INTRODUCTION

The use of pesticides on stored products has progressed in recent years from application of a few inorganic materials to the use of a large number of highly effective organic compounds and subsequently to the selection of a preferred few of these. Some very effective compounds have been discarded or displaced because of potential hazards to human health or the environment. Good pesticides such as DDT and dieldrin have fallen into disuse because of residual stability and adverse effects on wildlife. Others have or may become obsolete because of toxic or mutagenic effects on animals. Still others may become obsolete for other reasons such as insect resistance. Some compounds have been eliminated or restricted because of the action of pressure groups and politicians.

The criteria that determine whether or not a pesticide can survive for commercial use are many and they are changing. The requirements for registration are stringent and there is some indication they may become even more strict. Regulations are made to insure that new compounds coming on the market will have minimal hazard to health and the environment. Since the possibility of new pesticides being discovered is small and the development of new materials is costly and slow it is essential that the pesticides we now have be used with the greatest care and effectiveness possible. Many questions can be asked about present policies regarding the use of pesticides on stored products: should our methods for screening, evaluating and registering pesticides change? Should we put increasing emphasis on new formulations, new methods of application and use? How important is the resistance problem and can we do anything about it? These are all questions that come to mind when we think of the great demand for food preservation and pest control in the future. This symposium was designed to give some indication of the current state of affairs regarding the use of pesticides on stored products to control insects.

E. J. Bond
Convenor