

February 10, 1970

Dr. Stephen Rose
The Open University
Walton Hall
Walton
Blethley, Buckinghamshire
England

Dear Stephen,

I am sorry that I still do not have any "orange". I am attempting to obtain samples and will let you know if I succeed.

In case you have not already seen it, I strongly recommend that you read the article on defoliation by Thomas Whiteside in the February 7 issue of The New Yorker Magazine. He gives quite a bit of information about the dioxine problem. There is still no final determination of the teratogenicity of pure 2,4,5-T. Bionetics, Dow, the Food and Drug Administration, and the National Institutes of Health are all conducting various kinds of experiments. So far, no clear agreement has emerged.

I have no information at all regarding the factory accident in Britain to which you referred in one of your letters to Art. Can you let me know the story?

You have probably considered the possibility that commercial 2,4,5-T may contain not only dioxines but also unreacted trichlorophenol. If the latter is present, it might be converted to dioxines in the field. Presumably, this would happen if the material were in a fire. If trichlorophenol is retained in plants for any length of time, domestic fires used by individual families might generate hazardous quantities of dioxine. Another possibility is that dioxines are made from trichlorophenol photochemically. I do not know if this occurs. I would greatly appreciate knowing your present thinking on the entire subject.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

MM:ls

Matthew Meselson