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DDT in Mother's Milk, Swedish Scientist Says

By QUINCY DADISMAN
Sentinel Staff Writer

Madison, Wis. — A Swedish scientist testified here Monday that many babies get double the recommended maximum daily dose of DDT if they are breast-fed.

S. Goran Lofroth, chairman of a six member committee which studies DDT for the Swedish national research council, told of his findings during a Wisconsin natural resource department hearing on a petition for an order that would ban use of DDT in the state.

In Change Range

Lofroth, a radiobiologist and toxicologist, said, "In my opinion, many breast-fed children ingest more than the recommended daily intake (of DDT). It is in the range where laboratory animals show pharmacodynamical changes.

"What these changes mean is not known. One cannot predict the consequences if these and similar changes work in man and one does not know what the future holds for persons exposed to that much DDT."

Lofroth based his opinion, he said, on research that had shown that a woman secretes in her milk 125% of her daily intake of DDT and its chemical relatives, contrasted with the 2

to 10% which cows secrete in milk.

Lofroth said he based his opinion on the amount of milk consumed by babies in relation to body weight; that on the average, a baby would get .02 milligrams of DDT daily for each kilogram of body weight; that the World Health Organization, a United Nations scientific agency, had said that no one of any age should ingest more than .01 milligram of DDT per kilogram of body weight daily.

He said that fewer and fewer American babies were fed human milk before 1966, with the percentage dropping from 38% in 1946 to 18% in 1966, but that use of mother's milk

DDT FIGHTERS ASK AID

By Sentinel Staff Writer

Madison, Wis. — Orrie L. Loucks, a University of Wisconsin faculty member and local spokesman for the Citizens' Natural Resource association (CNRA) said Monday that the group needs an additional \$25,000 to carry on its battle against DDT in Wisconsin.

Loucks said the association already has raised \$37,000 and spent \$35,000 in bringing about the natural resource department hearing on a petition calling for a virtual ban on the use of DDT in Wisconsin.

Miss Bertha Pearson, of Wausau, CNRA treasurer, was named to receive contributions in Wisconsin and the national Audubon society's Rachel Carson Fund, New York, N. Y., to accept gifts from national donors.

had increased since it had been shown that babies are generally healthier when fed human milk.

He pointed out that many babies are fed human milk by bottle rather than being directly breast-fed.

Long Wrangle

Lofroth's testimony followed a long wrangle over "whose witness this man is."

He said he had come to the hearing at the invitation of Robert S. McConnell, an assistant attorney general and the state's public intervenor, but that his travel expense was being paid by the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF).

EDF is represented here by Victor J. Yannacone, jr., its general counsel, who is conducting the case for the petitioners in the hearing, the Citizens' Natural Resource association and the Wisconsin chapter of the Izaak Walton league.

Yannacone told the hearing examiner Maurice Van Susteren, however, that Lofroth was not his witness.

"If I called him," Yannacone said, "I would know what he intended to say. I don't know what he plans to say."

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No Pay Provision

McConnell said he had asked EDF to pay for Lofroth's appearance because there was no provision in state law for the public intervenor's office to pay witness expenses.

Willard S. Stafford, attorney for the task force for DDT of the National Agricultural Chemicals association, objected to the basis for Lofroth's testimony. Lofroth had appeared at the witness stand with a stack of 56 documents, reprints of various scientific papers, newspaper clippings and other materials, on which he said he had based his views about DDT.

He was called because the Swedish poison and pesticide council, as a result of a study made there, banned the use of DDT in Sweden for household insecticides and has ordered a moratorium of two years on any use of the insecticide while a study is made of its effects.

The Swedish agency emphasized in a press release issued at the time the ban was of-

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DDT

Swedish Ban Told

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dered that it was making its ruling on the basis of conditions existing in Sweden and said its decision should not be taken as holding for the entire world.

Has Little Need

The press release pointed out that Sweden has little need for insecticides and that conditions in other parts of the world might require use of

more hazardous materials than could be used in Sweden.

Lofroth said the committee of which he is chairman had not yet made a final report on its study of scientific literature about DDT.

Stafford's argument, made under the "Lewandowski doctrine," was that each paper used by Lofroth should be separately evaluated.

[The Lewandowski doctrine was enumerated by the Wisconsin supreme court in 1966. It calls for scientific data to be evaluated at the time it is presented. It set rules for what can be considered as recognized scientific knowledge.]

Finally, McConnell withdrew the stack of documents.

Earlier, the hearing had included a course in elementary poultry husbandry as Yannacone led Frank Chermis, poultry geneticist at the University of Wisconsin, through an explanation of the mechanics of reproduction in poultry.

Chermis had testified last week that, in his opinion, DDT does not cause thin shelled eggs, at least in poultry. This was one of the charges laid against the pesticide by conservationists.