

In Our OWN WORLD

News and Comment, Especially 'Round About Central Washington and The Great Northwest

By RUFUS WOODS

1-17-42
In an article "In Our Own World" column the food and drug administration crowd was charged with needlessly wrecking or near wrecking an entire community over a residue which has never even injured anybody. It charged that this group of attempted face-savers constitute the most contemptible of any in the entire government—that it had never been able to substantiate its position, that some of the gang came near, very near, paying personal damages for action brought against one legitimate concern in Washington.

The comment further stated that they constituted a bunch of no-gooders, that the U. S. Health Bureau's thorough study showed the absolute falsity of the f & d position, and the article suggested that the latter, as a group, ought to be investigated by congress.

Some correspondence has come in on the subject which should be of interest to all of us.

LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN WHITE

Jan. 10, 1942

Editor, Wenatchee Daily World:

Thanks for your thoughtfulness in supplying me with a copy of your January 2nd issue of the Wenatchee World. I am taking advantage of this opportunity to call the matter directly to the attention of the Secretary of Agriculture.

The arbitrary action of this branch of the department has been the cause of much distress to the apple growers and difficulty to the several congressional offices representing the apple producing districts in the Northwest.

In fact, it is one of the first problems that confronted me on taking up my work in Washington. I had thought that the modification that we were successful in obtaining at that time had taken care of the matter and it was disappointing to learn at this late date that the apple growers are still being unfairly dealt with.

Let's hope that the letter to the Secretary will get results.

Hoping to have the pleasure of meeting you personally when you are next in the Capital.

shipped, and no one has ever been known to suffer from sprays residue in this state. Less damage would have resulted from the consumption of these two cars of apples than from smoking two cartons of cigarettes or the drinking of a gallon of United States approved whisky.

If we accept the report of the United States Public Health Service on the effect of lead arsenate exposure on orchardists and consumers of sprayed fruit, Public Health Bulletin 267, we must conclude that there is very little if any danger in eating sprayed fruit that has not been washed at all. On Page XI of the summary of this report we find the following language:

"Special attention was given to medical examination of children because, in this district, where orchards surround the communities or the houses in which they live, there are unusual opportunities for children to be exposed to lead arsenate insecticide spray and spray residues on branches, leaves, and grass, in addition to the lead arsenate spray residue

let's hope that the letter to the Secretary will get results.

Hoping to have the pleasure of meeting you personally when you are next in the Capital.

Sincerely yours,

COMPTON I. WHITE, M.C.

**CONGRESSMAN WHITE TO
SECRETARY WICKARD**

Honorable Claude R. Wickard,
Secretary of Agriculture,
Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.
Jan. 10, 1942

My dear Mr. Wickard:

A situation has developed in the apple producing district of Washington effecting the market of apples that I am convinced should be brought to your personal attention.

That you may have an expression of the views of the editor of the influential Wenatchee Daily World in an editorial appearing on the front page of the January 2nd issue, I enclose a tear sheet from the World containing Mr. Rufus Woods editorial on the restrictive practices of the Department of Agriculture.

As you may know from the records of your department, the matter of rules that have been made by the Department of Agriculture on spray residue on apples has been the cause of much distress to the apple growers and friction with your department of agriculture, both in the State of Washington and the State of Idaho.

I am sure you will appreciate the adverse effect of the arbitrary course being followed by your department in dealing with the apple growers on the good will towards the present administration and particularly the members in the legislative branch of the government.

I trust that some constructive plan will be worked out to eliminate this cause of distress and the unfavorable public opinion concerning the activities of this branch of your department.

Sincerely yours,

COMPTON I. WHITE, M.C.

**PAUL McNUTT TO
J. H. AUVIL**

Federal Security Agency,
Washington

Office of the Administration
Dec. 27, 1941

Dear Mr. Auvil:

I have your letter of December 10. Certainly no one can question the patriotism of the American farmer and the vital character of the service he is rendering this country in this time of national emergency.

The fruit grower is an important and essential part of this agricultural industry. I think I have a real understanding of the problems of the fruit grower, and it will be my purpose to deal with them with the most complete sympathy in so far as my responsibility under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act permits. Certainly no exactions will be imposed upon the industry which are not definitely demonstrated to

ities for children to lead arsenate insecticide and spray residues on leaves, and grass, in addition the lead arsenate spray they ingest on apples. Here only one respect in which children may have different children in other districts urinary lead and urinary arsenic values were higher than the corresponding values for a group of 18 children living near Washington, D. C. known to have no unusual exposure to lead or arsenic.

"There was no indication of adverse effects of lead arsenate exposure on the health of these children."

IT IS UNTHINKABLE THAT THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE WOULD NOT HAVE WARNED THE ORCHARDISTS OF THIS DISTRICT AGAINST THE DANGER OF THE EXPOSURE OF THEIR CHILDREN TO LEAD ARSENATE IF IT HAD FOUND EVIDENCE OF ANY DANGER FROM EATING UNWASHED FRUIT. And if unwashed fruit is not dangerous to our children here where more spray is applied per tree than any other place in the world what justification can be found for condemning washed apples which carry a little greater amount of spray residue than was arbitrarily set as a tolerance unless there is some proof of deleterious affect?

The study of the United States Public Health Service made here confirmed our charge that spray residue tolerance was a legal fiction imposed by imperial ukase upon a "free" people whose constitution guarantees to them the right of trial by jury and that their property shall not be confiscated by the government without cause. To maintain this legal fiction by ukase after its iniquity has been exposed by the Public Health Service is such near kin to fifth column activity as to subject the food and drug department to severe criticism, and our government to ridicule. Also a greater degree of loyalty could be expected from fruit growers were they extended the full benefits of our Bill of Rights.

Your letter gives me great hope that the fruit industry is on the threshold of a new era. If, as you say, "no exactions will be imposed upon it which are not definitely demonstrated to be essential for the protection of the public health," then it will be up to the government to demonstrate definitely that a certain tolerance is essential, and the legal fiction of a tolerance by ukase will be dissolved. Since the Public Health Service in its intensive two year study here failed to "definitely demonstrate" the need of any tolerance, it seems that a more extended survey will be necessary to arrive at a tolerance fair to the industry and not inimical to the public. This is another good reason to follow the suggestion in my former letter and certainly until it has been demonstrated that the amount of residue on the seized fruit is deleterious to health give the fruit grower this break

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The fruit grower is an important and essential part of this agricultural industry. I think I have a real understanding of the problems of the fruit grower, and it will be my purpose to deal with them with the most complete sympathy in so far as my responsibility under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act permits. Certainly no exactions will be imposed upon the industry which are not definitely demonstrated to be essential for the protection of the public health.

Sincerely yours,
PAUL V. McNUTT
Administrator

J. H. AUVIL TO
PAUL V. McNUTT

January 3, 1942.

Hon. Paul V. McNutt,
Administrator,
Federal Security Agency,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. McNutt:

I have your letter of December 27th and am greatly encouraged by your promise that "certainly no exactions will be imposed upon the industry which are not definitely demonstrated to be essential for the protection of the public health."

But we have reports that exactions are now being imposed upon the industry which have not been demonstrated to be essential for the protection of the public health. The enclosed clipping from the Wenatchee Daily World, December 30, reports two cars seized and destroyed. These apples had been washed to meet the Washington State tolerance else they could not have been

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Respectfully yours,

J. H. AUVIL, chairman,
Washington State Grange
Spray Residue Committee.

P. S. Enclosed is another clipping from the Wenatchee Daily World just received.

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