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New York Times

January 24, 1960

Mr. Patterson

Did you see?

Wend

PESTICIDE PROBLEM STUDIED BY CABINET

Special to The New York Times
WASHINGTON, Jan. 22 (AP) — The
fight between Ezra Taft Ben-
son and Arthur S. Flemming
reached the Cabinet level
Friday.

It is understood that a gen-
eral discussion of the positions
of the Secretaries of Agriculture
and Health, Education and Wel-
fare was held in a Cabinet ses-
sion with President Eisenhower
but that no orders or directions
had been issued.

However, it was said that the
consensus of the Cabinet mem-
bers was that the departments
should seek better coordination.

The dispute stems from Mr.
Flemming's condemnation of
cranberries tainted by a pesti-
cide and his ban on a hormone
used to fatten chickens. Mr.
Benson has obliquely suggested
that Mr. Flemming unduly cre-
ated a public scare and caused
farmers undue economic losses
by his handling of the problem.

It is also understood that the
Cabinet discussed a suggestion
that Mr. Flemming go slow in
acting on some chemicals used
in food pending the receipt of
adequate scientific information
that they are harmful to hu-
mans.