

to incite fear and consternation among the consumers of America out of all proportion to any possible or real danger involved.

A.M.A. POSITION

The Council on Foods and Nutrition of the American Medical Association has recently (*J.A.M.A.* Vol. 178 No. 7: 11.18.61) published the following official statement:

"The Council on Foods and Nutrition recognizes the contributions that chemical substances in food production, processing, and preservation have made to the quality and quantity of the American food supply. While many chemical additives are essential to efficient agricultural production, others are vital to the manufacture of food products. There is no reason to believe that the present use of chemicals in foods is endangering the health of people. Responsible manufacturers have made careful safety tests before the introduction of new chemicals, and the Food and Drug Administration is diligently and effectively protecting consumers from presence of hazardous chemicals under existing federal laws.

"It is the considered opinion of members of the Council on Foods and Nutrition that the Delaney Clause . . . and the similar clause . . . in the Color Additive Amendments . . . prohibiting the setting of tolerances for the use of carcinogens in foods should be either repealed or revised. Technically, this special provision contributes nothing to the safe use of food additives since any hazardous use of an additive is already prohibited in the general provisions of the food additive amendment. It is probable that the clause could prohibit the addition of certain essential nutrients to foods if a substance was shown to be carcinogenic in any amount. A literal and overly broad interpretation of the Delaney Clause would not make a demonstrable contribution to public safety."

Many statements have appeared recently in the popular press which are deliberately calculated to generate electoral support for those who propose legislation that only hampers the progress of our agriculture and with it the highest standards of living, health and happiness that man has ever known. The only alternative offered for our present process of agriculture by these critics is to return to the jungle and employ the so-called natural or "organic" way of life. It never occurs to them, apparently, that this is precisely the way some three-quarters of the people of this earth do live now—if it can be called living. There are hundreds of millions of wretched, crawling human beings desperately clawing their way from one scrap of food to the next, with neither thought nor desire for the science of farming to improve their lot. This is to what the natural, "organic" way of life has chained them. It could very readily also reduce us to the same bondage if we should abandon the scientific process in our agricul-