

Mr. WILLOUGHBY: Was the degree of discovered contamination excessive to the point where it was injurious to human beings, and what is the degree of contamination compared with that found in other provinces?

Mr. ROBERTSON: I cannot answer the question as to the comparison between provinces. I again suggest that this is a question which should be asked of the food and drug people. I am not familiar with the levels of residual contamination from the use of insecticides which are injurious to health.

Mr. WILLOUGHBY: We were given reasonable assurance this morning that the degree of contamination discovered thus far was not serious so far as the average consumer was concerned. The margin of contamination has been established at a very conservative level, and I understand that experiments have been carried out increasing the amount of contamination by 100 times, and even at that level it is not harmful to the individual.

Mr. ROXBURGH: I think that statement had reference to D.D.T.

Mr. WILLOUGHBY: Yes, it had particular reference to the use of D.D.T.

The CHAIRMAN: Perhaps I can assist Mr. Robertson in this regard. Mr. Robertson was not present this morning when Professor Brown testified before this committee, and he does not know what was said at that time.

I think the point Mr. Robertson has made is that his department has been given the task of enforcing the regulations and as far as they are concerned the acceptable tolerance level is zero. Anything above that is illegal. They found they could not enforce the regulations in this regard so the only thing left to do was to remove the product from the market.

Mr. ROBERTSON: That is correct.

Mr. JORGENSEN: Do you know of any comparable action taken on the part of any other province

Mr. ROBERTSON: I do not, no.

Mr. JORGENSEN: I understand that the province of Saskatchewan subsidizes the use of these chemicals, does it not?

Mr. ROBERTSON: I think you should understand, gentlemen, that the distribution of chemicals in the other two prairie provinces is handled in an entirely different manner from the province of Manitoba. In our province the distribution and sale of chemical is left entirely in the hands of the chemical trade. In the other two provinces the provincial governments do purchase and distribute insecticides.

Mr. JORGENSEN: Those provinces can effect some measure of control in that way; is that right?

Mr. ROBERTSON: That is correct. They are controlling the sale and outlet for chemicals in that manner.

Mr. ENNS: Are any insecticides exempt from this type of control, or is this new legislation all inclusive in this regard?

Mr. ROBERTSON: All insecticides for use by farmers on field crops and live-stock are covered under this act. In addition, specific compounds must be signed for by the farmer at the time of purchase. Any person selling insecticides of this type to be used by farmers is required to be licenced.

Mr. JORGENSEN: Does this legislation cover only insecticides, or does it also cover fungicides?

Mr. ROBERTSON: The legislation covers only insecticides at the present time.

Mr. BALDWIN: Mr. Chairman, I should like to refer to the point I made in this connection regarding the distinction or similarity between the two acts. You have prohibited, in effect, even though indirectly, the use of these two particular insecticides to which you have referred?