

Refer to Mr. Kelson



Columbus, Ohio
3/30/36

Dear Sir:

I am a graduate student of Ohio State University working in the department of Horticulture. On May 7th I am to make a radio talk on the present status of the spray residue problem especially on apples. This talk is given in connection with our fruit school of the air.

I have been informed that much work has been carried out on spray residue at the Medical College of Cincinnati. I would like, if possible, to have some accurate and reliable information concerning the seriousness of spray residue with regard to the consumers' health and just how the health is affected. We do not want to misinform either the growers or the consumers as to the seriousness of spray residue. Growers are reluctant to installing washing equipment thus our information must be based on fact not theories.

Any information will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

M. C. Fowler
207 West 11th Ave
Columbus,
Ohio

is about 2-1/2 p.p.m. and that for arsenic is about 1 p.p.m. Any fruits or vegetables which are found by the agent of this department to be in excess of these tolerances in interstate commerce are condemned and destroyed. As to the tolerances themselves, they have been established as a result of the judgement of a group of experts who have definite opinions on this subject. Undoubtedly the best judgement of these men has been exercised in establishing the tolerances. Unfortunately, however, there is no present sound scientific basis for these tolerances. Judgement has been arrived at on the basis of indirect observations and on the basis of analogies from animal observations. We do not know precisely whether the tolerances should be lower than they are or whether they might with safety be considerably higher. On the other hand it is quite well known that many fruits, and particularly apples, as they are picked from the trees have on their surfaces quantities of lead and arsenic very much in excess of the tolerance. The quantities may be eight or ten times more than the tolerance permits. This means, of course, that these materials are destined for

1, 1936

addressed Cincinnati as this with the absorption have not residue problem lead intake of precise studies have no results tion. However, status of this literature tion.

problem point out the Department possible quantity or in food since for lead