

Mr. NESBITT: Perhaps you misunderstood my question. When these samples of milk are taken and tests made with the idea of attempting to trace noxious substances, I gather there would have to be a separate test for each chemical you are looking for. I believe there are a number of poisonous substances which are tested for, and I am wondering how this is done.

Mr. BENTLEY: I am not a technical man. You would have to call Dr. Kadis of the testing lab. at Edmonton to tell you all the different things they test for.

Mr. NESBITT: Would one test show up residues of these different types of pesticides

Mr. BENTLEY: I would not be sure of that. I am afraid I am out of my depth here. I do not know. I know they do have different results, because I have seen some of these results. They arrive at different things which may be in this particular product.

The CHAIRMAN: I think this will be a very good question to ask the representatives of the food and drug directorate when they appear before us again.

Mr. NESBITT: I would think there would have to be a number of tests carried out.

Mr. BENTLEY: That is possible.

Mr. NESBITT: There may be a great many things, some of them of a stable character, and some of an unstable character.

Mr. MITCHELL: Do you know whether there is an allowable level of pesticide or chemical content over which it would be called dangerous? Is there an allowable amount which has no bearing on human consumption in respect of being dangerous?

Mr. BENTLEY: As a layman I do not know. Apparently even the scientists disagree in respect of what level in this particular field is detrimental to human health. I have been a member of a committee which deals with fall-out, for instance, in relation to milk production and the residues such as iodine 13 and strontium 90. Even the scientists today in Great Britain, Canada and the United States disagree in respect of the levels which are injurious to human life. As a layman I cannot say at what level we consider something injurious. The ideal, of course, is zero.

Mr. MITCHELL: I realize that.

Mr. BENTLEY: I could not say what level has been decided on. I do not know because these scientists have different opinions among themselves.

Mr. MITCHELL: You would assume that there is an allowable level within which the scientists or chemists would consider they would not be injurious?

Mr. BENTLEY: I think this is true; but from the point of view of the producers we are attacking this on the basis that we do not want any residue and that proper precautions should be taken to see that there is no residue. However, you are quite right, I think, that there probably is some which might not be of any harm to the human system. From our standpoint, the way to attack it is that if there is any there we want to get to the producer and show him how he can correct it.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any other questions, gentlemen?

Mr. WILLOUGHBY: Would you not consider that there might be a minimum amount of residue in milk when spraying has been done, even though it has been done according to instructions? I should think there must be traces in these cases when pesticides have been used.

Mr. BENTLEY: There is a lot of spraying done. I have seen figures on thousands of tests which have taken place and I have been amazed at how