## AS I SEE IT...

# My, how things change!



I can remember it as yesterday.

During the November, 1982 convention of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) in Indianapolis, at least two farsighted people actually mentioned pesticide regulations in seminars. Jerry Faulring and Don Burton, PLCAA past president and future president, respectively, were the first to warn us of pending legislation. At the time, though, not many people were listening.

One of the earliest headlines I ever wrote for the green industry was this one: "Environmentalists: A threat to the industry's survival." It went on top of a Lawn Care Industry article bylined by Faulring, the first really in-depth article concerning the "environ-

emotionalists" to appear in a trade magazine.

Next to that article appeared another headline that read "Pesticide applicators now united." It concerned the beginning of what is now the Pesticide Public Policy Foundation (PPPF).

Since those August, 1983 articles in LCI, the lawn care industry hasn't yet come full circle. The "environ-emotionalists" are still out there, and still trying to get legislators to pass silly laws limiting the effectiveness of urban pesticide applicators.

But now, in 1989, the green industry has some excellent organizations in place to combat the misinformation that has, in the past, been promulgated by the "other side." Jim Brooks, a salesman for LCI and LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT back in 1982, is executive vice president of the PLCAA. Jim Wilkinson, who worked for Old Fox Lawn Care back then, is now executive director of the PPPF. Then there are Bob Felix of the National Arborists Association (NAA) and Harvey Gold of the National Pest Control Association (NPCA), both active proponents of judicious, safe use of urban pesticides.

Have I forgotten somebody? Of course. There are many more active green industry businessmen out there on the state level. And it would behoove each and every one of you to get active at the state and local levels, if not personally at least monetarily.

But the point is, that as pesticide laws move inward to the heart of America from both coasts, machinery is in place to make certain that the green industry gets—at the very least—an even break from our legislators.

It wasn't like that back in 1982.

Jerry Roche, editor

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