

particularly is in view of the matter of jurisdiction between the federal and provincial governments in respect of many of the problems we have discussed. We are hoping that Mr. Curran will be able to come on the same day that you appear, Dr. Morrell.

Recommendation agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN: The last recommendation is that the quorum be set at eight members.

Mr. BALDWIN: May I speak to that? I agree with what has been said by some persons, that it is not very good to have a small committee of eight persons hear some witnesses. However, my experience over a few years of attending committees is that usually we wind up having a fairly good attendance, but it is the first half hour or so when it is difficult to get members to come in order to get the proceedings under way. I know this is not a sound reason, but if the reason for doing this is in order to get enough people to come so that the briefs may be read and the material put on the record, then I would be in favour of this particular recommendation. I said there are shortcomings in regard to it.

Mr. ENNS: Perhaps I too have been guilty of being late. I agree that we should go along with the recommendation of the steering committee from the practical end of things, rather than from the strength of the committee point of view.

The CHAIRMAN: Is there any further discussion? All those in favour of setting the quorum at eight members, please signify? Those against? I declare the motion carried seven to three.

Motion agreed to.

Now, gentlemen, first of all I must apologize to our witness for taking up a little time of the committee this morning to go into matters of administration.

We have with us as our witness this morning a guest, Dr. J. M. Coon, Professor and head of the Department of Pharmacology of Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. He is also chairman of the Food Protection Committee of the National Research Council of the National Academy of Science. Dr. Coon has come prepared to speak to us today particularly in relation to the protection of food from contamination by insecticides and pesticides. I now call on Dr. Coon.

Dr. J. M. COON (*Professor and Head of Department of Pharmacology, The Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia*): Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you. I appreciate being asked to come here to discuss this very important matter. But I would like to record a correction in something you said. You said that I was chairman of the Food Protection Committee. Dr. William Darby is chairman of that committee. I am chairman of one of its subcommittees, the toxicology subcommittee.

I have about four-and-one-half pages of material which I propose to read.

A necessary property of pesticides is that they be poisonous. Fortunately, by this property they have done substantially more good than harm. But the injury done is still excessive and there is much room for improvement in the use and regulation of the use of pesticides. The damage that has been done relates essentially (a) to fish and wildlife—and I believe the previous discussions of your committee have dealt with those problems—and (b) to accidental poisoning of people. By accidental poisoning I mean poisoning resulting from contact with or the misuse or improper handling of pesticides, either intentionally or out of ignorance or carelessness. Accidental poisoning in this sense cannot be held as an indictment of pesticides but of human behaviour, of the order of walking in front of a moving automobile or leaving aspirin sitting around the house where children can get hold of it. The approach to such