From the desk of

HOWARD S. BERGEN, JR.

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Chemical Testing Center Proposed By McGovern

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30 (AP) — Senator George S. McGovern, chairman of the Senate Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs, said yesterday that the Government should replace its "haphazard approach" to food additives, drugs and pesticides with required safety checks by a federal chemical testing center.

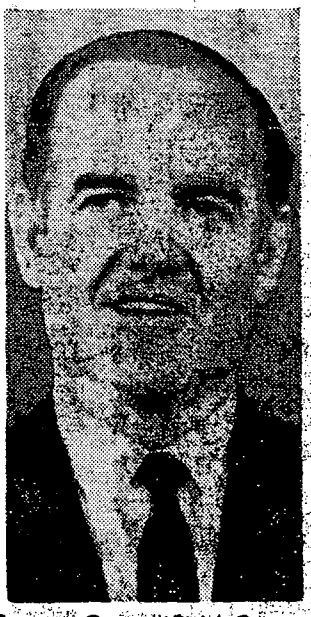
The South Dakota Democrat's proposal came after earlier criticism of what he termed lax Government procedures that allowed the now-banned, artificial sweetener cyclamate on the market.

"If such a test center had been in existence in the past, we might not have experienced some of the crises we are now going through," McGovern said in a speech to the American Institute of Banking.

"We would have known whether cyclamates caused cancer in animals before it was put on the market," he said. "We would have known whether monosodium glutamate caused brain damage in infant mice before it achieved such widespread use in baby food."

Three major baby food manufacturers said last week that they would discontinue use of the flavor-enhancing additive monosodium glutamate (MSG).

MSG in high dosages has been found to cause brain damage in infant animals, and Dr. Jean Mayer, President Richard M. Nixon's chief nutrition adviser, said last Thursday that it should be eliminated from baby food.



Senator George S. McGovern

For a national chemical test center.

McGovern advocated a test center in the Food and Drug Administration to pass on the safety of all chemicals used as food additives, drugs and pesticides.

"We can no longer afford a haphazard approach to these critical problems of our health and environment because they are literally becoming matters of life and death of all of us," he said.

McGovern quoted approvingly a warning by a noted geneticist, Dr. Herman J. Muller, that the multitude of chemicals now in use may produce genetic mutations that damage this and subsequent generations.

"It is imperative that we know the long-run consequences to life and health before we accept the fruits of modern technology," McGovern said.

He noted that more than 680 everyday food additives are now on an approved Government list without necessarily having passed safety checks.

"Up to now, the FDA has been following the policy of approved for use now and test later," McGovern said. "We should reverse that order of priorities."

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DSW 202989

Hickel Orders Iowa To Treat Sewage

By a Special Correspondent of the Post-Dispatch

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30 — The Federal Government invoked for the first time yesterday its power to set water quality standards for a state and told Iowa to install secondary sewage treatment plants along the Missouri and Mississippi rivers.

The deadline for completion of the construction is Dec. 31, 1973. The order, signed by Walter J. Hickel, Secretary of the Interior, will be published in the Federal Register Saturday, a spokesman for the department said.

Iowa officials will have 90 days after Saturday to respond to the order. The Post-Dispatch learned that the Iowa Water Pollution Control Commission would meet today to decide what steps it would take in response to Hickel's order.

The Federal Government urged Missouri, Kansas and Illinois to move faster in their pollution control programs. The request was part of what Hickel described as an "over-all schematic plan to clean up the Mississippi, Missouri, and Ohio rivers."

1973 Goal

No deadline dates for secondary treatment plant construction were specified in yesterday's order, but a source said the goal was for a deadline "around 1973 so we can tie all those programs together."

The crackdown on Iowa, which has refused to go along with the Federal Government's prescription for cleaner water, is authorized in the Clean Water Act of 1965. This act gives the Secretary of the Interior the power to set standards and deadlines if the states do not come up with standards that are acceptable to the department.

If Iowa fails to comply with the federal order, the Department of the Interior could seek to force compliance in court.

Hickel said that he took the action against Iowa because "protection has to be provided for these major waterways on which so many people, industries and municipalities depend for their livelihood, water supply and enjoyment."

Carl L. Klein, assistant secretary of the Interior, has said pollution of the Missouri and Mississippi endangers the water supply of St. Louis and other cities along the rivers.

Course Is Undetermined

R. J. Schliekelman, technical secretary of the Iowa Water Pollution Control Commission, told the Post-Dispatch this morning, "I don't know if we'll make any changes in our standards. We are so darned close to doing what they want anyway."

He said Dubuque, Davenport, Burlington and Fort Madison on the Mississippi now provide primary (first-stage) treatment of their wastes, but are under no state orders to progress to secondary treatment. The same is true of Council Bluffs and Sioux City on the Missouri River, he said.

Clinton, Muscatine and Keokuk on the Mississippi are either now or soon will be under state orders to go to secondary treatment by Jan. 1, 1973 — a deadline that is a year earlier than that set in yesterday's federal order.

Primary treatment removes solid particles from sewage, but none of the dissolved wastes. It removes about 40 per cent of pollutants. Secondary treatment removes about 90 per cent of solid and dissolved pollutants.

Aid Is Key

In Missouri, most of the cities along the Missouri and Mississippi rivers say they are willing to go along with a mid-1970s deadline for completion of secondary treatment plants — as long as federal and state aid is increased.

Some critics of the Federal Government's recently stepped-up pressure for an earlier deadline on secondary plants have complained that Congress has been niggardly with appropriations authorized under the Clean Water Restoration Act of 1966.

However, St. Louis officials recently agreed, after meeting privately with Klein in Washington, to stop insisting on a deadline in the 1980s and start thinking about a date in the middle or late 1970s.

Kansas City, Mo., officials say they will stick to a deadline of 1982.

Request to Illinois

"We are moving across the Mississippi," Hickel said, "to ask Illinois to update its secondary treatment target date for Rock Island, Moline, East Moline, East St. Louis and Chester.

"We are also asking the State of Kansas to set a viable date for installing secondary treatment and we are talking with Missouri on the same item."

The question of secondary treatment facilities has not been resolved, despite lengthy conferences with Iowa officials, Hickel said.

Iowa's position has been that when the federal experts demonstrated that secondary treatment was necessary to maintain the quality of rivers the state would agree, and that Iowa contributed less pollution than did other states on the rivers.

Assistant Secretary Klein said the government had "exhausted all our other remedies under the law" before setting standards for Iowa. Public hearings were held last April in Davenport and Council Bluffs.

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