



# Government News / Business

U.S. District Judge Charles R. Scott has thrown out two Florida court lawsuits against chemical spraying of water hyacinths on the St. Johns River. The controversy arose when seven persons filed suit in federal court for an injunction against the use of 2,4-D to kill hyacinths. Defendants named were Army Corps of Engineers Stanley R. Resor, his chief of engineers Lt. Gen Frederick J. Clarke, and the head of the Environmental Protection Agency William D. Ruckelshaus. Witnesses for the Corps said that other means of controlling hyacinth are being studied but so far they are experimental and spraying remains the only effective measure. It was pointed out that spraying of hyacinths was stepped up this year because the mild winter had resulted in rapid growth in the headwaters of the river. The danger of an emergency would dislodge the plants and impede river traffic. Judge Scott ordered the Corps to complete by next Dec. 31 an impact statement showing the effects of the chemical spray on the environment.

Overruling the findings of Edmund Sweeney, William D. Ruckelshaus, EPA Administrator, closed the lid on the DDT coffin. He decreed that "the continued use of DDT involves, over the long run, an unacceptable risk to the environment and possibly man's health." Sweeney had concluded that the benefits of DDT outweighed the risks. But while the environmentalists were toasting the victory, 27 manufacturing firms filed an appeal in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans. The issue has now returned to the courts for settlement.

Gypsy Moth quarantine regulations have been extended to include mobile homes and recreational vehicles. USDA previously ordered that timber, plants and similar products could not be moved from regulated areas unless free of gypsy moth. The mandate which now includes mobile homes and recreational vehicles was issued partly in response to finding gypsy moth larvae in a mobile home park in Missouri. New residents to the park had moved from Connecticut and transported larvae in the trailer.

The wrong advise can cost you. A retailer paid part of the loss to a homeowner who used the wrong weed killer on his lawn which resulted in the elimination of weeds, trees and turf. Although the package label contained the appropriate warning, the retailer was required to pay part of the loss. The rest was tax-deducted over IRS objections.

The Office of Management and Budget has recommended that the Environmental Protection Agency charge fees for registering pesticides and boost fees for establishing residue tolerances. Representatives of the National Agricultural Chemicals Association, Chemical Specialties Manufacturers Association and others have voiced strong objections to this proposal.

Wage-Price Laws now exempt small businesses employing 60 or fewer persons. Donald Rumsfield, Cost of Living Council Director, says about 5 million small firms will be affected. All price and wage increases are now restored for these firms. Rumsfield emphasized that the exemption was not a move to "decontrol."