

Wisconsin State Journal
MADISON, WISC.
D. 68,775 SUN. 107,031

MAY 13 1969

Expert Raps DDT Feuding

By ROBERT C. BJORKLUND
(State Journal Staff Writer)

A wildlife specialist with the chemical industry suggested Monday that there may be a solution other than banning the use of pesticides like DDT. William Gusey, Rockville, Md., with the Shell Chemical Co., offered his own personal philosophy on how wildlife and industry researchers and operators might team up in solving the problems of chemicals in the environment.

AS HE DESCRIBED the problem, wildlife interests are going in one direction, the chemical industry in another, and the cities and urban areas in still another direction.

Gusey made his comments in closing his testimony at the state DDT hearings where two state conservation groups are asking the State Department of Natural Resources to ban DDT use because of possible water pollution. The hearings

will continue today at the Hill Farms State Office Building.

He said that in discussions on chemicals about all that is heard are pleas to ban the use of a chemical—an approach that "isn't particularly helpful."

"IT IS VERY easy to criticize, but criticism is of little value if some sort of remedial action isn't suggested," Gusey declared.

Because of the impact and influence on the economy that chemical companies have, they ought to know what to do to correct some of the main problems of chemical use, he continued.

"But the offer for guidance (from those opposed to the chemical) was never forthcoming. There has only been criticism," Gusey said.

GUSEY WAS called as a witness by the Industry Task Force on DDT, but he referred to a suggestion of

Robert Risebrough, who is allied with the DDT opponents, for a team approach to problem solving. The team would include scientists of many different subject areas.

Thus far two or three chemical companies have started hiring people with backgrounds broader than just the chemical industry itself, and there are indications that more moves in this direction will be undertaken by industry, Gusey said.

Victor J. Yannacone, Jr., attorney for the Environmental Defense Fund which is the leading opponent of DDT, said that the organization recognizes the new attitude of industry.

RISEBROUGH, who said he was doing research at the University of Wisconsin, was called as an adverse witness by Atty. Willard Stafford, Madison, representing the National Agricultural Chemicals

Assn.

His appearance touched off sustained disagreements between Yannacone and Stafford that were only resolved by Maurice Van Susteren, hearing examiner.

The disagreements are over the plasticizing agents, known as PCBs, that can interfere with the testing of DDT that may be present in wildlife. Risebrough has been quoted as saying that the PCBs were more dangerous than DDT.

Risebrough qualified such published quotes in his answers Monday. He claimed that he was misquoted in one news story and in another published article his summary was not properly represented.

Under Stafford's questioning he denied that PCBs could cause egg shell thinning, a phenomena Risebrough said was the cause of reproduction failures of certain species of waterfowl.