KENNEDY Health subcommittee will meet Thursday (Oct. 4) in executive session to consider mandatory food plant registration legislation (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, Sept. 17 Page 6). The subcommittee will also consider an amendment requiring mandatory ingredient labeling for all foods, including standardized products (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, April 16, Page 25).

FISH INSPECTION: The Administration, with specific support from USDA, is backing last year's proposed bill to give fish inspection authority to FDA. No hearings are scheduled, however (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, Sept. 17, Page 32).

MASSACHUSETTS will hold new hearings on its controversial food labeling requirements. The State's Department of Public Health announced the new hearings in consenting to a stay of the effective dates of the regulations. The stay was granted by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, pending adjudication of GMA's challenge to the regulations (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, Sept. 17, Page 19).

"REGULATORY LETTER" enforcement approach, which was given a trial by FDA (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, April 30, Page 3), is being adopted as a permanent procedure. Where regulatory action could be made, a letter is sent giving the firm 10 days to correct the situation. This will not be used for hazard-to-health situations or where food is contaminated with filth or pesticide residues: in these cases there will be immediate seizures. FDA is keeping a record of the "regulatory letters" issued as part of the agency's record of enforcement. Agency spokesmen say its field personnel like the new policy, since a "regulatory letter" guarantees that an enforcement action will be taken if there is not correction within 10 days.

IRON enrichment amendments to the Enriched Bread and Enriched Flour standards to permit higher levels (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, June 11, Page 2) have gotten the nod from FDA Commissioner Schmidt, and the standards will be amended soon.

IRON enrichment of infant cereal with four supplements, according to tests in rats conducted by the University of Washington's School of Medicine, produced best results with ferrous sulfate and then reduced iron, but ferric orthophosphate and sodium iron pyrophosphate were poorly absorbed, the authors said in a paper in the Sept-Oct. issue of the Journal of Agriculture and Food Chemistry.

"MIRACLE FRUIT" berry products are getting regulatory review by FDA, in the wake of ads for Miralin Diet Program, which uses "drops" made from extract of the African berry. FDA-ers say the extract alters perception for about 12 hours, so that foods taste sweet. The agency is attempting to determine whether the product is a food additive, a food, or a drug.

NO PCB RESIDUES "that could be quantitated" have been found in FDA's last 10 market basket surveys, FDA told the American Paper Institute, in a response to an API "Freedom of Information" request for documentation and methods on market basket surveys, determination of dietary intake and feeding studies and tests referred to in the PCB order (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, July 9, Page 11).

HARRISON WELLFORD, now Legislative Assistant to Sen. Hart (D-Mich.), will meet Oct. 31 with USDA meat inspection officials to discuss his ideas for improvements. Wellford's newsletter on meat monitoring for Ralph Nader is being continued.

SECOND-CLASS POSTAGE RATES PENDING AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

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