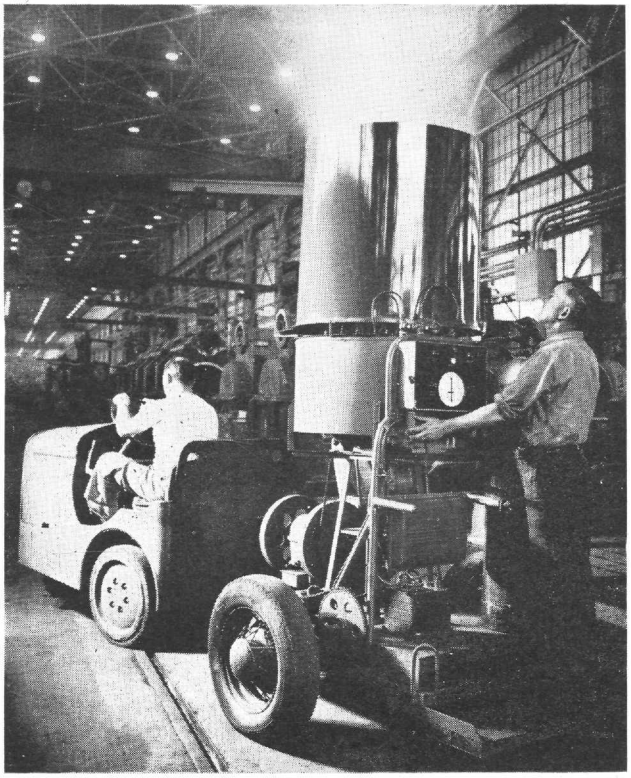

—Courtesy of Westinghouse.

Experimental aerosol dispenser in use at the Westinghouse Merchant Marine Plant. Two men are needed to operate it—one to drive the tractor and the other to operate the dispenser.

MOSQUITOES IN A MANUFACTURNG PLANT

At summer resorts, mosquitos are an annoyance; in the tropics, they mean transmission of the dreaded malaria; in a war plant located in a swampy neighborhood, such as along the tidal waters, they may lead to work stoppages, absenteeism, slower production rates, and ruined material. With this latter problem before them, engineers and health authorities declare war on mosquitoes.

Before they can kill them, they first must count the pesky little things. In order to do this, mechanical counters for mosquitoes have been designed—devices to draw in known quantities of air every hour. The air passes through a cone-shaped screen that catches the mosquitoes and directs them into a cyanide chamber for killing and periodic counting. With several of these counters outdoors and others indoors, it is easy to make a comparison of the numbers of the pests outside and inside the plant.

To kill the mosquitoes in the plant, a portable aerosol disperser is wheeled on a regular route through the aisles to cover every cubic foot of space. Its gasoline engine-driven blower dispells a cloud of the now famous DDT mixed with solvents and dispersing agent. Because of the fineness of the droplets, the insecticide hangs in the air and is dispersed to every part of the factory where mosquitoes could possible hide. The process can be repeated as often as necessary, even as much as once daily, although once a week usually proves sufficient

This control of the mosquito in large confined spaces is being conducted on an experimental basis under the general supervision of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, the U. S. Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Labor-Management Production Committee at the Merchant Marine Plant and the Headquarters Medical Department. Much is being learned about the habits and characteristics of mosquitoes. Such data includes the effect of different elements of the weather on the mosquito population and on the rate of migration, the lag between peak population outside and the peak inside, and the outside conditions under which the admission of aerosol is most effective.