

Ospenson said that if Chevron were concerned by lack of evidence on toxicological hazards of paraquat they should consider undertaking their own studies. They would give consideration to that.

OTHER POINTS (outside the formal meetings)

1. A few days before the meetings a 16 year old youth had drunk some paraquat at school and at the time of the meetings was in hospital in Los Angeles undergoing treatment. It was reported that he drank the paraquat from a fruit jar in a room adjacent to the headmaster's study to disguise the odour of drugs. The fruit jar containing paraquat had been given to the headmaster by the school janitor/gardener. At the time of writing the outcome of the case is not known.
2. Although there was widespread belief among the persons seen that there was a great deal of adverse paraquat publicity in newspapers, no-one could produce any cuttings (NB Publicity Department were not represented)
3. Carl Tanner had not seen or heard of Marty Gunther's article in the 'Tattler'. The 'Tattler' is a muck-raking magazine resembling 'Private Eye' in some ways.
4. Mrs Ida Honoroff the consumer advocate who is campaigning against paraquat has been seen by Chevron people. She is quite unamenable to argument. A proposal that she should visit a pesticides research organisation would probably be construed as a brainwashing attempt.
5. As far as is known Marty Gunther has not been approached (note again no-one from Chevron's Publicity Department was seen).
6. One or two Chevron people were told of the British pro-active role. Carl Tanner said 'but in America that would take ten men full time'. When I said 'wouldn't you think of that to protect an important product' he said 'well if you look at it that way ...' Chevron already have copies of the pro-active role document but more were handed to Carl Tanner and Warren Lewis.
7. No attempt has been made to identify and brief key public opinion-formers in the USA on paraquat's value and safety when used as recommended.
8. Paraquat has not been discussed openly in Congress or State legislatures. It is more likely that paraquat pressures would pass to the EPA directly.
9. No-one had any knowledge of the proceedings of paraquat inquests.
10. Chevron is presently being sued among others by the father of a child who drank paraquat. The basis of the claim on Chevron is that it marketed a toxic product without an antidote with insufficient warnings. Searle, who will be responsible for fighting the case, says the father has little chance of winning his case against Chevron.
12. There has been a public hearing in Los Angeles county on the control of alligator grass. Mrs Honoroff presented her views in this case claiming that biological control would be possible. Paraquat was raised in this case but exactly how is not known. There is a public record of this case but Chevron did not have it. Searle said he would get a copy.
13. Chevron feel that the Government will not go out of its way to create a monopoly for glyphosate by cancelling paraquat registrations.

14. I said to Carl Tanner 'How about putting "manufactured by ICI" on the l. 1'. He said 'Sure, for a price' I said 'O K next time we put the price up we won't do it by so much'. The topic was not pursued.

DGS/EZ

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