

Plant Food President Speaks

"Increased fertilization of U S farmland has proved a boon to the nation and the world, not a bane as some would charge."

This belief was emphasized before the Senate Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations, investigating the need for a Select Committee on Technology and the Environment by Edwin M. Wheeler, President, National Plant Food Institute, the nation's fertilizer industry association.

Without crop fertilization, he asserted, American farmers would not be able to feed the present U S population, let alone export the product from one out of every four acres overseas.

Wheeler labeled earlier subcommittee testimony as sensational but lacking scientific fact as to accusations that use of nitrogen fertilizers result in excess algae growth in lakes and streams and in pollution of water sources.

"Without fear of scientific contradiction," he said, "there is no present danger to our environment from proper use of commercial fertilizer."

Rather than predict man's future doom from increased agricultural technology, as some witnesses have done, Wheeler said, "It's comforting to know that the knowledge now within our grasp will allow us to increase man's well-being by as much if not more than has been the case over the past half century. Agriculture will require more, not less fertilizer use in the next 50 years," he added.

Answering the charge of an earlier witness that U S crops are so dependent on chemical nitrogen fertilizers that they are "hooked", Wheeler said, "Of course they're hooked in the sense that all green plants must have nitrogen to live. But as far as plants demanding only nitrogen from a specific source, that's absurd," he added. "Plants take up the nitrate molecule when it becomes available no matter what the original source—organic or inorganic."

Wheeler said his organization favored establishment of a study committee on technology and the human environment, and added, "The success of such a committee lies in development of sound scientific facts in liaison with U S Department of Agriculture, land-grant universities and business scientific communities."

Farm Women

Society 14

The Society of Farm Women No 14, met at the West Willow Fire Hall Wednesday evening for a mother & daughter banquet. 79 persons were present. The program included a brass ensemble and hand bell choir from the Martin-Mylm School. Six ladies won flower plants.

The next meeting will be held June 11 at the same place for a buffet lunch served at 12:30. County officers and Society 17 will be entertained. Speaker for the program will be Mrs C Parker Wright on the subject "Primitive Indians of Mexico." Anyone with Mexican souvenirs are asked to bring them along.

The first railroad tunnel in U S was built in 1833, 4 miles east of Johnstown, Penna.

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