

### Scientists Find Proteins Contain Amino Sequence

Washington - (Science Service) - Scientists at the University of California's famed Virus laboratory have secured again, this time by determining the exact sequence in which amino acid units are chained together to form a protein molecule.

Their "guinea pig" was the tobacco mosaic virus, a living, rod-shaped particle about a hundred-thousandths of an inch long.

The virus consists of two major parts: a core of nucleic acid and an overcoat of protein. The protein overcoat is composed of about 2,200 identical protein molecules, each of which contains a single chain of 158 amino acid units.

Six months ago two members of the Berkeley team, Dr. Akira Tsugita and L. Fraenkel-Conrat, reported that a detectable change had occurred in the amino acid unit third from the bottom in the 158-link protein chain. The change was a result of a chemically caused mutation, or heredity alteration.

#### Pinpoint Change

Pinpointing of this change provided a landmark in the long chain and allowed the researchers to determine what chemical unit followed the landmark and what chemical unit preceded it, until the entire sequence was known.

The discovery marks the first complete analysis of the amino acid sequence in a virus protein, the largest protein of any kind and the largest genetically governed molecule ever analyzed.

Sharing in the discovery, reported here in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (Nov.), were Nobelist Dr. Wendell M. Stanley, Drs. Janis D. Young and C. Arthur Knight, and Dr. Duane T. Gish, now of Upton Research Laboratory, Kalamazoo, Mich.

### Russians Working On Supersonic Transport Plane

San Antonio - (Science Service) - Transport airplanes capable of carrying 150 passengers two or three times the speed of sound are being designed by the Russians, two engineers from the Boeing Airplane company reported here.

If the U.S. is to maintain its present position as a leader in the manufacture of commercial aircraft, government financial support of industrial research, development and hardware programs in supersonic aircraft must be assured, Lloyd Goodman and Lars G. Romberg said. They spoke at an Air Force-Navy-Industry Propulsion Lubricants Conference here co-sponsored by Wright Air Development Division, Dayton, Ohio, and Southwest Research Institute at San Antonio.

Such aircraft would operate in the 2,000-mile-plus range, they said. They predicted that traffic in this range would increase by five times within the next decade. Such ships would fly at 60,000 to 80,000 feet. They would not require increased runway lengths since they would be powered by turbofans.

By 1970 such ships will be taking air travelers in five hours from New York to Cairo, a distance of more than 5,000 miles, about the same time a jet takes to go today from New York to San Francisco, the Boeing engineers predicted.

Such supersonic flights will have to be made largely above water and over sparsely populated areas because of sonic boom, which is hard on the eardrums but even harder on windows that may be broken, they said.

For short-haul flights, the engineers predicted that helicopters, with new designs in vertical take-off and landing, greatly improving performance in these areas, will be used.

### Revolving Fund To Aid Projects OK'd

Salem - (AP) - The governor's committee on natural resources has approved establishment of a state revolving fund to help speed up start of watershed projects in Oregon.

Although endorsing philosophy of the fund, the committee did not recommend a specific amount to the legislature. The Oregon Association of Soil Conservation Districts has suggested \$250,000.

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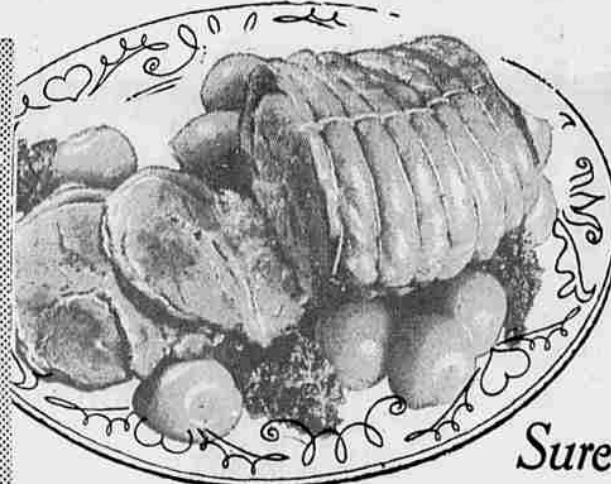
1/2-Gallon Jug **95¢**

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