

# Presidential Address

JAMES D. GORMAN

*Given at Seventh Annual Hyacinth Control Meeting in Fort Myers, Florida, on June 20, 1967  
Director of Hillsborough County Arthropod Control Unit, Tampa, Florida*

Distinguished guests, officers, members of the Society, Ladies and Gentlemen . . . I am very grateful for the honor of serving you as your President this past year. I would like to thank each and every one of you for the cooperation and hard work that you have put forth to make this, the seventh year of the Society, a most enjoyable and successful one.

As it has been pointed out many times in the past, the Hyacinth Control Society was founded to provide practical information for solving aquatic weed problems for the applicator, directly engaged in an aquatic weed control program. Since the inception of the Society, proper and safe application of the approved herbicide for the particular problem has been the aim of the Society.

During the past year several events have occurred which present difficult and exciting challenges in many of our aquatic weed control programs.

One of the most far reaching occurred during the fall when a number of applicators were informed by the Florida State Board of Health that no pesticide formulations containing 2,4-D, dalapon or diquat had been registered for use in sources of potable water supply. Inquiries revealed several Federal agencies and committees have been studying the problems inherent to the use of 2,4-D in lakes, canals and other bodies of water. These agencies include the Aquatic Plant Control Research Advisory Committee of the Corps of Engineers, Industry Task Force in Phenoxy Herbicide Tolerances, sponsored by the National Agricultural Chemicals Association, U. S. Public Health Service's Advisory Committee on Drinking Water Standards, which is scheduled to meet during this month of June to review and amend, if necessary, the existing Public Health Service Drinking Water Standards, the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration of the Dept. of Interior, and the Ad Hoc Committee on the Control of Aquatic Weeds by Herbicides which was established by the Joint Weed Control Committee of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the U. S. Department of the Interior. The group has established a Registration Task Force for the express purpose of determining what information is required for the registration of 2,4-D formulations.

During the past year legislation in the form of a Bill to prohibit the importation of exotic aquatic plant species into the United States was introduced into the U. S. Senate

by Spessard Holland. The Society is on record in support of this Bill, and I feel, we should continue to work toward the passage of both State and Federal laws to prevent the importation of these exotic aquatic plants.

As President, I would like to bring to the attention of the Society some items which I feel positive action by the Society can improve to raise the standards of aquatic weed control.

I feel the Society should take steps to stimulate interest in the aquatic weed control field by commercial applicators. Many times government agencies are requested to treat aquatic weed problems on private property. As a representative of an agency it is often difficult to treat one individual's weed problem and to tell another citizen that you cannot treat his problem.

At the same time the Society should take steps to insure quality applicators through educational and training programs. As our aquatic weed control problems of the future become more complex the need for qualified and competent applicators will increase. Our Society has a definite responsibility in meeting this challenge.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage the new Board of Directors to contact officials at the University of Florida and other schools in the University system to attempt to initiate a research program to solve some of our aquatic weed problems. A positive approach to these problems utilizing not only existing tools and methods but new techniques in research, control activities, including biological control and the use of the noxious aquatic plants to benefit man. I do not want these comments on an increased aquatic weed research program to be interpreted in any way as criticism of the present programs in the State. The present programs are staffed by competent personnel but are, because of inadequate financing, unable to meet the needs of the aquatic weed control programs in the state of Florida and the South-eastern United States.

Our Society and its members have been confronted with problems since its inception and the future problems will be more complex. I have no doubt that with capable, thoroughly trained, Directors of Aquatic Weed Control Programs and adequate research programs, we can give the residents of our respective areas satisfactory aquatic weed control.