

# Agriculture Department in Middle of New Controversy

Washington—(Congressional Quarterly)—The Federal Government has gotten embroiled in the growing controversy over possible long-range damage from use of chemical insecticides, and the Agriculture Department is right in the middle.

The controversy was kicked off by the 1962 publication of a book by biologist Rachel Carson entitled "Silent Spring." Miss Carson argued that many of the deadly pesticides (such as DDT) had unknown and cumulative effects that could not be determined until after many years of tests and experience. Therefore, she criticized widespread use of pesticides by the Agriculture Department and called for tighter controls and stepped-up research.

Miss Carson was criticized as inaccurate and emotional by the pesticides industry and quarters of the public press. But many of her points were backed up in a May, 1963, report by the President's Science Advisory Committee entitled "Use of Pesticides."

**Endorsed Committee**

President Kennedy endorsed the Advisory Committee report and pledged action to implement its recommendations. That was May 15, and little action has been forthcoming. A major reason for this, reportedly, is that some Agriculture Department employees are skeptical about the wisdom of curtailing important pest control programs on the basis of unproven documentation of long-term harm.

The Agriculture Department operates comprehensive mass pest eradication programs and has taken the lead in pesticide development. It registers all pesticides for sale. Testifying on bills to lessen danger to fish and wildlife by requiring additional interagency consultation and pesticide labeling, Agriculture Secretary Orville L. Freeman recommended that the committee postpone action until completion of department studies.

Disatisfaction with this request and the Agriculture Department's role in the pesticide controversy was indicated by Rep. John D. Dingell (D-Mich.), sponsor of both bills. He told Freeman: "You people have been fiddling around with the pesticide problem all the time, and you haven't come forward yet with a legislative program." He asked the department to quit "continually studying" the possible dangers and make concrete recommendations.

Here are some pros and cons of the pesticide controversy:

**Advisory Committee Report**

The report of the President's committee, while stressing the beneficial uses of pesticides, said they had increased contamination of the entire environment. It said there was evidence that pesticides concentrated and built up in man and animals and that "we must understand more completely the properties of these chemicals and determine their long-term impact on biological systems, including man." Among the recommendations:

Comprehensive data gathering programs to determine levels of pesticides in humans known to have been repeated.

**Servicemen COMPLETES TRAINING**

Army Specialist Four Ronald L. Ross, son of Billy A. Ross, route 1, Gold Hill, was graduated from the Seventh U. S. Army Non-Commissioned Officer academy in Germany recently.

He received four weeks of training in various military subjects with emphasis on leadership, map reading, and principles of instruction. A mechanic in the 396th Transportation company in Germany, he attended Crater High school.

**RETURN TO BASE**

Marine Lance Cpl. Michael E. McCartney, son of Mrs. Leslie M. McCartney, 881 East Main st., Ashland, and his friend, Pvt. Bruce Kierman, returned to Camp Pendleton, Calif., after spending 12 days leave at the home of his mother and grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Cleo C. Long, 3156 South Pacific highway, Medford.

Both Marines are in the drum and bugle corps. McCartney was graduated from Ashland High school in 1961.

**GRADUATED**

Airman Third Class Edwin R. Andren, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Andren, 1037 Maple Park dr., Medford, is being reassigned to Portland, Ore., International airport, following graduation from the U. S. Air Force technical training course for dental laboratory specialists at Gunter Air Force, Ala.

Andren, a graduate of Medford High school, attended Southern Oregon college.

edly exposed and the general population.

—Reduction, with a view of eventual elimination, of use of persistent toxic pesticides—chemicals that leave long-lasting residues.

—Revision of present federal pest control coordinating bodies to set up clear assignments for control of pesticide use.

—Elimination of a provision in existing law which requires the Agriculture Department to register rejected pesticides "under protest" until adjudication.

—Provision of funds to evaluate the efficiency of pest control programs and their effect on non-target organisms.

**Industry Response**

An industry representative June 25 answered Advisory Committee criticisms in hearings before a Senate Government Operations Committee subcommittee. Parke C. Brinkley said pesticides had three purposes: to attack bugs and weeds that attack crops and would "uncontrolled, take us to the brink of famine"; to suppress the plague diseases; and to help home owners destroy destructive and disease bearing pests. He said these should not be forgotten in "our speculation about the possible effects of these materials on man."

Brinkley said that while the Advisory Committee report cited pesticide benefits, its general tenor was that "controls are inadequate and need to be strengthened." He said the industry believed that more scientific knowledge, rather than new controls, was needed, and that controls might interfere with acquisition of such knowledge. He supported elimination of protest registration but opposed other recommendations as follows:

—Removing high toxicity pesticides from the market when equally effective low toxicity chemicals were available would "deny a grower the use of a compound which he has used safely and effectively and force him to use another at a higher price (which) would place a cost burden on him and the ultimate consumer.

—Eliminating use of persistent pesticides is not "realistic or desirable" because they are most efficient and effective.

—Responsibility for registering pesticides should remain with the Agriculture Secretary and not be shared with other relevant agencies.

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**HEADING FOR HOME**—With the Battle of Gettysburg over, Confederate Gen. Wade Hampton, once South Carolina governor and U. S. Senator, seemingly heads for home. This dramatic photo was made on the statehouse grounds in Columbia, S. C., and shows the statue of Gen. Hampton made in 1906. (UPI)

# New Life Offered For Problem Youth

Rehoboth, Pa.—(UPI)—Twenty-five teen-age boys from the slums of New York and Chicago are starting a new life in this rolling Pennsylvania countryside.

They are former narcotics addicts whose closest brush with agriculture has been illicit cultivation of marijuana in vacant lots.

Now they are living, working and worshipping on a 200-acre dairy and garden crop farm operated by Teen challenge, an organization with headquarters in Brooklyn, N.Y., and Chicago, which recently dedicated the Teen Challenge Rehabilitation farm.

The boys milk cows, tend to the planting of vegetables and do chores around their new home, an \$85,000 concrete block structure containing a dormitory, kitchen, dining room, classrooms, recreation area, workshop and chapel.

The rehabilitation center, three hours from New York city by automobile, was built with funds contributed by W. Clement Stone, Chicago philanthropist and president of the Combined Insurance Company of America.

**Began in 1958**

The center, perched atop a hill with a panoramic view of the countryside, was conceived by the Rev. David Wilkerson, a minister of the As-

semblies of God Church and founder of Teen challenge. Wilkerson went into the New York slums to find youngsters who needed help. His national group was born in 1958, when he began recruiting volunteers and enlisting the financial support of individuals, foundations, churches and other organizations.

Teen challenge bought an old Brooklyn mansion, which has been its headquarters for several years. The organization has grown so fast the building soon will be replaced with a \$485,000, 100-bed Teen challenge rehabilitation center for narcotics addicts, both boys and girls. A center also is operating in Chicago and workers have been invited by church groups to try to organize centers in Los Angeles, Detroit and Washington, D.C. Invitations for Teen challenge activities have been extended by church groups in other cities as well.

**To Rehabilitate**

One of the chief activities of the Rehoboth center will be to rehabilitate youths who have served jail sentences for crimes committed in connection with their addiction. Wilkerson hopes the farm eventually will be self-supporting, with the income of the 80-head dairy herd and cash crop expected to bring in nearly \$50,000 a year. Nearly 80 pigs have been added to the farm's animal population

in the year since Teen challenge took over and milk production is up 22 per cent. The boys living here have



**ASKED TO QUIT**—Municipal Judge Joseph G. Kennedy of San Francisco, recently appointed to the bench by California Gov. Edmund G. Brown, has been asked to resign his high post in the National Association for Advancement of Colored People by the San Francisco chapter of the organization. The organization said Kennedy "can't speak for the bench and the NAACP both." (UPI)

a busy schedule. They work hard and also are required to attend daily worship services and courses in reading, writing, English, music, American history and speech. Most of them are high school dropouts, so they are being encouraged to resume their educations after they leave. Courses are given in mechanics, art and agriculture to help boys and girls get jobs when they "graduate."

"We try also to teach them good manners," Wilkerson said, "just the basic good manners they need to get along in society."

**School Heads**

The superintendent of the school is the Rev. Frank Reynolds, who has a degree in agriculture. Arthur Graybill, former owner of the farm, has stayed on as manager. The board of the school includes members of the Presbyterian, Dutch Reformed, Baptist, Episcopal and Assemblies of God churches.

"It's the job of the church to get to these boys," Wilkerson said. "We like to get them from jails and hospitals and follow them up. Medical science has failed in this area. So has society. They say there is no cure for the addict. I say that conclusion is reached because there is no follow-up. With follow-up there can be a cure. At least we hope to try to prove it here."



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