



GENERAL SUPPORT from a wide range of interests is emerging from testimony concerning the two major pesticide bills at congressional committee hearings. The bills are S. 745 and H.R. 4152. But spokesmen from industry, professional associations, and some federal agencies state again and again that the benefit/risk ratio regarding human health and welfare should be the determining factor for any action taken. Under Secretary J. Phil Campbell said USDA "strongly endorses" H.R. 4152, but urged careful attention to interpretation. "Primary consideration," he said, "should be given to the welfare and needs of people when weighing the public interest benefits and risks of using any given pesticide or in cancelling its use. To put the deleterious effects of pesticides on a few species of esthetically desirable birds ahead of the needs of people would be a perversion of human values." Donald Lerch, Jr., speaking for the United States Chamber of Commerce, said "a pesticide should not be banned unless its possible harmful effects on man and the environment are greater than its unique contributions to the improved production of needed food and fiber, to the improved health and comfort of people, and to improvements in our natural environment." The Chamber joined the National Agricultural Chemicals Association and the National Pest Control Association in objecting to the "use by permit only" classification for certain pesticides in the Senate bill. The bill just doesn't spell out clear enough how the permit program would be conducted, they say. Not enough information is given on who the approving consultants would be, what their qualifications are, or what pesticides would be in this category. Further, spokesmen said the execution of the program would be cumbersome to the extent of being unworkable. The Chamber gave support to NACA's alternative to subdivide the "for restricted use only" category into: (a) Those (pesticides) which may be applied only by a licensed or certified applicator because of acute toxicity considerations, and (b) Those which may be subjected to other regulatory restrictions because of a potential for substantial environmental damage.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSERYMEN has expressed support of H.R. 4152 "with certain modifications." These include: (1) Establishing a review committee to issue stop-sale orders on pesticides, rather than giving the power to one person, EPA head William Ruckelshaus; (2) That criteria are lacking for categorizing pesticides into general, restricted and permit-only classes and that such criteria be developed in public hearings and be specified in detail in the law; (3) That permits issued should not specify time of application, leaving the decision of the exact time of application to the user, within the limits specified in the permit; (4) That a farmer who has obtained a permit be allowed to supervise application of pesticides on his own crops by his own employees; and (5) That for permit-only pesticides, users would have recourse through law to cover losses resulting from mistakes by pest management consultants (who would advise and issue the permits).



ENVIRONMENTAL JOBS will double by 1980, says a new book. Odom Fanning, a Washington science writer, predicts environmental jobs will increase from 655,990 in 1970 to 1,181,000 by 1980. His book, "Opportunities in Environmental Careers," includes a survey and analysis of five areas of environmental management: ecology, earth sciences, resources and recreation, environmental design including architecture, and environmental protection including public health and pollution control. Published by Vocational Guidance Manuals, the book is \$5.95 available at book stores or by writing VGM, 235 East Forty-fifth St., New York, N.Y. 10017.

AIR POLLUTION costs the nation more than \$500 million each year in damage to crops, forests and ornamental plants, estimates Dr. Axel L. Andersen, Michigan State University plant pathologist. Damage comes from primary pollutants that are directly toxic to plants and secondary pollutants formed by photochemical reactions between sunlight and chemicals released into the air. Major sources of primary pollutants, sulfur dioxide and hydrogen fluoride, are industrial complexes and electrical generating plants that use coal or oil for fuel, he said. The photochemical pollutants that do the worst damage are ozone and peroxyacetyl nitrate. Sources of the chemicals that react with sunlight to produce these oxidants, Dr. Andersen says, include: car and truck exhausts, factories that burn natural gas, fuel oil and coal; and industrial complexes that make nitric acid, sulfuric acid (chamber process only), paint, roofing, rubber, soap and some nylon products.

THE SPRUCE BUDWORM, Ontario's most serious insect pest in 1970, is expected to cause even more widespread damage to balsam and spruce in 1971, warns the Canadian Forestry Service. Predictions are based upon a recent survey of hatched egg clusters. The infestation affects some 1.5 million acres in the Ottawa Valley and 5.3 million acres in northeastern Ontario.

A CARRIER SAFETY REGULATIONS REVISION in the Motor Carrier Safety Regulations has been delayed by the American Association of Nurserymen and 14 other agriculturally oriented associations. The revision would have eliminated the agricultural exemption from the regulations for drivers of trucks under 10,000 pounds in interstate commerce. It was scheduled to go into effect Jan. 1, but has been postponed until June 30 to allow protest testimony. By eliminating the agricultural exemption, every farmer who drives a truck would have to comply with federal safety regulations which state: A driver must be 21 years old, trained and experienced, have no serious violation record during the past three years, passed a road test on the use of a truck, have successfully completed a written examination on federal safety regulations, and successfully completed a physical examination which must be repeated every two years.