

UPDATE

Government workers push laws to discourage outside contractors

Government employee unions are fighting hard to push through Congress a bill which would require bidders on Defense Department contractors to pay the cost of a study to determine whether private industry or government workers can do the job cheaper. The added cost of the study could swell proposed bids on jobs to the point where contracting out would not be competitive.

If successful, other agencies would be next. These unions are better organized than many of the groups pushing for contracting out and with a membership of almost one million employees they carry a lot of clout at election time. If they didn't get what they wanted in the last Congress you can be sure that they will be back when the new session begins in January 1983.

It also appears that the White House, which wanted to save \$1 billion worth of activity now being performed in-house, doesn't care if the contract goes to private contractors or is saved by higher in-house productivity. When it came time for the budget fight, the \$1 billion was small when compared to other items and was overlooked. Private business thinks that the Administration could have pushed for contracting out more with Congress.

Gypsy moth quarantine might extend to moving companies

The American Association of Nurserymen told the Office of Management and Budget that nurserymen are still interested in an effective gypsy moth quarantine program. OMB is doing a study on how a quarantine would function and what it would cost.

One possible result of a quarantine program if implemented would be more restrictions on moving companies. Outdoor furniture, firewood, and doghouses would have to be inspected and certified free of gypsy moth egg masses or the moving company would refuse to load them on trucks. USDA would publish pamphlets for moving companies. Restrictions would apply in areas of heavy infestation where people are moving out.

Servicemen exception made for child-resistant residential pesticides

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized rules for incorporating child-resistant packaging to pesticides designated for residential use. Pesticides which carry the signal words, DANGER or WARNING, or are especially corrosive to the eyes or the skin will need special packaging to protect children and adults from injury due to accidental ingestion of the chemical.

In order to pin-point the formulations used by commercial applicators, such as ornamental trees, shrubs, flowers, turf and lawn maintenance personnel or exterminators, EPA has exempted registrants who limit their products to sale, use and storage by "servicepersons" from the packaging requirements. *These words must be prominently displayed on the label.* An individual homeowner is not a serviceperson. There are both civil and criminal fines for misuse of such chemicals.

horticulture. Galle is curator at Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, GA, and has been in horticulture the past 40 years. Galle writes frequently on horticultural topics and is currently editing the "Azalea Book" by Frederic P. Lee.

Eliot Wadsworth II was awarded the Commercial Citation. He is owner of White Flower Farm Nursery, one of the finest perennial nurseries in the country. The commercial citation is given to an individual whose commitment to the highest standards of excellence in the field of commercial horticulture contributes to the betterment of gardening practices everywhere.

Robert Smaus received this year's Writing Citation. Smaus is associate editor of the Los Angeles Times Home Magazine and is a former contributing editor of Sunset magazine.

The Landscape Staff at Disneyland in California received this year's Landscape Citation, given to those whose work in landscape architecture or design contributes to a better awareness of the field of horticulture. The Disneyland landscape staff of 49 maintains seven acres of flowerbeds filled with 800,000 annuals, three acres of turf and nine acres of shrub areas, as well as 2,500 trees and a sizeable amount of topiary, all grown on the premises.

Marlene Holwadel received the Society's first Local Horticulture Citation, given to an individual or group who has contributed to the improvement of horticulture in the host city for the Society's Annual Meeting. As one of the two founders of the Cincinnati Park Board Volunteers in 1971, Holwadel started the gift shop in the Krohn Conservatory and developed guided tours of both the Conservatory and the Mt. Airy Arboretum. She and her volunteers have contributed plants to the conservatory and have made a number of important physical improvements to the Conservatory's buildings.

Jane Steffey, the Society's Horticultural Information Service Director, was awarded the Meritorious Service Award for her 11 years of volunteer work in various capacities for the Society.

Donald Egolf, a research horticulturist with the U.S. National Arboretum, was given this year's Professional Citation. Egolf has introduced 30 new cultivars since 1958. He has received numerous awards and is credited with making the breeding program at the U.S. National Arboretum one of the most comprehensive of its kind in the world.