

Wenatchee, Washington
February 10, 1942

Following several press reports here in local papers very bitterly condemning the Food & Drug Administration for seizures of apples in Georgia, a meeting was held in Wenatchee by Governor Langlie and representatives of various organizations and a State Spray Residue Committee was formed. I was asked to represent the Commission on this committee.

I am enclosing you a copy of a letter which has gone to the Governor in this connection. I personally feel, of course, that the work that has been done by Dr. Ruth, Paul Stark and others during the past three years has gone well beyond the requests stated in this letter. I am, however, concurring in the matter as I am hopeful that it may result in a unified program out here that will stop the publicity which I feel has been damaging at all times. I thought this would be interesting to you and am sure that such a program will be particularly interesting to growers in Ohio, Illinois and other states where they are having difficulty in securing machinery to cleanse the apples to the present administrative tolerance.

Personally, I feel that the hearing is probably going to be postponed until after the present emergency; and I feel also that our work with certain officials of the Federal Security Agency and the Food and Drug Administration has had the effect of making them more tolerant in their enforcement, and that this will be liberalized considerably more on next year's crop and those following.

Would appreciate any views you might have.

C. E. CHASE, Secretary-Manager
WASHINGTON STATE APPLE COMMISSION

Wenatchee, Washington
February 9, 1942

Governor Arthur B. Langlie
Olympia, Washington

Your Excellency:

In compliance with your request that a Committee be formed to suggest what our State Department of Agriculture could do to help solve our spray residue problem, such a Committee has been appointed consisting of the following:

- O. T. Clawson, Lakeside,
Representing Washington Growers Clearing House;
- Walter Horan, Wenatchee,
Representing Land Use Planning Council;
- C. F. Chase, Wenatchee,
Representing Washington State Apple Commission;
- Earl Barnhill, Wenatchee,
Representing Washington State Horticultural Ass'n
- J. M. Auvil, Wenatchee,
Representing Washington State Grange;

H. G. Fletcher, Clearing House Manager, was chosen Chairman, and Walter Horan, Secretary.

The Committee is in full accord on the following points:

1. That the apple industry of the Northwest stands ready to cooperate in the present emergency by raising the finest crop possible and distributing it for public consumption in the best of condition, not only safe for public health but an actual and valuable contribution to National health defense.
2. Our ability to cooperate in this matter to the fullest extent is affected by the shortage of both labor and material. Our young men and boys have joined the Army and the Navy, while many of the women and older men have been absorbed by defense projects. Essential materials are now meeting war needs and therefore are not available for the expensive equipment necessary to wash apples and pears to meet present stringent tolerances. A condition may develop which would materially reduce our marketable crop unless a practical method of meeting the spray residue situation is adopted.
3. There is no need for the drastic tolerance now in use. There is no known authentic case of injury to health from the ingestion of apples sprayed with lead arsenate even when eaten without cleaning. The United States Public Health Service has made a very extensive study of this subject (more than 3 years) and has published a report of this study, Public Health Bulletin #267. May we quote briefly from this bulletin, page-3 of the summary:

"Chemical analyses of unwashed apples of the kind eaten by residents of the district showed that the spray residue load averaged about 20 times the amount found on apples shipped in Interstate Commerce."

and on page XI:

"Special attention was given to medical examination of children because, in this district, where orchards surround the communities or the houses in which they

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live, there are unusual opportunities for children to be exposed to lead arsenate insecticide sprays and spray residues on branches, leaves, and grass, in addition to the lead arsenate spray residues they ingest on apples. There was only one respect in which these children may have differed from children in other districts; their 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."

With the support of this evidence and in the absence of any authentic record of injury from eating sprayed apples or pears, we cannot escape the conclusion that from a health standpoint no tolerances for lead arsenate spray residues are necessary, and that any cleaning except to make the fruit sanitary and pleasing in appearance is a useless waste of time and money.

4. While a liberalization of spray residue regulations is by no means a war measure, nevertheless, this is a good time to call attention to the economic waste being forced upon the industry. Every dollar spent needlessly is a dollar not available for war purposes. At a time when our Government is calling on us to put every available dollar in defense stamps and bonds, it is a travesty to have a Department of our Government force upon us a needless waste amounting to millions of dollars each year.

In consideration of the facts presented in the foregoing, the Committee agrees that modification of the tolerances is imperative. Also that the Washington State Department of Agriculture is justified in urging that any public hearing on the matter be postponed until the war has been won.

The Committee is deeply appreciative of your interest and your offer to assist in obtaining relief for the fruit growers who have suffered immeasurably because of this spray residue matter and whose predicament is made even more precarious by the difficulties of conforming with a regulation which requires special and costly equipment now unobtainable without priority release.

Therefore, we earnestly beseech your immediate action in the premises to the end that relief may be forthcoming soon. If additional information is desired, please command us.

Meanwhile, be assured of our confidence in your efforts and the inspiration which your interest has brought to the entire industry.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMITTEE:

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