

Chairman. This assignment followed hard on the heels of Bill (Murray's) seven month stint with the House Appropriations Committee, as consultant, which led to the publication of the acclaimed report on pesticides that recently put things back into perspective. The Navy, Bill's ex-Boss, also received a very nice letter of com-

mendation from the Hon. George H. Mahon, Chairman of the House Committee. We think all of us who use pesticides and are concerned with not only their safe use but their effective use will be glad to have this distinguished and *scientifically oriented* Committee acting on a subject which is so vital to us all.

## WHY "MOSQUITO"?

Our word "mosquito" may have had its origin in ancient India. Some 3500 years ago, around 1500 B.C., the "Atharva Veda" used the word "*makka*" for mosquito. This eventually evolved to the word "*masaka*" of classical Sanskrit.

The Romans used the word "musca" for "fly," which in Spanish now is "mosca." Phillips in 1583, according to the Oxford English Dictionary, referred to an annoying "... kind of flie, the Spaniards call musketas." The word later became "mosquito" in English. The ending "ito" indicates the diminutive form; hence, "little fly." Before 1900 the word "mosquito" was a somewhat ambiguous term because it frequently was used in England for a variety of small Diptera, with the words "Culex" or "gnat" designating the mosquito of today.

The word also is associated with *Aedes aegypti*. J. B. Robineau-Desvoidy in 1827 described a mosquito in Cuba and gave it the scientific name, "*Culex mosquito*" (which later was shown to be a synonym of *Ae. aegypti*).

The word "mosquito" became standardized in English around 1900 or 1901 after Ronald Ross in India, working with malaria, and Walter Reed in Cuba, working with yellow fever, both used the word and focused attention on mosquitoes by proving conclusively that they transmit these diseases. Now, of course, the term is used for all species of the family Culicidae.

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