

This formula, diluted with water, has been found particularly efficacious when employed as a pre-emergence and as a contact application on areas where planned treatment has inadvertently been postponed. We may assume that the postponement allows weed and grass growth to reach a height of about 1". In such cases a somewhat heavier application in slightly increased volume generally results in a very satisfactory control. The duration of effect may, and usually does, exceed a continuous period of three months.

Where 2,4-DAC is to be applied without dilution, it is not necessary, of course, to include the emulsifying agent in the formula.

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The American-Soviet Science Society

As officers and former officers of the American-Soviet Science Society, we should like to make a statement concerning the way in which the work of the Society was brought to an end by the failure of the U. S. Treasury to grant us a tax exemption certificate as a nonprofit educational organization.

The Society, which was formed in 1945 as the successor to the Science Committee of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, has notified its members that it is unable at present to carry on its normal activities. It had been engaged in facilitating relations between scientists in the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. through the publication of scientific articles by Russian authors in American journals, the circulation in the United States of scientific books, journals, and reprints from the U.S.S.R., and particularly by acquainting American scientists, through its "Bulletin," with scientific work published or in progress in the Soviet Union.

When the Society became an independent organization in May 1946 by severance of relations with the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, it was realized that the small dues and contributions it was able to obtain would not suffice to support the extensive administrative and editorial work which had increased greatly since 1943 or to convert the "Bulletin" into the full-fledged *American Review of Soviet Science* which had been planned. Consequently, a grant for the support of this work of international exchange and publication was obtained from the Rockefeller Foundation in June 1946. It was known at the time that this grant could be paid only when the Society should be in possession of a tax-exemption certification from the U. S. Treasury; and it was assumed that since the Science Committee had enjoyed such status, it would be granted to the Society as a matter of course, following its application in June 1946.

In making such an assumption the officers failed to reckon with the obstructive tactics by which for two years the Treasury Department has failed to act upon our application. The only reason given is contained in a letter from Mr. E. I. McLarney, Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue, dated April 28, 1947,

who stated: "It appears from newspaper articles recently published that the Committee on Un-American Activities of the House of Representatives proposes to investigate the matter of whether your activities and those of certain of your leaders are detrimental to the interests of the United States. Under these circumstances a definite ruling on your status for Federal income tax purposes is being deferred pending further development of facts."

The "newspaper articles" were those concerned with the campaign waged by the Un-American Activities ("Thomas") Committee of the House against Dr. Edward U. Condon, director of the Bureau of Standards, who had been a member of the Executive Committee of the American-Soviet Science Society. The Society has never been on the so-called "subversive list" of the Attorney General, and no grounds whatever exist for any suspicion concerning the motives or actions of its officers in connection with American-Soviet scientific exchange. In common with other organizations striving to improve American-Soviet relations, its work has been hampered by the atmosphere of suspicion created by the Thomas Committee, which, in the absence of any inquiry, has by insinuation alone sufficiently influenced a department of the Government to prevent our receiving the material support needed for our work. This has taken place in spite of the approval given to the Society's scientific exchange service by American scientists, by libraries, by many government bureaus and departments which have used our service, by the Rockefeller Foundation, and by the State of New York, under whose laws the Society is incorporated as an educational organization. It is a sad commentary on the administration of a government department that it prefers unsubstantiated insinuations to these solid evidences of the scientific standing of the Society and its value to American science.

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American-Soviet Science Society, until May 1946*
HARLOW SHAPLEY, *Honorary President*
ALICE HAMILTON, *Honorary Vice-President*
LEO LOEB, *Honorary Vice-President*
DUNCAN A. MACINNES, *President,
American-Soviet Science Society, Inc.*

On the Number of Genes in Man

Reliable determination of the number of separate gene loci has not been made for any organism. For experimental forms, especially *Drosophila*, rough approximations are established (e.g. J. W. Gowen and E. H. Gay. *Genetics*, 1933, 18, 1-31; D. E. Lea. *J. Genetics*, 1940, 39, 181-188; H. J. Muller. *Proc. int. Congr. plant Sci.*, 1929, 1, 897-921). Although ideally controlled experimental results are not available, considerable theoretical interest attaches to the problem of gene number in man. For instance, the tempo of human evolution is, among other things, a function of the number of gene loci susceptible to mutation (S. Wright. *Bull. Amer. math. Soc.*, 1942, 48, 223-246). Another source of interest is that an estimate of gene number in man illustrates the