

Mr. RYNARD: In other words, it is your feeling that there ought to be more controls than we have at the present time.

Mr. COON: That would be my opinion, yes; and, to give a more direct answer to your question, my opinion would be that operators who are making a living out of spraying pesticides should be licensed.

Mr. RYNARD: I have another question I would like to ask at this point. I do not know whether or not there has been any work done on this or not. Do you know whether too much use of D.D.T. would result in any reaction on the bacteria or on the virus, or if it tends to kill bacteria or virus.

Mr. COON: No. D.D.T. never has established any reputation as an anti-bacterial agent or as an antiviral agent. It is used in medicine for certain pests that infest the surface of the body, and it can be sprayed all over the body in a 10 per cent mixture of a powder without injuring the individual.

Mr. RYNARD: I would like to ask if pharmacologists have been able to work out antidotes to all the insecticides or pesticides being used at the present time?

Mr. COON: No; there is plenty of room for further development in this area. The organophosphate insecticides do have specific remedies; however, they still will not antagonize very large lethal doses of organophosphates. They save many lives, but if the dose of the organophosphate is large enough then they are not effective. In the case of the chlorinated hydrocarbons, we have now what we call specific antidotes. Poisoning by chlorinated hydrocarbons has to be treated systemically; that is, if there are convulsions drugs which depress the central nervous system will be used to offset the involuntary effects.

Mr. RYNARD: Are all the hospitals in your area alert to the antidote or the systemic treatment?

Mr. COON: I believe so, yes.

Mr. RYNARD: You were mentioning that if the intake of D.D.T. into the system was high enough it could be considered a problem. I was wondering what would happen to a person who has to lose weight for some reason or another; is there a danger point there because of the fact it is stored in the fat?

Mr. COON: Yes, there have been cases reported in which there has been a load of chlorinated hydrocarbons. I believe D.D.T. has been implicated here and, perhaps, dieldrin, although I am not sure of that. When stored in the fat, and then when the individual perhaps goes on a diet to reduce weight the pesticide is liberated and causes systemic poisoning. There have been cases reported on this.

Mr. RYNARD: Therefore, perhaps there should be some warning issued so that the levels are not permitted to get up too high. This would be a precaution taken against future problems. Would you agree with that?

Mr. COON: Yes, or the recommendation to keep up your weight.

Mr. BALDWIN: Someone should send word, to Dr. Chaput.

The CHAIRMAN: Have you a question, Mr. Nesbitt?

Mr. NESBITT: Mr. Chairman, I think most of the questions I had in mind were pretty well put by Dr. Rynard. However, there are one or two more points I would like to cover. We are engaged in this committee in trying to find some practical means to overcome the misuse of these insecticides and pesticides. I was wondering if you might agree or disagree with the following suggestion, that those substances which are used in the home and which contain substances of extreme toxicity such as nicotine acid, dieldrin and all the others should be properly labelled and that the warnings should be extremely well displayed on the containers which contain these substances. Could you offer any additional suggestion in this connection?