Editorial

The ominous cloud of legislation concerning the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Bill that hung over the House until early November last year has now moved over the august chambers of the Senate. The 91 Congressmen led by John G. Dow (D-New York) who opposed the Bill to the end are now silently working with their Senate counterparts to breathe more restrictions into the use of pesticides.

Those of us in the Green Industry who communicated with our Representatives and who testified in Washington are well aware that this Bill had more problems than a golf superintendent with a push mower on an 18-hole course. However, we congratulate these people for their effort in turning an unworkable and unrealistic Bill into workable legislation.

But the job is not complete. The bell for round two has sounded. Opponents, Senators Edmund Muskie, Phillip Hart and others, will be leading the fight to win votes from environmentalists who want tougher restrictions on the use of pesticides. Without help, this Bill could set an uncharted course in troubled Senate waters.

We must bring to fruition a law that is workable, a law that restricts but doesn't impede, a law that we can live by. Effort and assurance is still

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needed by those Senators fighting for just legislation. What can we do? A number of opportunities exist. A letter in triplicate to EPA Administrator, William Ruckelshaus, stating your concern on this issue will help. Testify before the Senate committee, if asked. Band with organizations such as the Southern Weed Science Society in making recommendations to the passage of the Bill.

The debate at this point is not whether the Bill is good or bad. We think that the version that left the House is good for several reasons. One is that better trained industry people will be at the field level—supervising and doing the work. Another is that licensing applicators represents more business for the operator. Lastly, licensing applicators will bring more professionalism to the Green Industry.

The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry is now sifting the Bill through finer screens than most chemicals are sprayed through. The pressure to force the Bill for signature by the President must come from the pump of the Green Industry. Our horsepower as voters and ultimate users of this legislation must be united to get the job done.

