

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

TUESDAY, November 19, 1963.  
(13)

The Special Committee on Food and Drugs met at 9:40 a.m. this day. The Chairman, Mr. Harry C. Harley, presiding.

*Members present:* Messrs. Armstrong, Baldwin, Côté (*Longueuil*), Enns, Gelber, Harley, Mitchell, Nesbitt, Otto, Roxburgh, Rynard, Whelan, Willoughby,—(13).

*In attendance:* Dr. J. M. Coon, Ph.D., M.D., Professor and Head of the Department of Pharmacology, The Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, U.S.A.

The Chairman opened the meeting and presented the third report of the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure as follows:

The Subcommittee recommends:

1. That Miss Rachel Carson be invited to appear before the Committee in the first week of December;
2. That Mr. Curran, of the Legal Branch of the Department of National Health and Welfare be called on the 28th of November together with the officials of the Food and Drug Directorate;
3. That notwithstanding the resolutions passed by the Committee on August 1st and October 15th, the quorum be set at 8 members.

Items 1 and 2 were adopted unanimously.

Some discussion arose about the third recommendation. Mr. Baldwin, seconded by Mr. Enns, moved that it be concurred in. It was resolved to reduce the quorum from 10 to 8, on the following division: YEAS: 7; NAYS: 3.

The Chairman introduced Dr. Coon and apologized to him for having taken a few minutes of his time for procedural matters.

Dr. Coon read a prepared statement dealing with the relation of pesticides to human health, and protection of food from contamination by insecticides and pesticides.

Thereafter he was questioned on the overuse and persistence of pesticides, the intake and storing of residues in the human body, adaptation and resistance to pesticides, and related matters. Questions were also directed to the witness about the persistence and reactions of DDT and the degree of its toxicity in comparison with some other compounds.

At the request of the Chairman, Dr. Coon outlined the amount of research being done in the United States on the problem of insecticides and pesticides.

The Committee agreed that Dr. Coon's opening remarks be duplicated immediately and copies sent to the members as soon as available.

Questioning being concluded, on behalf of the Committee the Chairman thanked the witness for his appearance, and at 11:10 a.m. the Committee adjourned until 9:30 a.m. Thursday, November 21st.

Gabrielle Savard,  
*Clerk of the Committee.*