

WASC 647

On Her Majesty's Service

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CODE No. 27-31

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Evening News
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Delicate and valuable equipment is to be installed on a nursery.

And mushroom and tomato growers in the Lea Valley hope it will help them in a long-standing "battle" with a top-secret government establishment.

The equipment—designed to measure noise — will decide whether bangs from the Explosive, Research and Development Establishment at Waltham Abbey, Essex, are damaging acres and acres of greenhouses.

LOGGERHEADS

For months, nurserymen have been at loggerheads with the government establishment over the frequent blasts from test firings. The nurserymen claim their glasshouses are "being practically wrecked" by the bangs and vibrations.

Said one of the angry nursery owners, Mr. Rodan Greenall, of Harlow, Essex, "something will have to be done before more serious damage occurs."

But the Ministry of Technology establishment "denies that the blasts are powerful enough to damage the greenhouses. Said a spokesman "The vibrations caused are no more than you would get from heavy traffic." But the establishment has agreed to install the special noise measuring equipment on one of the nurseries.