

Mr. JORGENSEN: Do you feel that the legislation recently passed in Manitoba will contribute to or assist you in assuring that the customer uses the product properly?

Mr. COOPER: I believe it may help.

Mr. JORGENSEN: I was not referring particularly to that particular clause of the bill, but rather to the licensing of the dealer.

Mr. COOPER: Yes, but the important thing in your education system is to go to this dealer with it. The mere issuing of a licence to him is not sufficient. You must take the matter further and arrange to contact the dealer that you are licensing.

Mr. JORGENSEN: Have you read the bill?

Mr. COOPER: Yes, sir, I have read it. And this is what you are going to attempt to do.

Mr. WILLOUGHBY: I would like to ask if you would approve of a suggestion that was brought up at our last meeting that the label on these packages—instead of being in the prescribed form—carry in addition such words as “dangerous unless used as directed”? That has been suggested as a possible addition to the labelling on the package.

Mr. COOPER: We have also started to use that step by stating on the label “read the label carefully”, and these words will be incorporated in a red octagon on every pesticide label that we will be putting out in future, in both English and French. We hope this will help. But it takes up a considerable space, and unfortunately you are forced to reduce the instruction in favour of such a sign of this type. It is very difficult in producing a label to know just what you should put in, and what can safely be left out. But we have turned towards this step with all pesticides from Cyanamid of Canada, and they will contain a red octagon, and the label will be changed to indicate the wording I have given. Pesticides themselves are often poisonous in concentrated form, but few people feel or realize that the solvent used in the pesticide is often just as toxic if not more toxic than is the pesticide itself.

Mr. WILLOUGHBY: Do you have in mind any individual pesticide?

Mr. COOPER: Getting into the field of antidotes, I have had a running argument with certain people of the medical faculty concerning the actual meaning of the word antidote. We have one in the cyano-phosphate field which is not strictly speaking an antidote, if you wish to use the meaning of the term in that way, and I have argued with the medical profession about it. Atropine is an antidote in the arsenic phosphate field, but according to the strict interpretation of the word antidote, this is not true, because atropine does not clear your arsenic phosphate poisoning, or destroy the poison itself. It does however permit cholinesterase to go to work, which is not truly an antidote. I would like to have someone from the medical profession here, or a representative, tell us how we can overcome this problem. We have had doctors who did not wish us to put “dangerous—antidote” on it, because they thought it would be misleading.

Mr. MACALUSO: On page 27 of your brief, getting back to labelling, you said:

We would like to repeat that a grower's best bet for using a pesticide safely is to strictly follow directions given on the label.

And you said, how do you get people to read a label? I agree with that statement. But what do you suggest? In the field of technical users of pesticides, and having regard to your home consumer, what recommendation would you have which would cause them to read the labels?