Scientists Argue Over Whether Pesticides Should Be Banned

CORVALLIS, Ore., Aug. 21 (AP) — A dispute broke out yesterday among some of the 450 scientists attending a symposium over whether pesticides should be banned and whether scientists should become involved in any fight to ban them.

Those who wanted prohibition argued that the effects of DDT and other pesticides still were not known. Alvin M. Rezzing of Oklahoma City told the symposium that there might be subtle changes in human brains because DDT could change behavior when a person was under stress.

Others contended that the benefits justified continued use.

Kenneth Walker of the agricultural research service of the Department of Agriculture, said that avilability of food crops would be reduced from 25 to 30 per cent in three to five years if use of pesticides was discontinued.

Last Friday the Agriculture Department announced a substantial curtailment in Government use of DDT. It said that from now on it would use less persistent chemicals such as chlordane whever possible in federal-state insect control programs.

A department spokesman said widespread public concern over pesticide use prompted the action. The department plans further research on the effects of pesticides.

Dr. William F. D urham of the United States Public Health Service at Perrine, Fla., said use of DDT on insects that carry disease have saved at least 5,000,000 lives and prevented 100,000,000 illnesses.

Scientists disagreed on whether they should permit themselves to become involved in what they believe has become a politiial qustion.

Robert W. Risebrough of the Insitite of Marine Resources at the University of California at Berkeley urged the scientists to become involved in the fight to end use of pesticides.

However, the World Health Organization in Geneva, in a statement prepared on request of the symposium, said it could not recommend discontinuance of DDT.

"This compound still provides the most effective, cheapest and safest means of abating and eradicating malaria," the statement said.

The organization recommended a move toward other methods of insect control.

Risebrough contended that pesticides already exist that could be substituted for DDTQ IN California — a statement denied yesterday Dr. John E. Swift, also of California-Berkeley.$ Walter, of the Department of Agriculture, said, "We believe resistant strains of crops is the uitimate answer in pest control."

Scholarship Peak

BERKELEY, Calif. (UPI) — Members of Berkeley campus fraternities at the University of California achieved the highest grade point average in their 90-year history in the 1968 winter quarter.

Members of the 41 Berkeley fraternities earned a 2.74 grade point average (B-minus), up from the 2.50 set in the 1967 fall quarter.

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STLCOPCB4086842