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To the Members of the SPI Food Packaging Materials Committee

Gentlemen:

Mr. Heckman is presently away from his Washington desk on a brief vacation.

In his absence he has requested that I inform the full Committee of the Food and Drug Administration's proposed "National Conference on Indirect Additive Problems" tentatively scheduled for the thirteenth and fourteenth of February. We have obtained permission from Mr. Louis Rothschild to reproduce the enclosed article bearing on the conference which appeared in the January 8, 1968 edition of Food Chemical News.

I am sure that all of you will appreciate the significance of this FDA proposal in terms of its potential impact on the entire indirect additives regulatory scheme. As soon as more definitive information becomes available as to the subject matter to be covered as well as the industry representatives to be invited, we shall be contacting you further.

In the meantime, I know Mr. Heckman will want to give you his comments and observations on this matter as soon as he returns to his desk early next week.

Cordially yours,

Thomas J. Hughes

Thomas J. Hughes,
for Jerome H. Heckman

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The Food and Drug Administration did issue a § 121.1210 to set a zero tolerance for residues of carbomycin in the edible tissues of chickens. The agency said that residues of oxytetracycline in chickens from use of the combination will not exceed the tolerances already set in § 121.1046. These tolerances are 2 p. p. m. in uncooked kidney, and 1 p. p. m. in uncooked muscle, liver, fat and skin. FDA revised § 121.1046 so that the residues in chickens can result from use of oxytetracycline-medicated drinking water as well as feed.

There were two Food Additive Orders issued last week (See following story).

STANNOUS CHLORIDE CLEARED FOR ASPARAGUS UP TO 20 P. P. M.

A Food Additive Order was issued Jan. 4 to clear use of stannous chloride for color retention in asparagus packed in glass, with lids lined with an inert material, in an amount not to exceed 20 p. p. m. calculated as tin (Sn).

The Petition was filed by P. J. Ritter (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, Sept. 4, Page 33), which also proposed an amendment to the food standard for canned vegetables other than those specifically regulated to permit use of stannous chloride in asparagus up to 20 p. p. m.

The canned asparagus standard permits use of stannous chloride in a quantity not to exceed 15 p. p. m. The Ritter proposal was designed to increase the permitted level to 20 p. p. m. in glass-packed asparagus with lids lined with an inert material. Stannous chloride is "generally recognized as safe" as a preservative up to 0.0015% and no Food Additive Order was needed. The new § 121.1213 was required to clear the higher level.

Simultaneously with issuance of the Food Additive Order, FDA republished the food standards amendment providing "that in the case of asparagus packed in glass containers with lids lined with an inert material the quantity of stannous chloride added may exceed 15 p. p. m. but not 20 p. p. m. calculated as tin (Sn)." The amendment will become effective in 60 days unless it is stayed because of objections filed within 30 days. Ritter's food standards proposal had been endorsed in a comment submitted to FDA by H. P. Cannon & Son (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, Oct. 9, Page 17).

FDA SCHEDULES NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDIRECT ADDITIVE PROBLEMS

The Food and Drug Administration has tentatively scheduled a National Conference on Indirect Food Additives for Feb. 13 and 14 to discuss, among other topics, a proposal by Hercules' Dr. John P. Frawley that indirect additives - - except for pesticides and heavy metals - - used in accordance with good manufacturing practices at 0.2% or less be exempted from FDA's procedural food additive requirements.

The Frawley proposal was a major topic at both the FDA-Food and Drug Law Institute and Food Protection Committee meetings in Washington last month (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, Dec. 4, Pages 8 and 18).

A general review of FDA's proposed changes in the food additive procedural regulations (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, Aug. 14, Page 3) will also be on the program, which will cover a day-and-a-half in three separate three-hour sessions at the Department of State auditorium in Washington.

Dingell Subcommittee Relays Complaints About FDA's Indirect Regulations

The proposal by Frawley, who is expected to be one of several industry speakers at the conference, has drawn considerable scientific support. FDA's revised procedural regulations have also come in for comment and criticism, and led to complaints to Chairman Dingell's (D-Mich.) Small Business subcommittee on Regulatory Agencies in the House. Dingell's staff reportedly carried the complaints of unnecessary paperwork and unnecessary testing requirements to FDA.

One of the purposes of the conference will be to get a public airing of the complaints before there is a Congressional hearing. FDA began whipping up the program shortly before Christmas. A report to Dingell from FDA is due shortly.

Representatives of the adhesives, can manufacturing, glass container, paper, petroleum, plastics, rubber, and other industries whose indirect additives are regulated by FDA will be invited to participate and attend the conference.

The first session which FDA's L. L. Ramsey, the Bureau of Science's Assistant Director for Regulatory Programs, will keynote will be devoted to chemistry and migration of indirect additives.

The afternoon session of Feb. 13, which will cover toxicological problems, will hear Dr. W. H. Summerson, Bureau of Science director.

The following morning's wrapup will be an open forum, and will include, among the topics, discussion of FDA's new administrative regulations (See FOOD CHEMICAL NEWS, Sept. 18, Page 12; Oct. 2, Page 10; Oct. 9, Page 14; Oct. 17, Pages 2 and 3; Oct. 23, Page 8; Oct. 30, Page 3; Nov. 6, Page 20; Nov. 13, Page 16; and Nov. 20, Page 4).

FDA EASES RESTRICTIONS ON DISCLOSURE OF DATA FROM CONTRACTS

The Food and Drug Administration last month took steps to make information obtained from agency contracts more freely available to the public.

First public disclosure of the new FDA policy was made by Assistant Commissioner for Education and Information Theodore O. Cron in a speech Dec. 27 in Washington to the American Marketing Association meeting.