



Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz recently announced a technical breakthrough in the control of tree diseases such as Dutch elm disease and wilts of oak and maple. The technique combines a method of making the chemical benomyl, manufactured by the Du Pont Company, more soluble, with a means for rapidly injecting the chemical directly into the tree, rather than through soil. The Secretary said that research conducted by the Forest Service has indicated that this system not only has economic and physical advantages, but could largely avoid the environmental pollution hazards associated with other methods of chemical application.

ICI America Inc. has filed with the Federal Trade Commission a consent order calling for divestiture of company explosives and aerospace divisions within three years. Edward J. Goett, president of ICI America pointed out that the consent order was agreed to for settlement purposes only and is not an admission that any law has been violated. The Order calls for disposal of all properties of the Atlas explosives and aerospace divisions.

Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton has designated one of the key persons in each of the five regional offices of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service to serve as environmental specialist. Each will be responsible for reporting on major projects that have potential for altering or degrading the environment, including activities such as oil well drilling, mining, highway construction and pesticide applications. Cited the President's Environmental Message of last month which placed heavy emphasis on protection of the Nation's wildlife heritage.

National Safety Council to provide complete information on compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act. One communications medium will be the NATIONAL SAFETY NEWS, the Council's monthly publication. March issue will be devoted to the subject. More than 4 million business establishments and almost 60 million workers are affected by the law. Of 9,300 inspections conducted by the Department of Labor during the first 6 months after the act went into effect, compliance officers determined that only about 20 percent were found to be in full compliance.

Senate committee hearings on the proposed Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Bill begin March 7. Latest change to the legislation will affect farmers and commercial agricultural chemical applicators. A new amendment now would allow the "certified applicator" (license holder) to control and supervise pesticide use without being physically present at the time. Before, the concern was that every person applying a restricted pesticide would be required to have a license.