



# Government News / Business

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If you've been caught by the breath of OSHA and can't cough up money to pay the fine, take heart. An interagency agreement between OSHA and the Small Business Administration (SBA) has been set up. Purpose is to provide long-term loans to small businesses for compliance with OSHA.

Further word on Agrico Chemical Company. Sale by The Williams Companies, Tulsa, Okla. of Agrico to Lebanon Chemical Corporation, Lebanon, Pa. included only the Turf and Garden Products Division. The entire Agrico Company was not sold, as erroneously reported in the October issue of WTT. According to R. L. Balser of Agrico, the sale amounted to about a \$3 million deal, less than one percent of the total Agrico operation. Included in the purchase was the Turf and Garden Products plant at Danville, Ill. This brings to two the number of manufacturing plants operated by Lebanon Chemical and the result will be faster service to dealers. Added Note: Lebanon Chemical has now farmed out the operation to a newly created subsidiary, The Bishop Company. It too is based in Lebanon, Pa.

The noose of the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act (FEPCA) is starting to tighten. Provisions built into the time-release act have already begun to take affect. Now it is the pesticide producers. A producer who ships environmental protection chemicals in interstate commerce must register with EPA by December 24, 1973. This pre-Christmas present requires companies to submit annual reports on production, distribution and sales. For intrastate producers, the registration date is October 21, 1974.

Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz may be given the legal machinery necessary to authorize use of DDT. A bill which would require EPA to clear DDT for use in cases where the Secretary declares that a temporary emergency exists has now passed the House Agricultural Committee. A number of additional approvals are needed yet, but it is conceivable that use of DDT on gypsy moth and tussock moth as well as other pest infestations could be in order in 1974.

Claims of insufficient fuel supply response in the natural gas, coal, nuclear power and petroleum industry as the cause of the energy crisis have been refuted by Robert L. Sansom, EPA assistant administrator for air and water programs. Nay, he says. The chief obstacles "appear to have been overreliance on foreign crude, poor oil industry planning, the restrictive quota system, and overly controlled natural gas prices." He said the American consumer is the true culprit in the energy crisis. Sansom spoke to the Arlington (Va.) Rotary Club in November. He said that EPA has already granted temporary variances to emission standards for power plants. However, he stressed that no general lifting of environmental regulations are in order. EPA will not be subjected to "energy blackmail" by suppliers who are not willing to come forward and explain why they cannot meet standards, he said.