

UPDATE

Training termed "inadequate"

A recent report by the General Accounting Office to the Environmental Protection Agency stated applicator training in a number of states does not meet Federal standards and, as a result, does not adequately train applicators to avoid pesticide misuse.

Illinois and Minnesota were two states selected by EPA to show shortcomings in pesticide training and certification. GAO said the conditions exist in other states, too, and that EPA is partly to blame for the problem. EPA, said the report, has contributed to the situation because it has never developed criteria for evaluating test quality and has not conducted in-depth reviews of state examinations since 1976.

The report was presented to EPA Administrator William Ruckelshaus, who was the first administrator of the Agency and recently returned after the resignation of Ann Gorsuch Burford.

33 groups oppose envirobill

An amazing cooperative effort by 33 organizations representing pesticide users and manufacturers has voiced opposition to each member of the House Agriculture Committee to the "Harper's Ferry bill", a proposal to amend FIFRA.

Saying the amendments are "premature and unnecessary", a letter to the committee members strongly urged opposition to the bill by the committee until the new administrator's staff has had time to make its own recommendations for FIFRA.

Among the 33 organizations are the American Association of Nurserymen, the Seed Trade Association, the Interior Plantscape Association, the Professional Lawn Care Association of America, the National Arborist Association, and the National Pest Control Association.

The Harper's Ferry Bill was introduced by George E. Brown Jr. (D-CA) in late winter and is basically a want list of all the environmental groups in one bill. "Every point raised by environmental groups in the past is being revived by this bill," says Ray Brush, director of technical services at AAN. "If it were passed it would be like starting all over again."

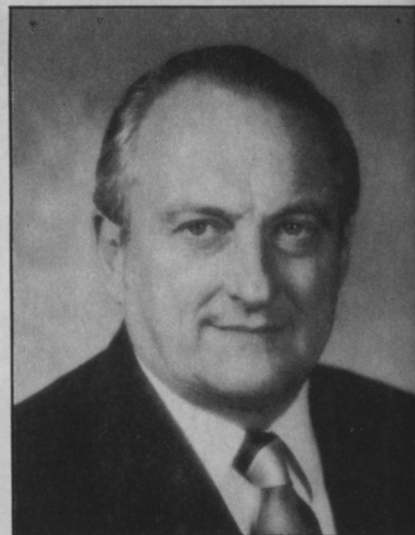
Bills for extending FIFRA are in Congress at the same time. It is likely both houses will extend the FIFRA with few amendments in order to give new Administrator Ruckelshaus time to evaluate it."

Nova Scotia backs 2,4-D use

The Supreme Court of Nova Scotia denied an injunction on use of 2,4-D and 2,4,5,-T in September concluding that these products do not present a health hazard and can be used safely.

The case was brought to court by landowners near the forest lands of Nova Scotia Forest Industries. The landowners were concerned about groundwater in the area.

Justice Merlin Nunn stated in his 182-page decision, "I am satisfied that the overwhelming currently accepted view of responsible scientists is that there is little evidence that, for humans either 2,4-D or 2,4,5-T are mutagenic or carcinogenic and that TCDD is not an effective carcinogen, and further, that there are no-effect levels and safe levels for humans and wildlife for each of these substances."



Roland R. Lehman

titles," explained Lehman. "Since Ransomes of England bought the company, Mr. Adam and I have been running it. It will be business as usual."

EQUIPMENT**Ariens celebrates 50th year in equipment**

On Sept. 11, 1933, the Ariens Company began production of the first domestic-built rotary tiller at its plant in Brillion, WI. Now, 50 years later, the company is a leading manufacturer of walk-behind lawn mowers, riding mowers, lawn and garden tractors and snow throwers.

Ariens marked its 50th anniversary recently with an open house and special programs for its more than 400 employees. The company, after 50 years in business, remains family-owned.

TREES**First Arbor Expo premieres in Philly**

Arbor Expo '83, Arbor Age magazine's first conference and exhibition for the tree care industry, is set for Nov. 17-19 at the Philadelphia Civic Center in Philadelphia, PA.

Educational sessions will range from tree care procedures to the business side of being a tree care professional. There will also be exhibits and outdoor equipment demonstrations.

A special conference package is available for those who register before Oct. 26. For more information and registration, contact Conference Management Corporation, 17 Washington St. Norwalk, CT 06856 (203) 852-0500.