Book Sparks Debate On Use of Chemical Sprays

By LOUIS CASSELS
United Press International

Washington – (UPI) – Is man poisoning his own environment by waging chemical warfare against plant and insect pests?

That question would have been dismissed as absurd 20 years ago. Today it is being seriously debated by scientists and government officials.

It has been made relevant, if not urgent, by a far-reaching change in the methods by which man carries on his age-old struggle against bugs and weeds.

Before World War II, chemical poisons played a relatively minor role in this battle. Then came DDT, which was credited with saving 5 million lives during the war by controlling insect-borne diseases.

After the war, laboratories began turning out a whole arsenal of chemical pesticides –2,4-D, Malathion, Dieldrin and hundreds of others.

Farmers, foresters, public health agencies, housewives and home gardeners took up the new weapons with enthusiasm. Production of pesticides became a major U.S. industry, with annual sales totalling $300 million. Last year, about one billion pounds of chemical poisons were sprayed over America's farms, forests and gardens.

The services which pesticides perform, in raising output of food and fiber and protecting public health, have been frequently extolled. But some biological scientists have come to look upon the mounting use of chemical poisons as a menace – to wildlife, to the balance of nature and to man himself.

New Book

Their viewpoint is dramatically expressed in a new book, "Silent Spring," by Rachel Carson, author of the 1951 best-seller, "The Sea Around Us." Portions of Miss Carson's slashing attack on pesticides were published by the New Yorker magazine in June. The entire book will be published in October by the Houghton Mifflin company.

On the basis of the furor it already has raised, "Silent Spring" seems likely to rank as the most controversial book of 1962.

The National Agricultural Chemicals association, speaking for the pesticides industry, has denounced it as "one-sided" and unfair. The American Chemical society has protested that Miss Carson's warnings are "strongly flavored with sensationalism."

But the Audubon Society of Naturalists and the Wildlife Federation of America have hailed "Silent Spring" as a sober and well-documented report on pesticide perils.

Catastrophic Losses

Miss Carson, trained marine biologist who was formerly on the staff of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service, says wholesale use of chemical poisons is causing "severe, and in some cases, catastrophic" losses of wildlife.

She recounts the slaughter of robins and other birds that has resulted, she says, from mass spraying of trees to control such pests as the gypsy moth and Dutch elm beetles. She cites instances in which other pesticide programs have proven disastrous to fish, rabbits, squirrels, game birds and even farm cats over large areas of America.

But her main concern is for human beings. Man, she says, is rapidly poisoning his own environment. He is polluting his streams, his food supply and even the air he breathes with deadly poisons which, absorbed in minute quantities over a lifetime, may have incalculably harmful effects on his health and his progeny.

She says some pesticides now in use are carcinogens – chemicals capable of causing cancer. She calls attention to their demonstrated genetic effect on lower forms of life and asks why man should assume his own species to be immune.

Finally, she charges that chemical control of pests has been vastly overrated in effectiveness. Wholesale use of man-made poisons upsets the delicate "balance of nature," she contends and, by destroying natural checks, sometimes results in making insect pests more numerous and troublesome than before.

Miss Carson argues that far better results can be obtained against insect and plant pests, with far less danger, by employing "biological controls," the use of nature's own weapons, as in the introduction of a natural predator to check an insect infestation. A classic example is the widespread use of milky spore disease to curb Japanese beetles.

She does not advocate complete elimination of chemical pesticides, but says their use should be "reduced to a minimum" as rapidly as possible.

Biological Control Research

Dr. Byron T. Shaw, director of the Agricultural Research service of the U.S. department of agriculture, told UPI that research on biological controls is being pushed and a new laboratory devoted entirely to this purpose will soon be opened at Columbia, Mo.

"I have no doubt that in time we will develop many more types of biological control," he said. "But it takes a great deal of painstaking work to develop a specific control for each type of pest, and we cannot shift overnight from chemical to biological methods."

He said chemical pesticides play an essential role in U.S. agriculture and forestry.

"Without them we certainly would not have the quantity or quality of food and fiber which we now enjoy," he said.

The same conclusion is contained in a report published by the National Academy of Sciences, which appointed a committee of experts to study the pesticides controversy.

The committee held that chemical pesticides are a necessity in modern agriculture and forestry, and that they have helped to bring many serious diseases, such as malaria and typhus, under control.

At the same time, it said, the impact of pesticides on wildlife "although not disastrous, is just cause for concern." It said the worst hazards result from misuse of pesticides and could be minimized by carefully restricting spray programs to situations where they really are needed and to the lowest effective application rates.

Th U.S. Fish and Wildlife service also has been conducting extensive research on pesticides. Dr. John George, a member of the research team, said field studies show many species of birds, fish and mammals have been hard hit by mass spraying of chemical poisons.

"We recognize the need for pesticides," said George, "but we would like very much to see them used selectively, with great care, in ways that present minimum hazards to wildlife. And we would agree that a shift to biological controls should be encouraged wherever feasible."

Pesticide Residues

A spokesman for the U.S. Food and Drug administration (FDA) said Miss Carson's book, while perhaps one-sided in neglecting the positive benefits of pesticides, "can serve a very valuable purpose in alerting the public to a serious problem."

He said the FDA, charged by law with protecting the purity of the nation's food supply, has long been concerned about pesticide residues in food and milk and has issued regulations establishing maximum "tolerance" for such residues on foods moving in interstate commerce.

When pesticides are used properly in accordance with the regulations and precautions which manufacturers print on labels, he said, they need pose no hazard to health.

Misuse of pesticides, he said, may result in situations such as the 1959 cranberry scare, when FDA warned that some cranberries bearing illegal residues of the cancer-causing chemical aminotriazole were being put on the market, just before Thanksgiving.

As for the long-range dangers cited by Miss Carson – upsetting the balance of nature, insidiously poisoning man's own environment and exposing future generations to a higher incidence of cancer or deformity – most of the government scientists interviewed by UPI declined to offer any sweeping judgments.

"There's a great deal that we simply don't know yet," said an FDA official. "We need much more research on this whole problem," said a Fish and Wildlife Service biologist. "Amen to that," said a spokesman for the National Academy of Sciences.

The American Chemical society, in an editorial published by its official weekly magazine, urged that the government "set up an objective panel to evaluate the total available evidence" about pesticides and their effect on man and wildlife.

AERIAL SPRAYING—Scientists and government officials are seriously debating if man is poisoning his own environment by waging chemical warfare against plant and insect pests. This photo supplied by the U. S. department of agriculture shows a plane spraying for spruce budworm control in the Boise national forest. (UPI)

STAR GAZER

By CLAY R. POLLAN

Your Daily Activity Guide According to the Stars.

To develop message for Friday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.

ARIES MAR. 22 – APR. 20	1 Buy	31 Be	61 From
6-17-28-39 50-69-78	2 You	32 Of	62 Your
TAURUS APR. 21 – MAY 21	3 You	33 Time	63 Time
9-20-31-42 53-58-81-88	4 Capitalize	34 Telephone	64 Full
GEMINI MAY 22 – JUNE 22	5 Gather	35 And	65 Speed
5-16-27-40 51-72-84-85	6 Today's	36 Well	66 Ahead
CANCER JUNE 23 – JULY 23	7 Stress	37 Gracious	67 Letters
2-13-24-35 46-61-82-90	8 Old	38 Appear	68 Meaning
LEO JULY 24 – AUG. 23	9 Refuse	39 For	69 And
1-12-23-34 45-67-80-86	10 New	40 Facts	70 Financially
VIRGO AUG. 24 – SEPT. 22	11 New's	41 Take	71 Favors
8-19-30-41 52-57-68	12 Sell	42 Troubled	72 Deciding
LIBRA SEPT. 23 – OCT. 23	13 Gain	43 Debts	73 Payments
3-14-25-36 47-59-70	14 Could	44 To	74 Money
SCORPIO OCT. 24 – NOV. 22	15 Upon	45 Write	75 Picture
4-15-26-37 48-56-79-87	16 All	46 Favors	76 Looks
SAGITTARIUS NOV. 23 – DEC. 22	17 Your	47 For	77 Clear
7-18-32-43 54-63-73	18 Clear	48 Charm	78 Affection
CAPRICORN DEC. 23 – JAN. 20	19 Friendship	49 In	79 And
11-22-33-44 55-60-71	20 To	50 Romance	80 Sign
AQUARIUS JAN. 21 – FEB. 19	21 Faces	51 Before	81 Aggravations
10-21-29-38 49-62-83-89	22 The	52 On	82 Loved
PISCES FEB. 20 – MAR. 21	23 Travel	53 Over	83 Social
64-65-66-74 75-76-77	24 Attention	54 And	84 Things
	25 Do	55 Ask	85 Finally
	26 Your	56 Popularity	86 Contracts
	27 The	57 New	87 Wit
	28 Day	58 Others'	88 Today
	29 May	59 Yourself	89 Circle
	30 Ties	60 Special	90 Ones

Good – Adverse – Neutral

White House Checks

Washington–(UPI)–The White House is looking into the false warning of impending new earthquakes in Iran by the U.S. Armed Forces Radio in Tehran.

Press Secretary Pierre Salinger said Tuesday that a "cruel hoax" had been perpetrated on the Armed Forces Radio. He said President Kennedy had received a report and awaiting additional details.

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Round-Up Parade Slated Saturday

Pendleton—The 1962 Pendleton Round-Up will get under way Saturday, Sept. 8, with the parade through the town ending at the stadium for final judging.

Floats will compete for trophies in civic, commercial and industrial divisions. Queens and their courts from throughout the Columbia basin will be in the queen's section, and mounted groups from riding clubs in the area will add color to the parade.

Grand marshal will be Dr. Earl Cochran, veteran driver of the mule train in the annual "Westward Ho!" parade who retired this year.

Entertainment will be furnished in the stadium arena by the Main Street Cowboys. Other entertainers will be the Athena Falcons Drum and Bugle corps and McEwen Scotties, also from Athena.

Following the judging of the parade floats, Miss Rodeo Oregon will be selected to succeed Miss Jan Beamer, Miss Rodeo Oregon last year.

Winding up the evening's festivities will be the annual Cowboy shuffle in the Happy Canyon pavilion.

The Round-Up will be held from Sept. 12 through 15

Welfare Department Pays for Returning Case to His State

Salem – (UPI) – The State Public Welfare Department for more than a year has been paying the cost of sending welfare cases back to states where there is a legal residence. In most cases the people returned have sought welfare payments in Oregon but were refused because they have not lived here long enough.

Welfare Administrator Andrew Juras said that some 174 cases have been sent home since July 1961. Buses were used for travel in 94 cases, trains in 41 and planes in 39.

The number of cases, he said, is not the actual number of people involved since a case often is a family unit or two or more persons.

Other states also send cases back to Oregon.

Juras said his agency tries to use the most economical method of returning the welfare cases to their homes.

Four Fly East

In a recent case, he said, four persons were sent to New York by air. Involved were three children aged 2, 3 and 14 whose father had been sentenced to the State Penitentiary.

The youngsters were placed in the custody of a county welfare commission by a juvenile court.

The children's aunt, a crippled woman living in New York, volunteered to take them to their former home in New York and paid her way to come for them.

Because she had only one leg and because of the ages of the younger children it was decided to send the four home by air. The commission questioned if the woman could have handled the youngsters on a long train trip.

The welfare commission, Juras said, decided it was more economical to spend the money on the aunt's one-way trip fare than to use the time of its staff or for another public agency to return the children.

Air travel was used in another case where a 5-year-old mentally-deficient boy with cerebral palsy was sent home to his mother, who was on welfare in Arkansas.

Because an escort was needed, a public health nurse was willing to provide the service if it did not disturb her regular work schedule.

Because of this and the mental and physical condition of the child—who needed a special diet — air travel was used.

Unander Says U.S. Economy Suffering

Eugene – (UPI) – Republican senatorial nominee Sig Unander of Portland said Wednesday that the nation's economy was suffering under the Kennedy administration.

"While Oregon in particular suffers because of the do-nothing record of Wayne Morse," Unander said, "the nation as a whole is in little better shape because of the fiscal irresponsibility of the so-called New Frontier."

He said President Kennedy's "economic braintrust is leading us up the garden path." Unander spoke at a luncheon of the Kiwanis Club of Eugene.

Costs Involved In Private and Common Carriers To Be Told

By JESSE BOGUE
UPI Financial Editor

New York –(UPI)– The continuing debate whether a company with goods to ship should use its own trucks or common carrier truck lines and railroads will get some fresh ammunition for all parties late next month in a Midwestern conference.

Several hundred representatives of such differing and often warring groups as the Teamsters' union, major railroads and some of the nation's biggest intercity truck lines will gather at the Transportation center at Northwestern university in Evanston.

They will hear results of a survey made by a team of university researchers who spent two years and $125,000 assembling information for industry-wide use. The money was posted by shippers, carriers and labor, who all are affected by the common-vs-private carriage controversy.

Questionnaires Mailed

Questionnaires on transportation were sent to 10,000 manufacturing companies with headquarters in the United States. Special data was furnished from shippers' surveys by the Bureau of the Census.

Franklin M. Kreml, director of the center, turned up figures showing that common carriers increased the number of intercity ton miles hauled by them three times between 1943 and 1958; but their proportion of ton miles fell from 50.66 per cent in 1943 to 35.14 per cent in 1949. At least 13,000 companies now have fleets of 10 vehicles or more and about 85 per cent of 12 million motor vehicles in the nation are operated in private carriage.

Reasons behind the growth of private carriage include the development of modern highways and the growth of production techniques which require one-story plant layouts of considerable area. This in turn has pushed many industries to edges of metropolitan areas in search of space, but where common carrier facilities may be hard to find.

Additionally, companies using private carriage argue they feel they can haul their goods for less than the common carrier rates filed with government regulatory groups and that they can give service tailored to their own schedules.

Don't Know Costs

But common carriers can argue in return that when a private company sets up its own network it puts itself into the transportation business and must provide managerial time and effort; and that quite often they do not know or discover too late what are their real costs.

Common carriers also say some companies fail to put a proper value on the return from their investment in a private carrier service; that more money could be made by investment elsewhere.

They argue that some practices of private carriers are illegal, particularly backhauls. If a company truck which has moved a shipment from City A to City B is scheduled to return empty, it might be hired out to carry goods of another company on the trip back home. This can be illegal unless the shipment is confined to agricultural goods or some of the list of exempt products in movement within a state.

Fisher Attacks Foe's Labor Stand

Carl Fisher, Republican candidate for Congress, spoke in his opponent's town Wednesday and said House Speaker Robert Duncan "walked hand in hand with labor's lobbyists at the State Legislature and has earned their support."

Fisher and Duncan are after the fourth district congressional seat being vacated by Rep. Edwin R. Durno.

Fisher said it was "fitting" that Duncan got AFL-CIO endorsement and added, "Let me make it clear that I am not attacking him for this nor do I attack those who endorsed him."

He said, "It is my pleasure to point out that I will not receive the endorsement of a special interest group of this type and that, if elected, I will continue to consider myself the representative of the people, not just one segment of our complex society."

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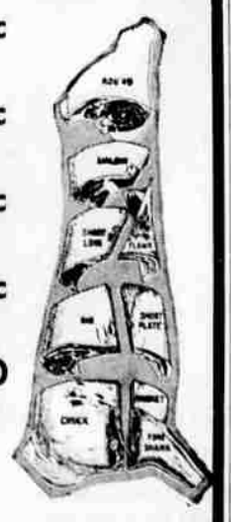

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