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file
United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

December 11, 1970

Mr. Ogden Williams
4621 Q Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20007

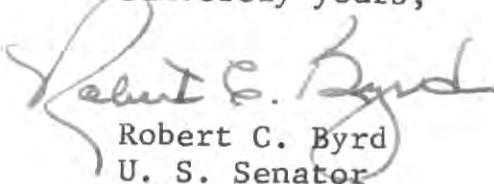
Dear Mr. Williams:

The attached self-explanatory letter has just been received from the Department of the Interior, with reference to the use of dieldrin on seed corn.

I believe that you will find the information in the report of interest, and you will be glad to note that the Department is concerned, as you are, about the continued use of this and other pesticides.

Assuring you of my desire to be of service, I am

Sincerely yours,


Robert C. Byrd
U. S. Senator

RCB:hsk



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

ADDRESS ONLY THE DIRECTOR,
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES
AND WILDLIFE

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ROBERT C. BYRD, U.S.S.
Referred
DEC 11 1970
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

Honorable Robert C. Byrd
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Byrd:

This is in response to your recent inquiry on behalf of Mr. Ogden Williams.

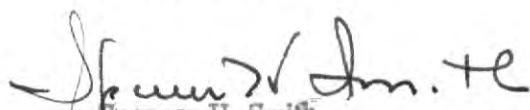
We, too, have been concerned with the hazard of dieldrin on seed corn to birds and other wildlife. There has been little evidence, however, of mortality of birds from this particular use, although some wildlife losses have been observed in the United States with other uses of dieldrin. Because of its danger to fish and wildlife and its persistence, the use of dieldrin on lands and in programs administered by this Department has been banned. In Great Britain, there has been a voluntary ban on the spring use of cereal grains treated with dieldrin, aldrin, and heptachlor.

Although the Department of the Interior advises the Department of Agriculture in the registration of pesticides, legal authority and responsibility reside with that agency under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). This function has been transferred to the newly created Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

With present emphasis on less toxic and less persistent pesticides, the Department of Agriculture is currently reviewing all pesticides to determine the necessity of their use and to find substitutes less hazardous to the environment. We are hopeful that suitable replacements for seed dressing will be available in the near future.

If we can provide any additional information on this subject, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,


Spencer H. Smith
Acting Director