

23 December 1969

Dr. Joseph Garland, Editor
Harvard Medical Alumni Bulletin
25 Shattuck Street
Boston Mass. 02115

Dear Joe,

I am sending you ^a /spring picture for ^{the} /Bulletin
cover of foam flowers taken the Adirondacks. I think
it is appropriate for a conservation theme.

~~# 64-571 foam flowers~~

Recently there has been great concern expressed both by public officials and in the press about the effect of the organo-chloride insecticides on the environment but at the same time a denial that they have any effect on human health. If they do have a harmful effect on humans the action is difficult to prove because of the subtlety of their action and because the chemicals become sequestered in the body. Experiments with mice and other animals will never be conclusive. However, I suggest that injurious physiological effects of these chemicals, if they are produced, will only be established by a prolonged study of the correlation between morbid symptoms and organo-chloride concentrations in biopsy materials and tissues excised during surgery. Such a study would be very valuable to an understanding of the effect of these non-biodegradable substances on human health and life. The study would entail the enlistment of many surgeons in a cooperative effort involving the sending of specimens to a central laboratory, financed by a foundation or a medical school, for analysis. I think it is only the better part of wisdom for people to try to find out just what they are doing to themselves as well as the environment by the careless and thoughtless dissemination throughout the world of noxious chemicals. What's your reaction to this idea?

Yours sincerely,