WASHINGTON

The U.S. Government and Dow Chemical are accused of war crimes and civil rights violations in a class civil suit (a suit filed in behalf of a group of people, in this case the citizens of the U.S., too large to name individually as plaintiffs) filed last week against Dow by the "D.C. 9" and 56 other plaintiffs in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. The suit alleges that Dow's sale of "chemical, biological, bacteriological, incendiary, and asphyxiatory weapons" to the U.S. Government makes Dow a war criminal under the Principles of the Charter of Nuremberg. Furthermore, the suit alleges that Dow and the U.S. Government have "conspired to violate plaintiffs' civil right to a law-abiding government"—a right that the suit asks the court to declare to be guaranteed by the Ninth Amendment. The plaintiffs include Harvard biochemist George Wald and Yale chaplain William Sloan Coffin.

Further cutbacks in support for graduate training programs have been opposed by Betty M. Vetter, executive director of the Scientific Manpower Commission. In testimony prepared for the House Special Subcommittee on Education, Mrs. Vetter pointed out that as support lags, "substantial numbers of new Ph.D.'s in the sciences and elsewhere are experiencing difficulty in obtaining suitable employment in jobs where they have prepared themselves to work." But she sees the situation as a "temporary dip in a steadily rising line of demand for highly educated specialists" and believes it would be a "serious overreaction" to conclude we are producing too many Ph.D.'s and to make further cutbacks.

President Nixon, adopting a hard line on pollution by the Federal Government, last week ordered all federal facilities to comply with pollution control standards, and to meet the standards by the end of 1972. The executive order, which puts $359 million in federal funds behind the President's antipollution drive, requires that federal facilities determine within six months what's needed to meet air and water quality standards. The order also requires that all new federal facilities be pollution free and that budget requests for new facilities include funds for pollution control.

A new interagency agreement on pesticides strengthens the role of HEW and Interior in reviewing Agriculture's pesticide registrations. Under negotiation for months, the agreement supersedes a pact dating back to May 1964. Cases of disagreement among the three departments on pending or new registrations would be resolved, ultimately, by a Cabinet-level consideration of the issue followed by Agriculture's decision. Agriculture will also coordinate on a day-to-day basis actual pest control operations, research, regulation, monitoring, and education.

AEC revenues from toll enrichment of privately owned uranium will almost double in fiscal 1971 to $126.2 million, AEC Chairman Glenn Seaborg told the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy last week. In a prepared statement on the agency's authorization request for the next fiscal year, Dr. Seaborg said that the agency is actively studying the structure, responsibilities, and internal relationships of a uranium enrichment directorate called for by President Nixon last November for operation of the nation's three gaseous diffusion plants in preparation for eventual sale of the facilities to private industry. To date, Dr. Seaborg said, the agency has not reached any final conclusions on the many and varied problems involved.

DSW 552163

STLCOPCB4090580