measures to minimize gypsy moth spread (the main source of which is long-distance artificial spread by mobile homes and trailers). A new 5-year research and development program is underway. It will concentrate mainly on selective biological controls with a limited use of chemicals. Of 2 million acres suffering light to severe defoliation this year, the greatest area was in Connecticut with 655,000 acres. Other states hardest hit: Pennsylvania, 598,000 acres; New York, 479,000 acres; New Jersey, 18,000 acres; and Massachusetts, 18,000 acres.

Secretary of Agriculture Nomination Long-time dean of agriculture at Purdue University, and now vice-president, Earl L. Butz has been nominated to succeed Clifford M. Hardin as Secretary of Agriculture. The Senate, in a difficult to understand stall, has not as yet (at presstime) approved the nomination. Butz, an Indiana native, has a lifetime career as educator and administrator at Purdue. He also served as assistant secretary of agriculture in the Eisenhower administration. He is probably the best known agricultural dean of this generation and one of the staunchest supporters for the family farm.