



**TENSE MOMENTS**—Henry Cabot Lodge, U. S. ambassador to the UN bites his finger as he listens to Soviet Ambassador Arkady A. Sobolev's speech opposing the sending of a committee to investigate the Laos crisis during a UN Security Council meeting in N. Y. The Council over-rode Russia's veto and will send a four-nation committee to investigate.

## Skim Milk Halts Damage Caused By Plant Virus

University Park, Pa. (Science Service) Something in skim milk halts the destructive effects of a plant virus, a plant pathologist reported here.

In laboratory tests certain milk substances called globulins were found to inhibit tobacco mosaic virus, Dr. G. B. Lucas of North Carolina State college told the American Phytopathological Society meeting. The skim milk not only protected tobacco plants, but peppers and tomatoes also.

**May Control Diseases**  
While it is still too early to say, Dr. Lucas pointed to the possibility of this milk substance being useful in controlling animal virus diseases. This year, he said, the scientists are recommending that tobacco farmers spray their crops with a skim milk solution. Researchers have found that when tomato and pepper pickers dip their hands in skim milk, the incidence of mosaic virus disease is greatly reduced.

Tests with skim milk gave nearly 100 per cent inhibition of disease symptoms—leaf lesions. Whey proteins were also very effective. Various substances, especially alpha globulin, in cow blood were also tested with good results.

The experiments, carried out with Dr. W. W. Hare of Mississippi State University, point to some presently unknown globulins in milk as causing this disease inhibition.

## New Method To Find Mass of Mars

Toronto, Canada — (Science Service) — A new method for finding the mass of Mars was reported to the American Astronomical society meeting here.

Dr. Eugene Rabe of the University of Cincinnati observatory said observations of a tiny minor planet, the asteroid known as Laodamia, could give the mass of Mars "to a very considerable degree of accuracy." The asteroid, he reported, causes changes in the orbital motion of Mars "many times larger" than the effects of Mars on the orbital motion of Laodamia.

Although the minor planet is very faint, a sufficient number of accurate observations when the two objects are close would give the Martian mass. In March, 1961, Mars and Laodamia will come within some 9,300,000 miles of each other, a "close" approach astronomically speaking. The mass of Mars is calculated to be about one-tenth that of the earth.

## Plastic-Made Snow Used for Ski Jump

Rome — (UPI) — A couple of Italian scientists have created an artificial ski-jump with a kind of plastic "snow" that looks like pressed spaghetti.

The "Trampolino Plastica" was constructed at a little winter resort town in northern Italy and was recently made the official training jump for Italian Olympic skiers. In nearly 12 months of testing, it was proved to be faster and safer than a jump of real snow.

It is made out of prefabricated panels of plastic which looks like multi-colored spaghetti pressed flat in wormy cross-cross pattern.

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