

Science Warns Public on Safety Limit Of Medical, Dental X-Ray Radiation

Washington—(AP)—Science warned the American public today that it is using up about one-third of its atomic radiation safety limit in medical and dental X-rays.

The findings of leading U.S. scientists indicated there is no such thing as a "safe" amount of atomic radiation.

The medical profession was called upon to reduce X-rays to the lowest frequency of use consistent with medical necessity.

"Keep the dose as low as you can... the potential danger is great," the scientists warned.

That advice comes from leading U.S. scientists who participated in a year-long study sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences of "biological effects of atomic radiation."

But their "initial report," published today, recognizes that atomic energy is here to stay. It recognizes that if the world escapes nuclear war, with its threat of possible extinction of the race, it is headed irrevocably into an era of mushrooming atomic power.

So man must learn to live with and control radioactivity of his own making. Balancing the great prospective benefits against the known dangers, the scientists came up with some proposals they believe will give humanity full scope of exploit its new energy source and at the same time survive its hazards and prosper.

Dangerous Practices
As of now medical and dental X-rays are piling up more troubles for generations yet unborn than are either nuclear weapons tests or nuclear power plants. Genetic scientists particularly deplored use of X-rays for fitting shoes and taking pictures of yet to be born children. They said such applications were dangerous and medically indefensible.

But the prospective future of atomic power, with its vast accumulations of radioactive waste, make it urgently necessary for this generation to put control measures into effect now.

Any addition, however small, to the natural background of radiation causes genetic changes which can inflict tragic injury on children born generations hence. That is because man's inheritance mechanism is by far the most susceptible of all his organs to radiation harm.

So what the scientists are concerned with is not simply the

fate of the people and institutions and governments of this century or even the next. They are concerned with the long range fate of Homo Sapiens. They recommend:

Recommend Limits
1. That population as a whole be limited to an average radiation dose on the reproductive glands, over and above natural radiation, of 10 roentgens from conception to age 30. A roentgen is a unit of radiation. An average dental X-ray delivers five

roentgen of stray radiation to his sex glands. The maximum total 30-year dose for any individual would be 50 roentgens.

2. To assure that this average dose and the permissible maximum are not exceeded, "records should be kept of the total accumulated lifetime exposure to radiation of every person. And medical application of X-rays should be rigidly limited to a minimum "consistent with medical necessity." It was emphasized this would not rule out

tuberculosis checkups or other cases in which the "benefit outweighed the cost."

The scientists did not suggest that the 10-roentgen limit would be "safe." From a genetic standpoint there is no safe limit. But they said it would be "reasonable" in an age committed to development of atomic energy.

They seemed more concerned with X-rays than with weapons tests, which to date have had only a "negligible" effect upon mankind.

Ike Probably Must Tell People Again About Physical Fitness

By LYLE C. WILSON
United Press Correspondent

Washington—(AP)—President Eisenhower probably must tell the American people again



whether he feels fit and ready to campaign for a second term. But, this time it may be differently staged.

An off-the-cuff response to a news conference question seems now to be the likely manner in which Mr. Eisenhower will let the people know what is in his mind. He will be asked about his physical plans the next time he faces a news conference.

An elaborate television report on his own well being was arranged last February for the President to reveal that he felt sufficiently recovered from a heart attack to take on four more White House years.

Often Bench Victims
Heart attacks are killers. When they do not kill they often bench their victims. The most enthusiastic Ike-men were willing back there in the autumn of 1955 to believe that Mr. Eisenhower was lost to the Republican Party. The popular belief also was that Mr. Eisenhower could not run again.

A full dress response to that widespread doubt was essential and it was made by the President in his television appearance of Feb. 29. Surgery is something else again. A successful operation may leave the patient as strong or even physically in better condition than before. Mr. Eisenhower's attending doctors evidently consider their work to have been successful and that the President will gain physically rather than lose by reason of it.

A more informal assurance of his willingness to run again is, therefore, indicated—assuming, of course, that Mr. Eisenhower's excellent recovery continues. Just when the President next will submit himself to news questions is not known. Harvard



STRICKEN—President Eisenhower is shown enjoying himself at the annual White House Press Photographers' dinner at the Sheraton-Park Hotel in Washington the evening before he suffered an attack of ileitis (inflammation of the lower portion of the small intestine). The President's physician ordered him taken to Walter Reed Hospital as a precautionary measure.

Medical School Professor David D. Rutstein said Tuesday in Cambridge that the forecast six-week period of recovery from surgery was the absolute minimum and too optimistic. Might take two or three months, Dr. Rutstein said.

Would Raise Doubts
A three-month convalescence from successful abdominal surgery surely would raise some serious doubts about the President's comeback powers and perhaps, about his fitness for another term. His attending physicians are top flight men, how-

ever, and they are committed to the President's recovery in terms of weeks instead of months. Time will tell about that.

Republican leaders and Mr. Eisenhower's White House associates are as confident in private as in public that the President will run again. They do not believe that a successful bout with the surgeons will lessen his voter appeal. They argue that his physical reaction to the ordeal of surgery will be the best possible campaign proof that the Eisenhower heart is ticking on schedule.

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Robeson Contempt Citation Affirmed

Washington—(AP)—The House Un-American Activities committee today affirmed by a 7-0 vote a subcommittee recommendation that Negro Singer Paul Robeson be cited for contempt of Congress.

The committee also voted unanimously to recommend a contempt citation for Clark Foreman of New York.

Testimony by Leonard Boudin, also of New York, was referred to the Justice Department for possible perjury prosecution.

The committee referred action on a subcommittee's further recommendation that Prof. Otto Nathan, executor of the late Albert Einstein estate, also be cited for contempt.

All four men testified Tuesday at subcommittee hearings on issuance of passports to alleged Communists and their sympathizers. Conviction for perjury or contempt carries a maximum penalty of a year's imprisonment of a year and a \$1000 fine on each count.

New Trick in Silo Domes Introduced

Marietta, O.—(AP)—A new trick in silo domes has been introduced by the Marietta Concrete corporation.

To top its new concrete farm silos, the firm created a plastic roof. The new top, called "silolite," is constructed of fiberglass reinforced plastic.

While it is translucent, the dome shows great strength and can be installed easily on existing wooden or metal silos.

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