

Atomic Food Preservation Method Holds 'Great Promise' for Future Homemakers

By A. ROBERT SMITH
Statesman Correspondent

WASHINGTON — The Army's quartermaster corps is getting excited over results of tests on a new method of preserving foods through atomic radiation.

The Army has found already that many foods react favorably to this new method of preservation, which is called irradiation. One example is pork, a meat which ordinarily has to be carefully cooked. Irradiation has been found to kill trichina, thus eliminating a serious hazard to human consumption of pork.

In short, you can have your pork chops cooked rare, instead of well done, if the pork has been irradiated.

Little Change
Technicians found that irradiated pork loin and ham stored for nine months at room temperature showed little change in either appearance or taste. Sliced bacon retained its flavor for six months at room temperature after being irradiated.

Shrimp and oysters also show promise. Irradiated oysters remained tasty after five weeks' storage at room temperature. Ordinarily, they must be refrigerated to hold up that long.

Flour, stored for nine months at temperatures up to 100 degrees, remained insect free and it produced good tasting bread. Chickens, stored four months at room temperature, remained highly acceptable and the quality of the precooked chickens kept in this fashion was found to be higher than chicken that had been precooked and canned.

Not All Foods
But not all foods have worked out too well in early tests, which

means the Army is looking for new ways of using irradiation effectively for these foods. This applies generally to fruits and vegetables, although some have worked out fair.

Oranges, lemon and grapes showed a prolonged shelf life at room temperature, but loss of texture is noticeable. The life of strawberries was extended from a normal three days to nine days without refrigeration — but the strawberries lose their red color

and turned out bleached by irradiation. Yet good results have been obtained with dehydrated fruits in extending their storage life.

Vegetables Keep
As for vegetables, potatoes and green beans have produced excellent results. Cabbage and carrots have brought encouraging but not top results. But tests with tomatoes and lettuce have been unsatisfactory because irradiation breaks down their texture.

Milk products generally react poorly. Milk itself changes flavor under irradiation. Cheese seems to change flavor completely. Sharp cheese becomes bland, although some take on a smoky flavor. The army fears that while not all the

new flavors are bad, people who like their cheese won't like it. Generally, the Army has found that irradiation will extend for numbers of years the storage life of canned and packaged foods already sterilized. It will also pre-

serve frozen foods longer. High Interest
The Army is very interested in this because food preservation for feeding men is a big headache, especially when it comes to refrigeration in the field or in overseas

outposts. The Navy is interested as well, because space is so precious on war ships that elimination of big cold storage units would be an asset. And fewer stops for fresh food would be necessary for ships

on long sea patrols. Starting in 1953, the Army's irradiation program started on a modest scale but will move into high gear when an \$8 million radiation center has been built. Many universities and private

firms are getting into the experimenting, with business alone spending an estimated million dollars a year in irradiation research. The results will probably show up on the grocer's shelves sooner than you think within a few years.

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'Comfortable' Ike Majority Said Indicated

NEW YORK, Nov. 4 (AP) — The New York Times said today its survey of voter sentiment in the 48 states indicates the re-election Tuesday of the Eisenhower-Nixon ticket by a "comfortable" majority. It forecast continued Democratic control of Congress.

The Times said it "seemed doubtful," however, that President Eisenhower's popular vote plurality would be as great as the 6,821,848-vote margin he rang up in 1952 against Adlai E. Stevenson, then as now the Democratic presidential nominee.

Barring a landslide for Eisenhower, the Times said, the Democrats should retain or possibly increase their margin of control in both the House and Senate.

All States Surveyed

The Times, which supports Eisenhower editorially, made its prediction on the basis of surveys conducted by Times correspondents in every state.

The surveys showed, the Times said, that Eisenhower seems assured of carrying 27 states with 285 electoral votes, 19 more than necessary for election by a majority of the 531-member Electoral College.

In addition, it said, the President appears likely to capture eight other states with 99 electoral votes.

Stevenson's strength, the Times said, rests in six Southern states and Missouri with a total of 76 electoral votes. His prospects appear good for carrying another six states with 71 votes.

Eisenhower, 284

If the Times' predictions are borne out, Eisenhower's electoral total would be 384; Stevenson's 147. In 1952 Eisenhower won 30 states with 442 electoral votes to Stevenson's 9 states and 89 votes.

The Times said the breakout of the Middle East crisis occurred too late in the campaign to permit rechecks of most states although gains in some areas were noted for Stevenson.

But the Times said, they were "insufficient to produce the margin needed for victory" by Stevenson.

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SONGBIRDS DESERT IMPERIAL PALACE MOUNT

TOKYO, Nov. 4 (AP) — Thousands of songbirds have deserted the trees capping the Imperial Palace mount.

"It's because of increasing air pollution and traffic noise in Tokyo," said Kaichi Takagi, secretary of the palace outer gardens preservation society.

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