Foods exposed to radiation are not made than sterilization by means of heavy radioactive; therefore, they have no germ- doses." While lower doses of radiation killing power. If left exposed on a shelf, seem to kill or slow down many of the irradiated foods will absorb germs from food-spoiling bacteria, they do not appear the air and spoil. Since the food is not to change the natural taste and smell of made radioactive, it is not harmful. It is the food. Yet lower doses seem to lengthsafe to eat. "More than 1,000 experiment- en many times the shelf-life of refrigerated ers already have munched radiated chow" and prepackaged fresh foods. Small doses without any noticeable ill effects. In ex- of radiation do not kill all the bacteria. So periments rats were fed a diet consisting the food is not fully sterilized, but only pasteurized. Spoiling is, therefore, not preentirely of nine irradiated foods for nine vented, but merely postponed. months. Reports show that "growth, reproduction and performance of these ani-Eliminating Trichinosis mals was 'quite satisfactory.'"

Irradiating pork with gamma rays def-The chief objection against irradiated initely eliminates any danger of its transfoods has been the production of off flamitting trichinosis. Trichinosis, a parasitic vors, odors and discoloration. Especially infection contracted from eating contamiis this true in meats and dairy products. nated and improperly cooked pork, now Professor L. E. Brownell, supervisor of the affects 16 percent of all Americans. One of University of Michigan laboratory, shudthe top authorities on trichinosis, Dr. S. E. dered when he sniffed a highly radiated Gould, declared that the disease may be hamburger. "Sterilized meat smells like a dog when it comes in after a rain," he completely wiped out by irradiating all hog carcasses in the packing house. Radiation said. "And it tastes about like it smells." "definitely kills trichini in pork," stated Dr. Lloyd L. Kempe, associate professor Dr. McCay.

in the University of Michigan Medical Despite the charge of radiation, experi-School, called the odor of certain irradimenters say that "no radioactivity is inated foods "putrid." Dr. H. W. Schultz, duced in the pork and no harm results food technologist at Oregon State College, from ingestion of the pork." And what is listed milk, cheese, bananas, orange juice more, the flavor is not affected and the and some cured meat products as "notorious" examples of undesirable flavors when treatment is relatively cheap. A group of irradiated. Milk exposed to stiff doses of researchers at the University of Michigan radiation smells and tastes something like has now calculated that this treatment garlic. And butter tastes rancid and looks should add only about two-tenths of a cent like lard. However, Dr. Schultz said that per pound to the meat. a taste panel gave asparagus, bacon, green A mild radiation dose will also kill all beans, beef liver, broccoli and some other known insects that attack cereal grains. foods a taste rating of "good." Scores of Dr. Bernard E. Proctor, head of the Massaresearch organizations are trying to solve chusetts Institute of Technology's departthe bad-odor and -taste problem, but so ment of food technology, said that "such treatment can be accomplished by passing far without much success. Professor Brownell stated: "At first we the grain in a thin layer on a moving belt may have to be satisfied with low-level- under an electron beam. The speed of the radiation pasteurization of food rather belt can be regulated so that the grain

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will receive the proper dose to kill adult bility, but they have shown that growth is insects, eggs, larvae or pupal forms. Doses retarded and that there is a loss in activity are below those that would adversely af- and an increase in the death rate. The fect the germinating ability of the grains cause is not the formation of harmful products but the destruction of vitamins if planted." Dr. McCay asserts: "With very modest and other constituents of food."

radiation insects are definitely destroyed That atomic radiation partly destroys without damaging foodstuffs. Radiation necessary vitamins besides killing harmful does prolong life of root crops, especially bacteria is a fact well known. Some aupotatoes for storage. Present storage of thorities state that the loss in nutritive potatoes can be prolonged from 8 months quality is "severe." For example, Science to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  years by means of radiation." Usu- Digest for July, 1953, reported that "in ally potatoes sprout or rot after six the Columbia tests, 70 percent of the vitamonths. At the U.S. Atomic Energy Com- min A in raw whole milk was destroyed mission's Brookhaven National Laboratory by a six-hour exposure to the gamma radion Long Island irradiated potatoes two ation. During this period, 37 percent of years old are still as good as new. The the riboflavin (vitamin B-2) was deirradiated potatoes have a slightly differ- stroyed, as was all the reduced ascorbic ent taste, but some who tasted them pre- acid, a relatively unstable form of vitaferred them. min C."

Professor McCay says that "two-thirds of the thiamine is destroyed in meat. This Fears of Irradiated Foods Some fear that irradiated foods may is about twice the destruction from cookproduce undesirable effects in later years. ing. Some of the other vitamins such as W. B. Rankin of the Federal Food and pyridoxine and riboflavin are also partly Drug Administration declared: "Data are destroyed. Irradiated fats in meat tend needed on . . . the possibility of the irradi- to produce peroxide compounds which in ated products being toxic (for example, turn destroy the vitamin E and part of capable of producing cancer over a long the A." period)." Commenting on this the New The results of the experiments con-York Times, July 24, 1955, said: "The pos- ducted by laboratories both in the United sibility that radiation may incite cancer in States and in Britain over a period of living animals cannot be dismissed. Ex- years are promising, but by no means conperiments made in the United States and clusive. Studies are expected to continue other countries with mice fed on irradi- for at least another two years before any ated food have not borne out this possi- conclusive report will be forthcoming.

## "WHY SHOULD GOD INTERVENE?"

I "If America has an economic collapse, communism will overrun the earth unless God intervenes." Those words were spoken at a labor meeting in Tampa, Florida, by former United States Senator Claude Pepper. The Dania (Florida) Press-Record of November 11, 1955, in its column "Bays Cather's Random Thoughts," commented on Senator Pepper's statement: "'Why should God intervene?' I wish to ask. Do the powers that be in present governments consult God about how to govern the people? My experience is that they do like the people in Noah's day, and like the Pharisees did Jesus of Nazareth. When you mention following the course laid out in the Bible, God's Word, they try to laugh you to scorn."

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