



Government News / Business

Watch where you store paraquat. The Environmental Protection Agency is cautioning herbicide users to pay special attention to the label precautions on weed killers containing the compound paraquat. The EPA warning came in light of several reported poisonings, apparently involving accidental ingestion of the chemical. In Hawaii, one of the poisonings allegedly resulted in the death of a teenage boy. In California, another teenage boy is currently hospitalized in critical condition, the cause tentatively listed as paraquat. Both incidents apparently resulted from the boys drinking the paraquat herbicide from unmarked beverage containers.

Forecasts call for continued belt-tightening, around our gas tanks that is. Standard Oil Company prognosticators are predicting that, for some time to come, fuel conservation is going to be essential for the United States and the entire world. In '73, one barrel of every three came from foreign sources; dependency of the U. S. on foreign crude and refined products could rise to the 50 percent level by the early 80's, even with continued conservation, officials say. Standard has scheduled about \$954 million for exploration and development this year. Some 70 per cent is slated for the U. S. and Canada.

EPA plans effluent standards for nine poisonous substances by June. These will be the first federal limits on toxic materials in wastewater to apply across-the-board to all industries, municipalities and persons. The nine include four pesticides, aldrin-dieldrin, endrin, DDT and its derivatives, and toxaphene; two heavy metals, cadmium and mercury; two industrial chemicals, benzidine and polychlorinated byphenols (PCBs); and one compound, cyanide.

OSHA reports job safety and health inspections during February, 1974, were nearly double the weekly average a year earlier. The agency conducted an average of 1,695 weekly inspections during February, '74. Weekly average for the same period, '73, was 919. John H. Stender, who heads OSHA, reported 4,722 employer citations; alleging 26,668 violations and proposed penalties of \$520,072.

J. J. Mauget Company now serves their customers for tree injection products with a toll-free number at their Burbank, Calif. office. The new number is 800-423-2699.

EPA is sponsoring the first National Symposium on pesticide labeling. Date is June 3rd and 4th, '74. Intention is to open dialogue between federal and state regulatory people, user groups, pesticide producers, university personnel, environmental groups and other interested parties. Speakers from these various disciplines will present current labeling requirements, label problems, improving communications, reader motivations and an assessment on label style. The audience will be given opportunity to air specific problems during a panel discussion period.