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State Committee to Investigate Food Production

Governor Edmund G. Brown recently announced appointment of a 15-member public policy committee to survey the use of agricultural chemicals in food production.

Dr. Emil Mrak, Chancellor of the University of California at Davis, was named chairman of the study group, officially named "Special Committee on Public Policy Regarding Agricultural Chemicals."

Governor Brown has asked for a report before Jan. 1. The first meeting has been called for July 14 at the State Department of Agriculture in Sacramento.

The committee was created, Governor Brown said, because of public concern over pesticides and chemical residues in food products. While

he has been assured that California's food supply is wholesome and well protected by existing regulatory procedures, health and safety questions have arisen in recent months, he added.

"California leads the nation both in variety and dollar value of farm crops," said Governor Brown. "Both our farmers and our consumers have vital interests in these questions."

Considerable confusion has arisen over the whole matter of pesticides and chemical residues since the federal ban on cranberries last Thanksgiving, he pointed out. Some groups now believe present permitted pesticide tolerances are unnecessarily restrictive; others believe they are not rigorous enough. "We need a clear, consis-

tent, firmly established public policy on the matter," the Governor declared.

Junior Firm Holds Confab

Junior Achievement, an experimental corporation run by teen-agers, held its sixth annual corporate meeting yesterday in the West Venetian Room of the Ambassador Hotel, according to Harlan W. Holmwood, executive vice president of General Telephone and president of Junior Achievement.

Members present at the meeting heard reports from the treasurer of the corporation, Ralph E. Windsor, vice president, Bank of America; JA Executive Director Clarence N. Parker Jr.; and M. Robert Davis, 18, president of the Metropolitan Council of Achievers Associations.

Chairman of the nominations committee, Robert J. Cannon, president of Cannon Electric Company, reported nominations for new JA directors in the southland.

Climaxing the meeting's activities was the delivery of the president's annual message by Holmwood, and his presentation of the annual report for 1959-60.

Immediately following the general meeting, the board of directors met to elect corporate officers and to appoint members to the Executive Committee and Finance Committee.

Improvement Set for Strip Area

Construction bids for the 206th and Harvard Blvd. Improvement District, largest single assessment job ever to be attempted in the 15th council district, have been called for July 13, it was reported today by John S. Gibson, president of the Los Angeles City Council.

The project, when completed, will provide for full improvement of all streets in the strip area from 203rd St. to, and including, the north side of Torrance Blvd. Sidewalks, curbs, gutters, paving and sanitary sewers, where not already present, are included.

Councilman Gibson said that the construction estimate by city engineers exceeded a quarter of a million, with engineering, inspection and incidentals, raising the total to near \$275,000. Most of this charge will be assessed to adjacent property owners.

Because Torrance Blvd. and Denker St. will be widened to major street standards, and because of certain improvements to be made in existing storm drain facilities, Councilman Gibson has arranged a \$80,000 public fund contribution to the district.

Only ten lot owners, of the 330 involved, filed protests at the recent public protest hearing.

Although a pending court action may cause some delay in the project, the councilman said he had asked for the bid call to eliminate any further delay, once the court action has been settled.

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Reveal Dangers of Garden Meals

Eating out of a garden is a fine thing, provided it is a vegetable garden.

It seems almost flippant to periodically warn the public not to gnaw on shrubbery or to eat ornamental plants, but each year the County Department of Health is called upon for advice concerning such matters.

The latest poisoning by plant was reported to the department last week. Two women decided to sample seeds from the pod of a split leaf philodendron. Result—they spent a few days in the hospital. However, most of the poisonings of this kind involve children.

The most common offenders among the poisonous garden plants are castor bean, oleander and the Jerusalem Cherry, although there are probably at least 50 other plants, including elephant ear, English ivy and the Bird of Paradise that give violent objection to being munched on by children, or anyone else, for that matter.

So numerous are the plants which can be poisonous if eaten, that it is almost useless to enumerate them except for technical reasons.

The best advice to give anyone is to tell him to overcome his curiosity concerning the taste of any plants except those which are commonly accepted as foodstuffs.

At the start of summer vacation, it might be appropriate for parents to acquaint eager youngsters with the facts concerning poison ivy, poison oak, and so-called mushrooms, which might be toadstools.

To further take the joy out of Junior's life, it might be well to tell him that although the Indians and the trail blazers of yesteryear did, at times, subsist on nuts, berries and miscellaneous herbs, it might be better for him to try a pioneer's diet of sowl-belly and beans.

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