

# Government News

Certain deviations from strict compliance with data requirements in the Section 3 registration guidelines have been ordered by Edwin L. Johnson, deputy assistant administrator for pesticide programs, EPA. Johnson has directed all Office of Pesticide Programs employees to use their own scientific judgment in determining whether deviations from the data requirements in the registration guidelines should be allowed.

Johnson has ordered the OPP employees to review old tests aside from the guidelines to determine whether health and safety determinations could be made without redoing studies under the new protocols in the guidelines; acceptance of studies from universities, foreign groups, etc. not sponsored by manufacturers, which do not meet exact specifications of protocols in the guidelines, but which "meet the basic statistical parameters of reliability," case-by-case application of scientific judgment on allowing deviations from the guidelines' data requirements to formulated products.

EPA Administrator Douglas Costle said "no thanks" to increased funding for the Toxic Substances Control Act during testimony in early May. Costle said President Carter's revised budget request for TSCA of \$29 million for fiscal 1978 represents a "more than fourfold increase" and, "taking into account the practical limitations on how quickly an organization can be expanded and still remain effective, it seems to me that the \$29 million request is quite adequate for fiscal year 1978."

The House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Department Investigations, Oversight, and Research voted to extend FIFRA without amendments to March 31, 1978. Essentially, it is a six months extension, providing \$43,500,000 for the period beginning October 1, 1976 and ending September 30, 1977, and \$27,500,000 for the period beginning October 1, 1977 and ending March 31, 1978.

The House Subcommittee and the Senate Agriculture Committee removed FIFRA from the farm bill. In early June, concurrent hearings on FIFRA amendments are planned by the House Subcommittee and the Senate Agriculture Committee. Amendments beyond those proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency are certain to be considered during the June hearings.

EPA is reviewing registration of Lindane. If you have need for the chemical and your state extension entomologist confirms you have no equal or superior registered substitute, both you and he should file comments before June 17. Send information in triplicate to: Federal Register Section, Technical Services Division (WH-569), Office of Pesticide Programs, Room 401, East Tower, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460.