

less sales appeal because certain ingredients have been removed, but they certainly have been improved in respect of water contamination.

One point in your brief is of particular interest to me. At page 1 you state:

It is a fact, however, that poisoning may occur by gross overdose of the chemicals which constitute the insecticides and pesticides used in agriculture and in domestic life.

I presume you refer to use by individuals rather than as a result of a generous recommendation of the application? Am I right in assuming that, and that it is something over which the manufacturers have really no control?

Mr. McNEIL: The manufacturers have no control over them. There are very definite directions in respect of the use of these chemicals. We lost a pilot in Alberta while he was carrying out his work spraying crops. The dangers I believe lie mainly in the areas of factories where these are produced but I am sure the workers are being protected.

It would seem that the greatest tragedies occur as a result of careless use of these chemicals on the part of individuals who do not obey the instructions.

Mr. WILLOUGHBY: I should think, Mr. Chairman, that the criticism, while it is correct as far as contamination in respect of wildlife is concerned, does not apply to the problem that the medical association must consider, namely the question of health matters in human beings. While we recognize that wildlife has suffered from excessive use of some of these insecticides and pesticides, we have never had any proof by evidence from any of the witnesses we have heard that there are any serious results as far as human health conditions are concerned. I think that fact probably answers the criticisms. The medical association deals with health matters only.

Mr. ORLIKOW: I should like to ask Dr. McNeil one further question. Is it not a fact that there is a good deal of evidence that in products such as those used extensively by younger people, milk for instance, there has been found by experiments, carried out across Canada and in the United States, very appreciable amounts of some of these chemicals?

Mr. CÔTÉ (*Longueuil*): Mr. Chairman, I think we have gone through this discussion in respect of pesticides and insecticides and I do not think we should go through it again.

Mr. ORLIKOW: This subject is covered by the brief.

Mr. CÔTÉ (*Longueuil*): I think this discussion should have taken place before we presented our report in respect of pesticides and insecticides. I do not understand why it is taking place in respect of our report at this time.

The CHAIRMAN: It is taking place now because this reference is still in our terms of reference.

Mr. HOWE (*Hamilton South*): I should just like to suggest that the summary does not correctly reflect the body of the submission in that it is noted at page 2 in the second paragraph that there are relative dangers, yet the blanket statement is made in the summary that there is no produce contamination of food stuffs. The statement appearing at page 2 notes that there are potential dangers, so I would say that this brief has been prepared with complete awareness of this danger but does not reflect that awareness in the summary.

The CHAIRMAN: I had the thought that it might be interesting to this committee to ask Dr. McNeil and Professor Wightman, who are both active practitioners in the medical field, whether they have found that the uses of pesticides and insecticides has given rise to diseases or any significant danger of morbidity or mortality.