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Wenatchee, Washington

June 1, 1949

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Dr. Robert A. Kehoe
Kettering Laboratory
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

It has been some time since I have had contact with you. During this time I have resigned from the Washington State Apple Commission nearly two years ago and more or less retired to my small apple orchard where I get a lot of real health and satisfaction out of raising not only apples but many fine roses, tulips, etc. During this period, however, I have been more or less handling the spray residue matters for the industry which is my reason for writing you.

On May 6 Dr. Dunbar in an address before the National Agricultural Chemical Association made the following statement:

"Setting of safe tolerances is a difficult question due to many diverse factors. For example, no accurate methods were available for estimating residual spray left on or absorbed by the food products; information was lacking as to whether residues remained in tact or whether weathering reduced or intensified the toxic effect and whether they could be removed by washing or are absorbed and thus not removable. Until such data is available hearings to establish tolerances are not possible."

The Food and Drug Administration also has stated that they find no danger to public health from residue of DDT or Parathion when used for spraying of apples, as long as this is done 30 days prior to harvest. Also, we understand there are new insecticides in the process of being developed and tested that may be more effective for spraying and less toxic than DDT and Parathion.

In view of the above we would like to see a hearing delayed until all information possible effecting the determining of tolerances of DDT and Parathion has been secured. Naturally, we desire a tolerance that is as liberal as public health will justify as we do not know how much our spraying programs might be changed. Also, if new insecticides replace DDT and Parathion, as was the case with Fluorine, a hearing in the near future would be expensive and unnecessary. You may be interested in knowing that the apple and pear industry, as far as I know, does not at the present time use any form of Fluorine or Arsenate of Lead.

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WASHINGTON STATE APPLE COMMISSION

Dr. Kehoe

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June 1, 1949

Can you advise me what research you are doing in connection with DDT and Parathion and how long you estimate it will be before you will have enough information available so that a hearing could be held, taking into consideration that no emergency exists at this time to public health from a residue standpoint. I am, of course, familiar with the fact that you went to Germany and made a very complete study of insecticides and various chemicals, and I believe you issued a confidential report along this line, which I have not seen.

You will be interested in knowing that the quantities of DDT and Parathion that we are using here in the northwest are tremendous. With Parathion there exists a real danger in its preparation and application. I have held a good many meetings, and we have sent out many bulletins cautioning the growers and those applying it to use every care possible in its preparation and application and to follow as near as practical the instructions on the packages from the manufacturers. There has been some illnesses to quite a number of those preparing and applying this spray. All, however, have recovered without any apparent lasting effect. If there is any information in this connection that I can secure for you that would be helpful, I would be glad to do it.

I would very much appreciate and enjoy hearing from you. With kind personal regards,

Sincerely yours,



C. E. CHASE

CEC:hs

cc: Mr. Paul Stark
Mr. Truman Nold
Mr. J. W. Hebert
Mr. Fred Shanamen
Mr. Martin Foster
Mr. R. H. Robinson

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