



Government News / Business

The Environmental Protection Agency issued notice in early March for public comment on the application of 2,4-D to control water hyacinths on portions of the St. John's River in Fla. Applicator of the herbicide is the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps has applied for a specific exemption of the Federal pesticides law to use the herbicide. Presently, 2,4-D is not registered by EPA for use in moving waters. The exemption applied for by the Corps appears under Section 18 of FIFRA as amended, which permits state and Federal agencies to employ unregistered uses of pesticides under emergency conditions.

Ciba-Geigy Corporation has tendered an offer to purchase at \$17 cash per share net all available shares of common stock of Funk Seeds International, Inc., provided at least a majority of outstanding shares are tendered. Funk Seeds, a major producer and marketer of seed corn and other seed, has announced the tender offer would be mailed to the stockholders. No recommendations by the board of directors of Funks is being made to the stockholders.

Dateline, March 12, 1974: Attorney Bill Harding, counsel for the American Sod Producers Association, has discovered a small coup at work in the Federal Energy Office. Energy Czar Simon's men are quietly revising the definition of "agricultural production." Tentative revisions do not include sod production or horticulture! The result will be that sod producers and those in a horticultural related business would not be entitled to "fuel for 100% of current needs." ASPA executive secretary Bob Garey recommends calling or writing your U. S. senator or representative about the "proposed" change in definition.

EPA has just published proposed standards describing the types of knowledge that pesticide applicators will be expected to have in order to qualify as certified applicators. Originally scheduled to be published about six months ago, the standards have been the subject of much controversy and discussion. Basically, the standards apply to private and commercial applicators. Neither will be required to have completed any particular level of formal education. EPA has proposed, however, the commercial applicators be required to pass written exams. Private applicators would have to show that they can read and understand pesticide labels. This may be no small feat, considering the level of understanding to many labels is well above that of a high school student.

Get set for another round on fuel....this time from the folks who make additives. EPA has proposed regulations (Federal) to require registration of fuels and fuel additives. Purpose says EPA is to establish procedures to obtain basic information about fuels and fuel additives. This info is needed to determine the effects which they, or their combustion products, may have on emission control devices (particularly catalytic converters) or on the public health or welfare. The muscle behind the regulations, if approved, would prohibit the sale, or introduction into commerce, of fuels or fuel additives designated by EPA. Public comment on the proposed regulation is invited. Write to: Office of Fuel and Fuel Additive Registration, EPA, Research Triangle Park, N. C. 27711. Oh yes, submit comments in triplicate.