

FISH KILL DISPUTE

Official Denies Pesticide Danger

WASHINGTON (AP) — A chemical company official defended today the agricultural use of three pesticides, held by some to be harmful to fish and wildlife.

Donald E. Ullrich, of the Shell Chemical Co., New York, said there is no evidence that runoff from normal agricultural uses of the insecticides caused a huge fish kill in the lower Mississippi River.

Ullrich, in testimony prepared for a hearing by the Department of Agriculture, said the chemicals — aldrin, endrin and dieldrin — are not dangerous if used according to department recommendations and label directions.

Prize Winning Reporter Calls Whitney 'Liar'

SAIGON, South Viet Nam (AP)—Jim G. Lucas, Scripps Howard correspondent, was covering the war in South Viet Nam when he received word that Maj. Gen. Courtney Whitney had termed "fictional nonsense" Lucas' account of his interview with Gen. Douglas MacArthur 10 years ago.

Lucas, a Pulitzer Prize-winner, said at first that he would have no comment on Whitney's charge, issued in a statement in Washington. He referred inquiries to his home office.

"I've changed my mind," he said later. "I have a statement to make. Gen. Whitney's a liar."

PURE FANTASY

Lucas' interview, not to be made public until MacArthur's death, quoted MacArthur as charging the British betrayed his Korean War plans to the Chinese Communists. Lucas reported criticism by MacArthur of leading U.S. military men and of former President Harry S. Truman.

Whitney, an aide to MacArthur who was present at the interview, denied the general had said any of this. He called the statements about the British "pure fantasy."

Earl Richert, editor of the Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance, said earlier in New York that the organization stood by its "published account of the interview and the integrity of our reporter."

THEIR HEELS

He said his company is making laboratory studies of fish from the Mississippi River in a further investigation of what, if any, effects came from endrin.

The Department is conducting hearings to gather information relating to the uses of the pesticides and the cause of the fish kill. The Department says the information is needed to determine whether it should cancel or modify registration of the pesticides.

A Senate subcommittee headed by Sen. Abraham A. Ribicoff, D-Conn., also is holding hearings on the fish kill. Ribicoff has accused agriculture officials of dragging their heels.

Leon W. Weinberger, director of the Public Health Service's Water Supply and Pollution Control Division, testified at Thursday's agriculture hearing that three months of laboratory studies point to endrin as the most likely cause of the massive fish kill.

"All the efforts to date to establish any other cause for the fish mortality have produced negative results," he said.

But Bernard Lorant, research director of Velicol Chemical Corp., Chicago, disputed the government witness.

"Endrin is not the causative factor for the reason that endrin does not cause the observed symptoms," Lorant said.

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