

October 9, 1959

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR

DIRECTOR STANS



There is a troublesome and growing problem with respect to pesticide residues in milk, meat, and other food products. These residues (chiefly from chlorinated hydrocarbons such as DDT) are in some cases exceeding present tolerance levels set by the Food and Drug Administration. Human health is concerned.

Research on this problem is done chiefly by Agriculture (Agricultural Research Service) and by Health, Education and Welfare (Food and Drug Administration and Public Health Service.)

Both Agriculture and HEW are concerned about this problem. They have said relatively little about it hitherto because of some perplexity as to how to proceed, and much concern for the attitude of the American people if scare stories should be written.

I think that additional funds should be provided for these agencies, in line with reasonable estimates of sums that could be used constructively. This is appropriate, I think, in view of our responsibility for public health and in view of our public posture.

I'll be glad to visit with you further on this if you like.

Don Paarlberg

DP:mac