

it was beautiful. It had a tremendous shelf-life extension. So I went back to the literature and I realized what had happened: The original work was done in this underwater type of irradiation, and there must have been an ozone damage with the lettuce, which got black leaves. We do it in a ventilated, cool facility and we get good results.

Hecht: Do you irradiate lettuce here?

Dr. Welt: We do it in all our plants. We've probably done more work in this plant than in any of the others; we do our Space Shuttle astronaut food in this plant.

Hecht: What kind of opposition do you expect? I assume that the FDA will finally allow the 100-kilorad limit for food irradiation and that they will discuss a higher limit as well. Do you think there is going to be any kind of organized opposition to this from the environmentalist groups?

Dr. Welt: No.

Hecht: I'm thinking in particular of a letter that was in the *New York Times* about a week ago.

Dr. Welt: I wrote a rebuttal to that. . . . [The letter] just shows that a little bit of knowledge, a limited knowledge, is dangerous.

Hecht: The Canadians seem to have a monopoly on the supply of cobalt; how do you think that will affect the expansion of the industry? Someone told me that they were actually delaying their deliveries of cobalt-60 in order to control the use of irradiation.

Dr. Welt: I've been outspoken on that subject. I believe the U.S. government and U.S. industry are partly responsible for allowing that monopoly to develop. Radiation Technology started producing its own cobalt about a year ago.

Hecht: Where do you do that?

Dr. Welt: In government reactors in different places that we've sought out. We do buy it from Canada, too. We also are involved with a very large purchase of cesium-132 from the U.S. government, and we also are very heavily involved in the development of an [electron-beam accelerator] machine that would produce radiation.

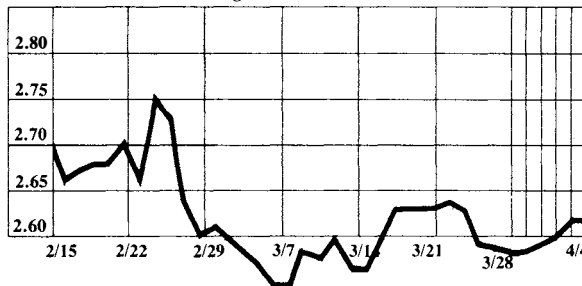
Hecht: I think that certainly food irradiation would not have come to where it is today if you hadn't persisted as you have.

Dr. Welt: I was at a meeting with Clyde Takaguchi of the FDA and a group of us were talking during the break, and he gave me a little friendly tap in the ribs and said, "You know, Martin, if it weren't for you, we wouldn't all be meeting here today." I suspect there's some truth in that, but I think you can make more of it than it is. It's a good technology, and I think the only way I've been different from others is that I fight for things, and I just wouldn't take no for an answer, where others felt it was more expedient just to go into something else or be more of a pacifist. I think I've been right.

Currency Rates

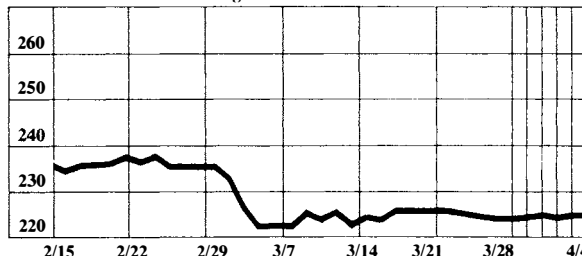
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



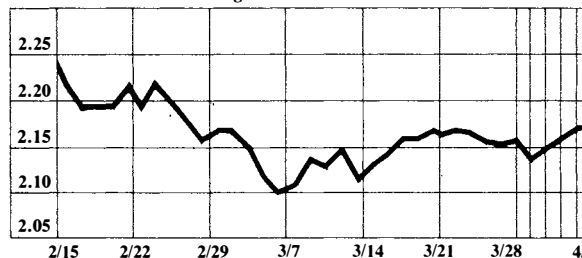
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing



The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing

