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Arbor Day ceremonies were climaxed in the planting of a fern leaf beech on the White House lawn. Arbor Day celebrated its 100th anniversary this year. Pictured above (l-r) are: Mrs. Richard M. Nixon, honorary trustee of the Arbor Day committee, Allen Davis, designer of the District of Columbia Arbor Day Poster, Mayor Walter Washington, and Robert Felix, NAA president.

## White House Tree Planting Highlight of Arbor Day

The 100th anniversary of Arbor Day celebration culminated in the planting of a 12 foot fern leaf beech on the West Wing Portico lawn of the White House by Mrs. Richard M. Nixon.

In a short ceremony preceding the planting, Robert Felix, president of the National Arborist Association said, "... Physically, trees give shelter to both man and beast. They reduce noise, wind, glare and temperature. They purify our air, and they stabilize our soil with their massive root systems. Trees give us food to eat, timber for our homes, and paper for our books . . . In behalf of the American people, the National Arborist Association is honored to present this commemorative tree to Mrs. Richard Nixon for the 100th anniversary of Arbor Day."

Mrs. Nixon as honorary trustee of the Arbor Day committee officially planted the tree by placing the first shovel-full of soil. She also announced that NAA would present seedling hemlocks to the 80 people attending the ceremony in the hopes that each person would return to his home and plant a tree for a more beautiful national capitol.

Also present at the ceremony were: Walter Washington, mayor of Washington, D. C.; Vern Livingston, president of the Nebraska Arbor Day Centennial; Mrs. Gerald Livingston, chairman of the Nebraska City Arbor Day committee; Mrs. Rogers Morton, wife of the Secretary of Interior; Senator Curtis of the state of Nebraska.

Representing NAA was president

and Mrs. Robert Felix and vice president and Mrs. John A. Shullenbarger.

Following the tree planting, Mrs. Nixon received the guests in the State Dining Room of the White House.

## DDT Not Carcinogenic Scientists Tell EPA

Scientific experts testifying at recent hearings of the Environmental Protection Agency have ruled out the argument that DDT has possible cancer-producing properties.

Hearing examiner Edmund M. Sweeney concluded that DDT did not pose "the hazards of cancer or birth defects in man and did not have a deleterious effect on fresh water fish, estuarine organisms, wild birds or other wildlife." Furthermore, he ruled that benefits outweigh the risks for all uses of the pesticide.

DDT may actually be a cancer fighter, according to Dr. Edward R. Laws, Jr. of Johns Hopkins Hospital. In a study of mice fed DDT with their laboratory food, fewer cancers developed than with a control group.

The study added experimental support to an observation made in 1967 among a group of workers exposed on their jobs to high levels of DDT for 10 to 20 years. "It is noteworthy that no cases of cancer developed among these workers in some 1,300 man-years of exposure, a statistically improbable event," Dr. Laws reported in the American Medical Association journal, Archives of Environmental Health.

Nearly eight percent of the DDT-fed mice inoculated with tumor cells were without malignancy. All mice in the control group developed cancer. All cancerous mice died but those with DDT in their systems lived significantly longer, Dr. Laws reported.

"DDT may have an anti-cancer producing potential the physician said.

Among those who testified on the DDT issue in the EPA hearings were: Dr. Jesse Steinfeld, Surgeon General of the U.S. and a cancer researcher; Dr. John Higginson, director of the International Agency for Research on Cancer; Dr. Lorenzo Tomatis, chief of the chemical carcinogenesis unit for the same organization; Dr. William Butler of the Medical Research Council of Great Britain; Dr. Wayland J. Hayes, Jr., professor of medical toxicology at Vanderbilt University and former chief of the toxicology laboratory of the U.S. Public Health Service; and Dr. Ted A. Loomis, chief of toxicology for the State of Washington.

All testified that there is no evidence that DDT causes cancer in man.

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