

fact that the backyard farmer has access to these chemicals, what advantage do you gain by tightening your regulations in regard to the use of these chemicals by farmers?

We are all interested in receiving information in this committee but I will make a wager at this stage that a group of farmers from Ontario would know more about sprays and their chemical contents as a result of their spraying programs than any other group of individuals including backyard farmers. I suggest those individuals do not have a smattering of knowledge as compared to the average farmer regarding the use of these chemicals. We find it difficult to understand why there is a tendency to regulate the use of these chemicals by farmers who use them in large quantities when they are so easily accessible to backyard farmers.

Mr. JORGENSEN: Perhaps Mr. Roxburgh would give us his definition of the term "backyard farmer". We do not have such an animal in our province.

Mr. WILLOUGHBY: I am sure we do not have that type of farmer in Manitoba.

Mr. WHELAN: Mr. Chairman, I think I used the term to indicate the type of individual who grows vegetables in his own backyard in villages, towns and cities and then gives them to his neighbours. These individuals usually grow enough vegetables to feed ten families, and there is no control whatsoever in regard to chemicals used by these individuals because they do not sell their produce.

Mr. ENNS: One unfortunate neighbour could bring a halt to that practice.

Mr. WHELAN: I do not have a garden where I live but I do not have to buy garden products. They are all given to me.

Mr. ROXBURGH: You are a lucky boy.

Mr. WHELAN: Yes, I am, and I have not died from the effects of any spraying.

Mr. ROXBURGH: Did I understand you to say that in Manitoba you do not have a system of education through agricultural representatives? Around Norfolk the fruit and tobacco growers have formed an organization that has field men who travel throughout the area instructing the growers on the proper use of the insecticides and fungicides. In Manitoba do you have agricultural representatives who carry on this educational work in the field?

Mr. ROBERTSON: By all means we have an educational program in this regard through agricultural representatives, and we appreciate also the tremendous assistance we receive from the agricultural chemical people. The licensing aspect to which I have referred is just an additional safeguard.

Mr. ENNS: In the event an impression has been left with this committee that the province of Manitoba does not have an educational program carried on by the department of agriculture in regard to the use of these chemicals, let the record be clear that we do have a very excellent educational program of this type.

Mr. ROXBURGH: I was beginning to worry about the situation.

Mr. ENNS: The province of Manitoba also employs weed control experts who carry out a great deal of this work. I do not feel Mr. Roxburgh need be worried that we have not got sufficient people working in this field.

Mr. WILLOUGHBY: I understand from discussion which took place earlier this afternoon that this legislation resulted from the fact that certain products were found to contain residual contamination from these chemicals, is that correct?

Mr. ROBERTSON: That is correct. Contaminated products were discovered.