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Attached. *↪* Await minute for
MAFF to Lord
President

MR FLESHER

16 April 1984

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16/4

PESTICIDES LEGISLATION

OD(E) on Thursday agreed that statutory measures are needed for the control of pesticide safety in the United Kingdom. Both the Health and Safety at Work Act and the Consumer Safety Act are too narrow in scope to allow comprehensive controls. The sub-committee therefore agreed that the best solution would be to extend the scope of the Pollution (Protection of Food and Marine Environment) Bill proposed for the legislative programme in 1984/85. The Minister of Agriculture is proposing to seek the agreement of the Lord President on this proposal which has the strong endorsement of OD(E).

We support this proposal. There is an urgent need for a legislative framework for pesticide control and the two Acts which were considered are inadequate. Extending the scope of the proposed Pollution Bill for the 1984/85 session would have the additional advantage of producing a much better balanced Bill. The current Bill is largely an essentially administrative one which will however focus public attention upon our environmental policy. An introduction of a substantive policy content will therefore be helpful.

This proposal also fits in well with the Prime Minister's current concerns for restoring public confidence and improving the Government's policy and presentation on environmental issues.

DLP

DAVID PASCALL

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