

He has an interest in the avoidance of economic losses to the nation through the misuse of chemicals, and the advantages to the nation of their proper use.

Finally, he has an interest in the preservation of the national rural environment for esthetic and recreational reasons.

4. Taken together, these farmer interests explain why the Federation and its constituent bodies give strong support to government efforts to protect the health of the farmer and consumer, and why we welcome the study that your Committee has underway. It seems to us that periodic investigations of the kind you are conducting—into a field where new pest control products and measures are constantly being developed—are both desirable and necessary.

5. The Federation recognizes and regards the object of your study as being of a highly technical nature. Whether certain chemicals should or should not be used, or whether they should be used in a particular way when licensed, either in farming or in other sectors of the economy, are essentially technical questions. The answers to these questions depend on the gathering and/or examination of scientific evidence, and the exercise of judgment and decision on the basis of such evidence. It follows from this that public policy with respect to the use of chemicals must also depend on a highly developed and constantly increasing body of technical knowledge.

6. However, from a policy standpoint the matter does not rest there. Equally eminent scientists can agree on the scientific facts that are required to make a policy decision, but they may disagree in their judgments on what to recommend as a course of policy. In the final analysis then, lay people in positions of responsibility must accept a responsibility for participating in the making of many important policy judgments. To do this, of course, they must be provided with all the scientific facts. Legislative bodies, of course, have the primary responsibility in policy formulation.

7. Among the policy decisions that must be made in regard to the use of agricultural chemicals are those related to:

The degree, if any, to which a given product is detrimental to vegetation (other than weeds), beneficial insects (bees), domestic or wild animals or public health when used according to directions. In establishing a judgment in this connection, proper attention must be given to the long term residual effect of repeated applications of the chemical in question.

The hazards, if any, to water, animal and human life arising from the application, in the same geographic area, of a number of chemicals, each designed for quite different purposes and each used according to their own prescribed directions.

The required level of expenditures by governments on research, law enforcement and public education dealing with the use of chemicals.

8. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture thinks it is important that both the users of the chemicals and the consuming public be brought completely into the picture in regard to these and other policy questions on some kind of continuing basis. One approach to this has been developed in Alberta. In that province, producers, processors and handlers of milk have joined with scientific and government personnel to work together, through a series of committees, on the problems associated with the use of agricultural chemicals on dairy farms.

9. The development of some such method of getting all the relevant data and experience together for the common good would seem to us to have merit on a national basis. A regular consultative procedure would make possible the formulation and implementation of policy decisions that everyone concerned