

knew the reasons for. It could materially reduce, if not eliminate, harmful controversy based on incomplete or erroneous information that all too often results when policy decisions are taken without prior consultation. In addition, the implementation of a consultative procedure could help to identify policy needs, including the need for new research.

10. It goes without saying that few if any farmers have or can be expected to have expert knowledge on the agricultural chemicals they use. This means, of course, that while they individually and collectively have a heavy responsibility to follow to the letter the instructions that are issued with chemical compounds used in their operations they must rely, along with all other citizens, on government regulation and control of the chemical industry.

11. The Canadian Government has developed over the years laws and regulations respecting the licensing, sale and use and misuse of chemicals, as well as the agencies to administer these laws. We refer, of course, to the Pest Control Products Act, and the Food and Drugs Act, and the scientific and administrative personnel charged with the responsibility of enforcing them. The Federation does not present itself as a body competent to say with assurance that these pieces of legislation and their enforcement are adequate to provide the protection to which the public is entitled. We can, however, offer these views, which may be self-evident, but which we believe are worth stressing.

12. The development and use of agricultural chemicals has contributed in great measure toward increasing the world's food supply during a period of rapidly expanding population and increasing urbanization and industrialization. Canada has been in the forefront of the use of such chemicals.

13. Without these chemicals the commercial production of most fruits and vegetables would be rendered almost impractical, and our supplies of meats, poultry, milk, eggs, grains and special crops would be seriously reduced.

14. The elimination of chemical pest control methods could result in a deterioration in the quantity of our food supplies, could increase the threat of disease in the human population, and could reduce significantly the quantity of food coming to market, and, hence, make food more costly.

15. Agricultural chemicals are, of course, one of the important tools that farmers must employ if they are to remain in the business in which they are engaged. Otherwise their products will frequently fail to meet the quality standards required by law, and they will fail to be competitive with farmers at home or abroad who are engaged in the same type of production.

16. The development and use of agricultural chemicals has been beneficial in increasing the quantity and quality of our food supplies, and in reducing food costs to the consuming public. Agricultural chemicals are here to stay. What is important is to be fully cognizant of the potential hazards involved in their use, and for the government to continue to work out, in collaboration with the manufacturers and users, a system of control, backed by rigid enforcement, that will ensure the public's safety and its esthetic interest in the rural environment.

17. Your study can be highly useful in two ways, providing sufficient expert evidence is placed before you. As legislators with a primary responsibility to ensure the public welfare, you can satisfy yourselves of the adequacy or otherwise of present legislation and regulations, and make any necessary recommendations. In so doing, you can give not only Parliament, but the general public, a sense of perspective and understanding of the important place agricultural chemicals hold in the production of food stuffs, and improve public confidence in the reliability of the procedures followed within the government to ensure the safety of the public from food contamination.