

## Mosquito Control To Cost \$450,000 Yearly, House Told

*By Staff Correspondent*

DOVER, July 2. — Chief Engineer Richard A. Haber of the State Highway Department told the House of Representatives tonight that a proper job of controlling mosquito in Delaware, including spraying and ditching, will cost about \$450,000 a year.

Before midnight the House had adopted a concurrent resolution permitting the introduction of a bill which would appropriate an estimated \$225,000 to control the mosquito nuisance until

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the end of the present warm season.

More than 150 persons, most of them from Dover, and the suburban Kent County area, filled the gallery and the main floor of the House chamber in a crusade to speed up legislative action on the mosquito problem.

When the House did not get into session until almost 9:30 p. m. the crowd became restive and broke into rhythmic applause three times. There was talk of storming the speaker's office to persuade the speaker, James R. Quigley, to call the representatives to order. It got no further than talk, however.

During the discussion of the mosquito nuisance Dr. Floyd L.

Hudson, executive secretary of the State Board of Health, agreed that the problem is serious and said there is evidence of the presence in the state of two strains of mosquitoes which carry serious diseases—malaria and encephalitis (sleeping sickness).

He emphasized, however, that there have been no critically confirmed cases of malaria in several years and none of sleeping sickness in human beings.

Rep. Harry E. Mayhew (D-Milford) chairman of a special committee appointed last week by Mr. Quigley to guide the House in its mosquito legislation disclosed that his group, at a meeting last Thursday with state officials, Dover officials, doctors and representatives of the Air Force, had considered asking that a state of emergency be declared. He added that this idea had been dropped, but that the committee realized the seriousness of the situation and strongly advocated passage of the bill that was to follow.

Mr. Haber also said that he did not believe the condition called for the creation of a state of emergency. He added that there is a problem—a serious problem—but that the mosquito control division of the State Highway Department has the technicians and the equipment to do the job if it receives sufficient funds.

Read into the record of the discussion was the following telegram from U. S. Rep. Harris B. McDowell, Jr. (D-Del) to Dr. Hudson:

"Air Force officials, Pentagon, inform we Langley Field has adequate planes and materials for spray program for you upon request. No request for spraying pending at Langley Field from you. Informed past spray schedule has been May 14, June 1, June 14, and June 19. Arrangements for permission from Dr. Stearns to spray over Bombay Hook and other wild life refuge areas, as well as abundant supply of spray materials at Langley Field, should expedite all-out program for control of mosquitoes in Dover Air Force Base area. May I be informed of your plans."

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