

## Over Southern Weed Science Progress . . .

# LEGISLATIVE NOOSE QUIVERS

Put 1,000 weed control specialists together for a week and the status of the industry in 1971 becomes quite clear. That's the crux of the recent 24th annual session of the Southern Weed Science Society at Memphis, Tenn. Delegates represented both commercial and educational areas of the industry. Both sales and research people expressed the common concern that the science of weed control is being damaged severely by restrictive legislation.

Few industry leaders in this session were willing to quarrel with the need for pesticide controls or legislation. Rather, their concern is that such controls will not be based on research plus the best available knowledge and experience in the field, but that the so-called "disaster logic" sweeping the nation today will force unwise moves on the part of both local and national governments.

D. D. Boatright, president of the Society and also president of the Horne-Boatright Chemical Company, Birmingham, Ala., placed the problem in perspective early on the program agenda when he outlined what he termed "the most discouraging aspect on the use of pesticides." This, Boatright stated, is the fact that an irresponsible charge or accusation may be made without cost, preparation, or even mental reflection. But it may take months and the time of many reputable scientists, along with untold thousands of dollars to investigate such alleged claims and determine the truth.

Boatright's belief is that every member of the industry will have to do more in careful testing and use of chemicals. "Although some products are being maligned," he said, "it is still the primary responsibility of basic producers to obtain complete knowledge about their chemicals, or their new products, even at the expense of increased costs and delayed marketings." Thus, he pointed out, we are forced to revise our approaches, to correct any past deficiencies, and assure ourselves that this must eventually



Among key persons making the Southern Weed Science Society Conference a success this year were, from the left, George Sistrunk of Valley Chemical Co., Greenville, Miss., master of ceremonies; Leonard Lett, southern manager of Colloidal Products Corp., Memphis, chairman of arrangements; and out-going president D. D. Boatright, head of Horne-Boatright Chemical Co., Birmingham.



Southern Weed Science Society's new officers are (from the left) Front row: P. W. Santelmann, secretary-treasurer, Oklahoma State University; T. J. Hernandez, president-elect, Du Pont; J. R. Orsinego, president, University of Florida; A. F. Wiese, vice-president, Texas A. & M. University; R. E. Talbert, secretary-treasurer-elect, University of Arkansas. Rear row: J. F. Miller, editor-elect, University of Georgia; W. M. Lewis, executive board, North Carolina State University; J. T. Gaspard, executive board, CIBA-Geigy; Jim Becton, executive board, CIBA-Geigy; and A. D. Worsham, editor, North Carolina State University.

be for the good of all concerned.

New findings always abound at this scientific oriented session. More than 140 papers were presented this year, all tied in some manner to the use of pesticides for control of unwanted vegetation. Homer A. Brady, researcher at the USDA Southern Forest Experiment Station, Pineville, La., related his latest studies with brush-control sprays. Because 2,4,5-T has been cited as an allegedly hazardous herbicide, Brady has stepped up efforts to test other formulations which will produce the same hardwood brush kill. He reported on 16 herbicidal sprays tested for this use.

Brady found that dicamba and picloram, alone or in mixture with 2,4,5-T were as effective as 2,4,5-T ester in killing hardwood brush. Of 15 formulations tested, at least one excelled 2,4,5-T on every species ex-

cept dogwood. Many of the formulations damaged loblolly pine and thus are not suitable for release on pine in forest management. Ammonium nitrate as a spray additive did not, he reported, increase herbicidal effectiveness.

By way of summary, Brady said that though none of the herbicidal formulations gave the 75 percent overall topkill needed for brush control, all were as effective as the 2,4,5-T control. Therefore, he said, it is possible to reduce the amount 2,4,5-T used or to substitute one of the other herbicides, though this will prove to be a more expensive operation.

Wildlife specialist William F. Gusey, Shell Oil Company, made some interesting revelations concerning the U.S. wildlife resource. It is necessary to investigate only a few areas where desert, wasteland,

or other lands have been converted into productive farm land, he said, to determine that the variety and abundance of wildlife have increased manyfold.

Gusey related that Lewis and Clark recorded extreme hardship in finding wildlife for food during their trek from western Montana through Idaho, and down the Columbia River. Today, Gusey stated, in that same area, which has been logged heavily and is farmed extensively, deer and elk abound and can be harvested virtually without restriction.

And in Pennsylvania, a 15-year study of the ecological aspects of chemical brush control on a utility right-of-way showed a similar pattern. Gusey reported that wildlife usage of the treated right-of-way in Pennsylvania was much higher than the adjacent wooded areas which were seriously overbrowsed and nearly bare of low cover and food. Rabbits, grouse, and wild turkeys, he said, benefitted from the stable, low cover induced by the herbicidal treatments. Major game species in the area, he said, likewise heavily used the area.

Gusey related like survey results for birds and fish in a number of areas across the nation. He said that, "Rather than constituting a basis for more regulations, we hope that a better understanding of wildlife habits will permit broader use of a greater variety of chemicals than is allowed now."

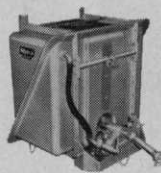
Coming more into prominence in the overall weed control picture is the special treatments required for aquatic weed control. Dennis L. Vedder, Applied Biochemists, Inc., Milwaukee, Wis., discussed the use of Cutrine, an algicide, in flowing water. A special application technique is necessary, he said, because routine surface application does not permit proper contact time. To achieve the desired control in flowing water, his company has developed a drip system for application. In every test, the drip system application of Cutrine proved effective against algae. Since Cutrine is compatible with many aquatic herbicides, it has been mixed with herbicides and used to control both weeds and algae simultaneously, via the drip system. Cutrine and diquat have been tested together in Wisconsin for the past two years, Vedder reported. Few common aquatic species can survive this combination, he said.



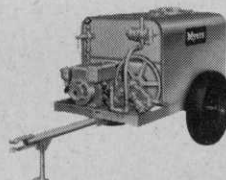
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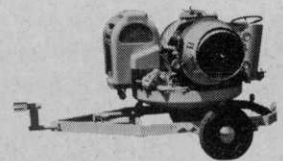
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