



NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF REMAINING DDT USES has been given by the Environmental Protection Agency. The action, says EPA head William Ruckelshaus, is in compliance with a recent order issued by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. The order resulted from a 2-1 decision in January. Additionally, from the court decision, EPA has begun a 60-day review to determine whether DDT and "certain uses of 2,4,5-T" should be suspended as an imminent hazard to the public. Notice of cancellation was expected to be sent out by the third week in January. Interested parties then have 30 days to comment. DDT uses can continue during the review period on cancellation. If however, a suspension order should follow as the result of a decision on the "imminent hazard" review, then all interstate shipment must cease.

INFLATION WILL BE THE MAJOR BUSINESS PROBLEM IN 1971 because of recent labor settlements, believes Carl A. Gerstacker, chairman of the board for Dow Chemical Co. The increased labor cost is inflationary, he says, because it cannot be matched by a productivity increase. Gerstacker predicts physical output of chemicals will rise 7.5% while dollar sales will increase about 9%. He sees "perhaps 4%" average increases in prices.

LAND MANAGEMENT is almost the total answer to the quantity, quality, and control of the nation's water, according to Louis M. Glymph of USDA's soil and water conservation research division. In the clamor to clean up the nation's waters, he reminds that good conservation practices controlling run-off can prevent pesticide pollution. He estimates that sediments from croplands, unprotected forest soils, overgrazed pastures, stream channels, roads, and development sites in urban areas represent a volume of solids reaching U.S. waters that exceeds total sewage discharge loadings by at least 700 times.

A CROSSROADS OF PESTICIDE DEVELOPMENT has been reached by the chemical industry, states Dr. David Watson, director of product development for Velsicol Chemical Corporation. Because "costs have soared astronomically and regulatory requirements now surpass those used for drugs for human consumption," a frequent question in company board rooms is "whether to continue in business. Contrary to popular belief, the chemical industry will not always be able to produce new and better pesticides, he asserts. "The plain fact," he says, "is that the pesticide well is running dry," so the industry had better work together to save the materials it now has.

A SUBTLE CHANGE IN PUBLIC ATTITUDES ON PESTICIDES is seen by Edward K. Hertel, manager of FMC Corporation's Niagara Chemical Division. The real value of pesticides began to receive "more rational attention" this past year, and he believes "charges of under regulation and over regulation will likely diminish further in 1971." Because research and development costs have "increased dramatically," Hertel predicts the rate of new product introductions will decline and that many existing products will remain on the market longer than they might have otherwise.



A 72-YEAR-OLD LAW IS JUST NOW CUTTING ITS TEETH. President Nixon has signed an executive order establishing a permit program under provisions of the Federal Refuse Act of 1899 to regulate the discharge of pollutants and other refuse into the navigable waters, or tributaries, of the U.S. The Secretary of the Army, in consultation with the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, will have the power to "grant, deny, condition, revoke, or suspend" permits. Water quality standards will be measured in terms of effects on fish and wildlife. Proposed policy, practice and procedure for the permit program was published by the Secretary of the Army in the Federal Register on Dec. 31. Interested parties have 45 days in which to comment.

FEES WILL BE CHARGED for occupancy and use of designated National Forest Recreation Areas, effective Jan. 1, 1971. The fee is being established by the Chief of the Forest Service, and notices will be posted at each area. Failure to pay the fee can result in a \$100 fine.

BIOLOGICAL PEST CONTROL PROGRAMS won't be realized until a great deal more in-depth research is accomplished, says USDA geneticist Dr. Angus A. Hanson. The day may come when a computer center programmed with a variety of ecosystem models can predict the consequences of any given practice. However, the resources "probably will not be available in the near future" to set up such models. Aside from the work and money required and the impossibility of predicting anything with certainty, Dr. Hanson says the biggest obstacle is getting people representing many disciplines to work together as a highly integrated unit.

ELEVEN NEW U. S. RECORDS were reported in the Cooperative Economic Insect Report for 1970. These included eight species new to the Western Hemisphere—seven in Hawaii and one in New York. There were also 123 new state records reported. States having 5 or more were: Hawaii, 17; Oregon, 10; Utah, 10; California, 9; Pennsylvania, 9; Arizona, 6; Missouri, 6; and Florida, West Virginia and Wisconsin, each 5.

USDA HAS EXTENDED GYPSY MOTH REGULATED AREAS to 14 new counties in three states. They are: Broome, Chenango, Jefferson and St. Laurence in New York; Chester, Columbia, Dauphin, Delaware, Lancaster, Lebanon, Montour, Northumberland and Sullivan in Pennsylvania; and Cumberland in New Jersey. The entire state of New Jersey is now under regulation. The federal quarantine means that all timber products, woody plants, stone and quarry products and other articles that might be carrying the insect must be inspected and certified free of insects before being moved.

129 PLANT PESTS PER DAY WERE STOPPED from entering the U.S. in 1970, reports USDA. The inbound pests, some 47,000, included some of the world's most destructive insects and diseases, capable of damaging millions of dollars worth of U.S. crops, gardens, forests, and ornamentals. Interceptions were up 20% over the 1965-69 average, attributed primarily to increased air travel. About a quarter of million tons of sea and air cargo were cleared in Vietnam alone during the year.