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*If Veterans don't help Veterans, who will?*

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November 25, 1970

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

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SUBJECT

11/20  
Remarked another soldier:  
If we ain't been using it, where do you think those missing barrels went? We ain't making milkshakes out of it.

Today, the United States stands almost alone among the powers of the world in failing to become a signatory to this treaty which we first proposed.

The fact is that the contention was first suggested in Geneva at an international conference by the head of the U.S. delegation, Representative Theodore E. Burton, from my native State of Ohio, with the full support of President Coolidge and Secretary of State Kellogg.

In June, 1925, the United States signed the Geneva convention but it was never ratified by the Senate. This was in large measure because the chemical industries and especially generals of the Army Chemical Service exerted considerable pressure against the ratification of the convention.

Mr. President, a year ago today, on November 25, 1969, President Nixon announced that the United States was renouncing germ warfare. He ordered existing American chemical and biological germ warfare weapons destroyed. The President also pledged that research on biological agents would be only defensive in nature.

Recently, however, shocking and appalling, it has come to light that American troops in South Vietnam are continuing to use a poisonous chemical warfare ingredient months after it had been banned by the Defense Department. The fact is that spraying of Agent Orange, pound, 2,4,5-T was ordered suspended on containing the deadly chemical on April 15 of this year. Since that time, however, hundreds of acres of farmland in the highlands of Quang Ngai Province in South Vietnam have been sprayed with Agent Orange.

This was disclosed by enlisted men in the 90th Chemical Detachment after the commander of the detachment, Capt. John Morrison, denied that Agent Orange was being used.

Last year, a secret study sponsored by the National Cancer Institute raised grave doubt about the 2,4,5-T ingredient in Agent Orange. When the substance was fed in small doses to laboratory rats and mice, 80 percent of their offspring were stillborn, and 39 percent of the survivors were deformed.

Because Agent Orange only reduces plant yield by two-thirds, individual plants, though tainted often look edible. Therefore, the National Cancer Institute study clearly suggests that the U.S. Army was inadvertently poisoning the people of South Vietnam.

The enlisted men in the 90th Chemical Detachment admitted that they had sprayed Agent Orange after the ban on this deadly defoliant and as evidence pointed to the fact that 145 barrels of the poisonous chemical were carried on their unit's trucks, but only 40 were actually on hand. When they were asked what happened to the missing 105 barrels, one soldier, David Church, a 21-year-old draftee from Pawtucket, R.I., replied:

We sprayed a lot of it.

Larry Beckner of Spokane, Wash., stated:

Hell, we've been using it all through the summer.

The men of the 90th Chemical Detachment claim that Orange has been sprayed by other units as well as their own. The stated reason for spraying the crops, which all belong to Montagnard tribesmen, was that the Army suspected the harvest was being given to the Vietcong. The traditional ethnic hatred between Montagnards and all other Vietnamese make it unlikely they would voluntarily supply food to either side.

Mr. President, the Defense Department has not destroyed its stocks of biological warfare agents—including 45,000 poison bullets and darts—stored at Pine Bluff Arsenal in Arkansas nor has dismantled any of the Army's biological research facilities at Pine Bluff or at Fort Detrick, Md., despite the President's renunciation of germ warfare. Moreover, the Defense Department still has not yet done away with the anticrop biological agents that produce such diseases as wheat rust and rice blast.

Visitors to Pine Bluff Arsenal report the existence of a 10-story tower where biological agents were produced and 27 mounds or igloos, visible from the air, where the germs or toxins—toxins are the dead but poisonous products of bacteria—are kept under refrigeration.

Mr. President, since 1961, 100 million pounds of chemical herbicides have been sprayed on 5 million acres of land in South Vietnam, an area the size of the State of Massachusetts. Most appalling and often lost amid our growing statistics of war dead and wounded and those of the Vietcong and North Vietnamese is the fact that more than half a million Vietnamese civilians—women, children, and old men—have been killed or maimed for life by our napalm bombing and our use of chemical defoliants.

When I was in South Vietnam in early 1968 as a representative of the Senate Armed Services Committee I personally witnessed the horrible effects of our defoliation program and of our napalm bombing of villages and hamlets. I saw in hospitals and elsewhere women and also little children who had been horribly burned and maimed by our napalm bombing. Many had lost an arm to the shoulder or leg.

Mr. President, approximately \$350 billion of our taxpayers' money has been spent annually for chemical and biological warfare agents during recent wars. For many years, the Department of Defense has purchased and stockpiled enormous amounts of toxic and infectious chemical and biological agents.

The time is long past for the United States to dismantle its biological and chemical warfare establishment. Our continued use of defoliants in Vietnam is a stain on our national conscience. We should ratify the protocol prohibiting the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous, or other gases, and of bacteriological methods of warfare, Geneva, June 17, 1925, and totally destroy our arsenals of germ warfare weapons that burn and maim innocent people for the rest of their lives.

\*\*\*SPECIAL  
INTEREST ITEM

AMERICAN TROOPS USE AGENT  
ORANGE, BANNED DEFOLIANT, IN  
VIETNAM

Mr. YOUNG of Ohio. Mr. President, 45 years ago the United States took the lead in drafting the Geneva convention, the most basic and fundamental international treaty banning the use in war of all poisonous gases and biological methods of warfare.