

cancer in any animal in any dose is illegal.

Subsequently, HEW convened a second expert panel, a Medical Advisory Group on Cyclamates headed by Dr. Roger O. Egeberg, Assistant Secretary for Health and Scientific Affairs, to review the anticyclamate decision. That panel ruled that cyclamates serve no purpose in beverages but that they should continue to be added to dietetic foods for use by diabetics and weight-watchers. The secretary modified his original ban accordingly.

The handling of the cyclamate affair represents something of a deviation from precedent. In the past, such matters rested squarely with the Commissioner of the FDA, who is responsible for administering food and drug laws.

In this case, however, the issue reached higher authorities. According to one version, Abbott Laboratories, the chief cyclamate-producer, first took its evidence of rat tumors to the FDA, then to Dr. Jesse Steinfeld, assistant deputy at HEW. "Steinfeld carried the ball from there," goes the story; as the executive secretary of the HEW advisory group he helped engineer the modification of the cyclamate ban.

A COURT DECISION

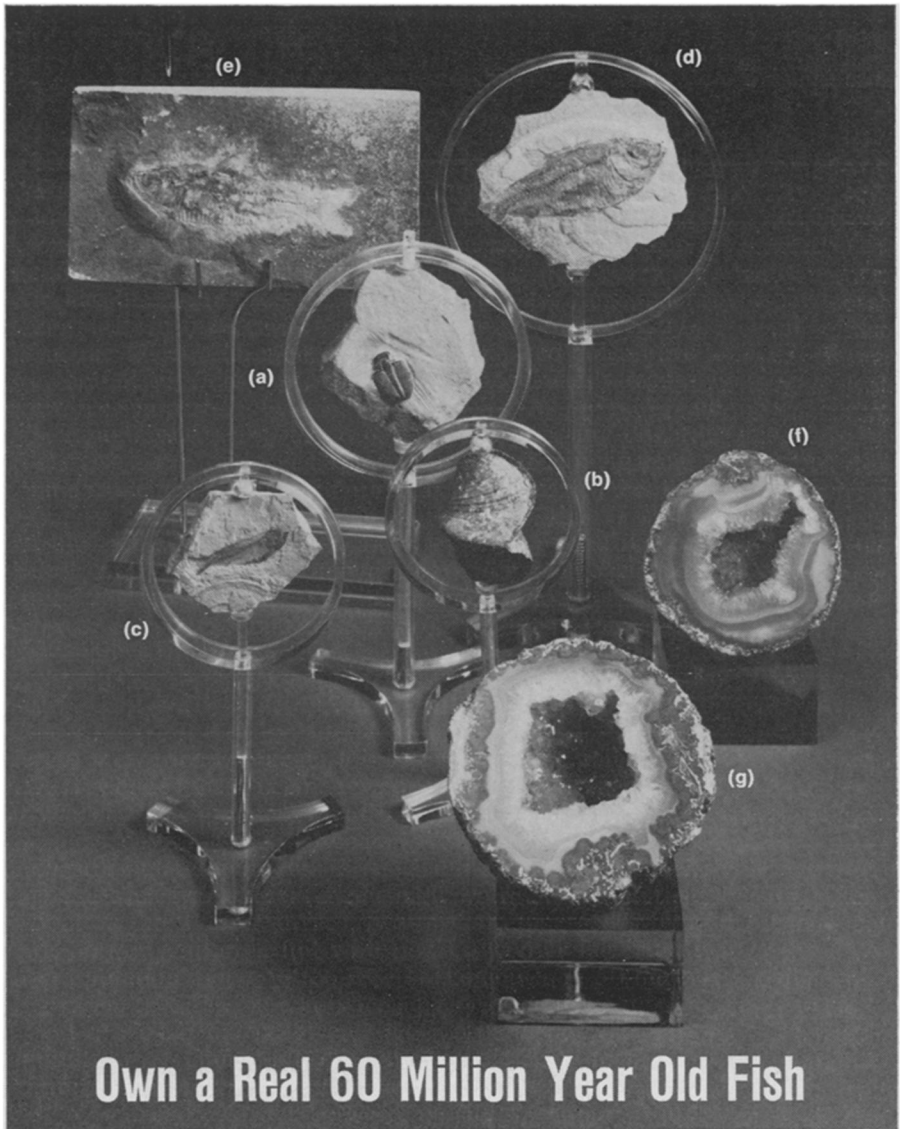
**Society membership**

Most professions and trades have professional societies, and membership is always useful to practitioners. For medical specialists society membership can be crucial since it implies a certification of their credentials to practice. Therefore courts have ruled that medical societies cannot exclude qualified applicants if the exclusion prevents them from practicing.

Now a decision of the California Supreme Court expands this principle to include any case where society membership would be a significant economic benefit to a professional practitioner. The decision comes on a case brought by a Long Beach dentist, Dr. Leon Pinsker against the Pacific Coast Society of Orthodontics (SN: 9/27, p. 266).

The society had claimed that since Dr. Pinsker could practice orthodontics without being a member, it could not be forced to admit him. The state supreme court sent the case back to the lower courts to be decided on the broader ground of whether membership would be a substantial benefit to Dr. Pinsker. Membership, said the upper court, "would appear to be a practical necessity for a dentist who wishes not only to make a good living as an orthodontist but also to realize maximum potential achievement and recognition in such a specialty." □

december 6, 1969



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