

## Editorial

Five years and more than a few billion dollars have brought the Environmental Protection Agency to 1976. Long ago the Agency scooped up people, funds and regulatory powers involving pesticides from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. And EPA, with what seemed like a mandate from America to clean up the environment stepped bravely into industries such as ours . . . bringing tons of its taxpayer money, reams of forms and red tape, legions of bright young lawyers and an unbelievable sea of misunderstanding.

Much of this was necessary, we said, if we are to have both a protected environment and a proper freedom for use of pesticide tools in our industry. Our industry leaders stopped fighting and started joining regulatory officials . . . working to cut down on misunderstanding.

It worked. It is working. But we still can't help but lament how troublesome, expensive, time consuming and downright irritating it is to have the problem being solved by the federal government.

Now, there's a federal law so tough that one man, the EPA administrator, can suspend uses of a pesticide with or without sufficient proof. He needs, as nearly as we can tell, only something called cause.

A few weeks ago this actually happened. The man is Russell Train. The pesticide is chlordane. And the proof wasn't there, according to EPA's own law review procedure.

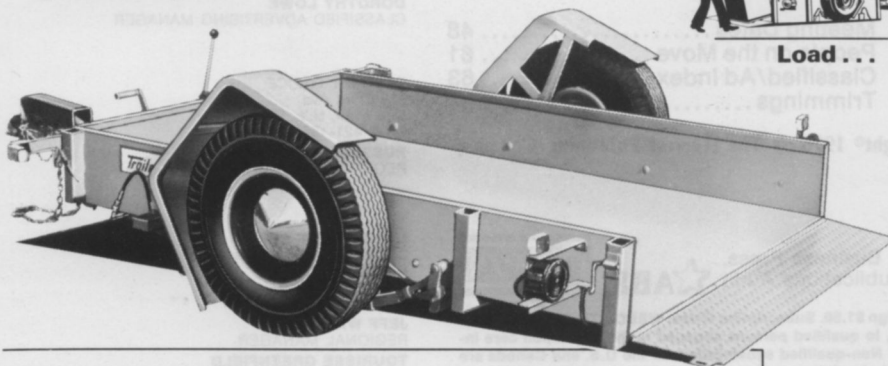
Yes, we have learned some hard lessons in this pesticide business. And we may have more instruction yet to come. But, if we forget all else, we should still remember just how EPA was created and how it began to use its power. This lesson will be important to keep in mind in many other aspects of our business.

Very briefly, Congress created the EPA when large numbers of people were saying . . . "the situation is so bad that the government ought to do something about it." Large numbers of people put the power in Washington, but with no instructions on how it was to be used.

The power was to be used, we have discovered, where the most influential and strongest pointers directed. DDM

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