EDWIN MADUNAGU

Food & Water's

FEATURE Toxins in Fish

SAFE FOOD NEWS

Study Says Children at Risk from Pesticides

In 1988, driven by concerns about the potential vulnerability of infants and children to dietary pesticides, Congress commissioned the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to do a two-year study to address "the question of whether current regulatory approaches for controlling pesticide residues in foods adequately protect children." On June 28th, five years and $1.1 million later, the NAS finally released its anxiously awaited report on the study, *Pesticides in the Diets of Infants and Children.*

Young People in Danger

The study confirmed many people's worst fears. The committee found that children differ from adults in both their susceptibility to harm from pesticide residues and in their exposure to those residues. Because children are still growing, exposure to a dangerous pesticide during a critical point in development "can permanently alter the structure or function of an organ system." Moreover, children consume more calories of food per unit of body weight than do adults, and consume far fewer types of foods than adults do.

Unfortunately, the report concludes, the current regulatory system does not take these important differences between children and adults into account when setting acceptable

(Cover Story: continued on page 11)



According to a new report, federal regulations do not adequately protect children like the five-year-old above from exposure to toxic pesticides in their favorite foods.

CBS/3/834

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"Every person is the right person to act and every moment is the right moment to begin."
— J. Schell

EDITOR

In Loving Memory of Dr. Joseph K. Wagoner

In late May of this year, our country lost a national treasure when Dr. Joseph K. Wagoner died after a short battle with cancer. Dr. Wagoner, a founding member of Food & Water's Board of Directors and an eminent Harvard-trained epidemiologist, dedicated his life to protecting the public's health. His death means the loss of a committed fighter for the right to a safe environment.

Dr. Wagoner perhaps will be remembered best in the environmental community for his work exposing the links between uranium mining and the alarmingly high number of cancer deaths among Native-American mine workers. In 1963, he and his associates published a ground-breaking study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* that clearly demonstrated the uranium mining-cancer connection, thereby shattering the government and nuclear industry position that blamed smoking for all cancer deaths. As a result, Dr. Wagoner's work was enormously controversial. Yet, even early in his career, he was not afraid to stand up to the powers-that-be and speak the truth. Dr. Wagoner distinguished himself by acting with the same kind of integrity, honesty and dedication throughout his impressive career.

Food & Water's founder and president, Dr. Wally Burnstein, became aware of Dr. Wagoner's work with the Native-Americans while reading an article in the *New York Times Magazine* more than a decade ago. At the time, Dr. Burnstein was involved in a campaign to stop uranium mining in New Jersey and sought Dr. Wagoner's scientific expertise. They became instant friends and colleagues in the struggle to protect the public from the irresponsible nuclear industry and its allies in the government.

"Joe selflessly lent his time and energy to the battle to stop uranium mining in New Jersey," Dr. Burnstein remembers. "He was a special person—a public-interest scientist in the purest sense of the term."

In dozens of scientific papers and hundreds of lectures, Dr. Wagoner was always an uncompromising advocate for public health and safety, particularly for disadvantaged workers. His compassionate support for employees poisoned in the workplace led to many confrontations with industry executives. Yet he always reminded people that "human values take precedence over industrial values" and stood firmly for the right to a safe workplace.

We will sorely miss Dr. Wagoner and his invaluable assistance to Food & Water. *Safe Food News* and the work of Food & Water will be forever dedicated to his memory. We hope we can live up to the ideals he embodied.

Our hearts and prayers go out to his wife Jeanie and his three sons, Joe, John and Jim.

Rest in peace, Joe.

Food & Water Statement of Purpose
Food & Water (F&W) is a national non-profit, educational organization formed in 1986 by Dr. Walter Burnstein. After more than 25 years as a family physician, witnessing extraordinary increases in degenerative diseases, Dr. Burnstein founded F&W as an extension of his commitment to the prevention of both disease and environmental degradation. F&W educates the general public about various threats to the nutritional integrity of the food and water supply. F&W researches and publicizes environmental and health impacts of food irradiation and other food treatments, before and after harvest. F&W exposes the critical interconnections between health and environmental problems and challenges the need for technologies, processes or additives which threaten both. The organization's primary focus has been the issue of food irradiation and the dangers posed by this technology.

SUPPORT FOOD & WATER, INC.

Food & Water is aggressively working to protect the food supply and sustain the planet's natural resources. For six years we have led the struggle to stop food irradiation. Through our publication, *Safe Food News*, we offer consumers critical information on threats to the food supply and the environment, interviews with leading activists and resources to facilitate local organizing and citizen empowerment. To continue this work as a non-profit organization—
We need your help!

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