

spray used will be a combination of malathion and a hydrolized protein bait.

Amidst the uproar and the sudden, if mild, surge of action, the Florida Division of Plant Industries has charged University of Florida researchers with dragging their feet on recommendations for a Federal aid program.

"We can't get money from Washington without a program and we certainly haven't had one," said Halwin Jones, director of the Florida Division of Plant Industries. His department, he explained, had consistently tried to get the University researchers to expedite their efforts, "but they haven't followed through."

The Caribbean fruit fly is cousin to the Mediterranean fruit fly, heretofore rated far more dangerous. The latter was found in south Florida several years ago and wiped out by a crash eradication program. The Mediterranean species largely uses citrus as a host for laying its eggs.

The Carib fly prefers peaches, guavas, loquats, sapodillas and Sirinam cherries. But it will as readily attack mangos, avocados, kumquats, oranges, grapefruit and even tomatoes when the preferred hosts are out of season. ♦

RADIATION AND HEALTH

Warning in Washington; Calm in Montreal

While the director of health physics at Oak Ridge National Laboratory was preparing his testimony damning X-rays as the cause of death of thousands of Americans, the International Conference on Radiological Health at Montreal's McGill University was calm. Most delegates appeared to feel that radiological hazards to health are reasonably under control.

Oak Ridge's Karl Z. Morgan told the Senate Commerce Committee that his guess, based on published scientific literature, was that as many as 29,000 persons in the United States may die each year from overexposure to X-rays.

He cited damage to genes, leukemia, thyroid tumors and bone tumors as radiation-linked killers. "Any radiation that is unnecessary is undesirable," he testified.

Morgan backed a bill that would authorize the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare to step up research in the area and set limits for radiation standards.

In Montreal, the conferees admitted that not enough is known about the effects of radiation. There is, for instance, no method of counting chromosomes in living tissue to spot effects from radiation exposure. Nor is there enough data on radiation sources and

degrees of exposure and tolerance on which to base any complacency.

This paradox emerges from the three-day international conference staged by the University, the U.S. Public Health Service and Canada's National Health and Welfare Department.

Radiation at certain doses is known to damage chromosomes which carry genetic characteristics from parent to child. When damage occurs, the number of chromosomes present in a cell may change.

Scientists, says Dr. John D. Abbatt of the Canadian Department, are trying to develop a system of chromosome counting in living human tissue instead of merely in test tubes and are "pretty certain to succeed."

Then, he says, researchers hope to apply the method of chromosome counting to whole populations, whether they're exposed to radiation or not, in an effort to find out what dose levels are responsible for abnormal counts. ♦

EDUCATION

Largest Scholarship

As both the need for scientists and the cost of training them spiral upward, the pioneer program for identifying and aiding young talent increases its efforts.

The largest science scholarship in the country—\$10,000—will be awarded for the first time next year as the culmination of the nationwide Science Talent Search.

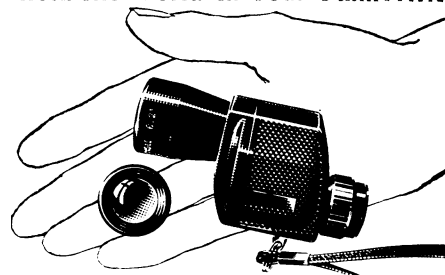
A grant from the Westinghouse Educational Foundation has enabled Science Service, which conducts the Search, not only to increase the top award by \$2,500 but to double the number of scholarships to 10.

There will also be two \$8,000 scholarships, three \$6,000 ones and four \$4,000 ones. The other 30 finalists attending the Science Talent Institute in Washington in late February will receive \$250 as before, since any sum larger than that makes them ineligible for certain other scholarships.

Announcement of the stepped-up program was made jointly by Howard S. Kaltenborn of the Westinghouse Educational Foundation and Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and president of the board of trustees of Science Service.

The nationwide quest for top teenage scientists, now in its 27th year, is conducted by Science Service through its Science Clubs of America. Announcement of the Search is made each year in September to high school principals and science teachers, who urge students to begin working on their individual projects. Usually more than 20,000 take up the challenge. ♦

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