

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.

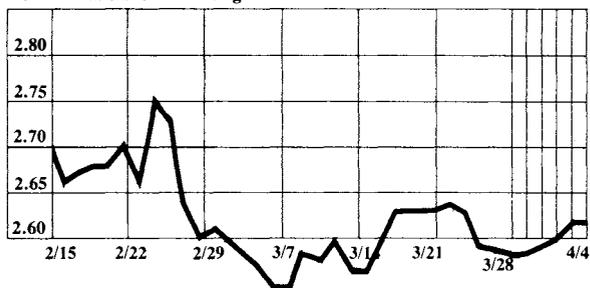
**Hecht:** I think that certainly food irradiation would not have come to where it is today if you hadn't persisted as you have.

**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

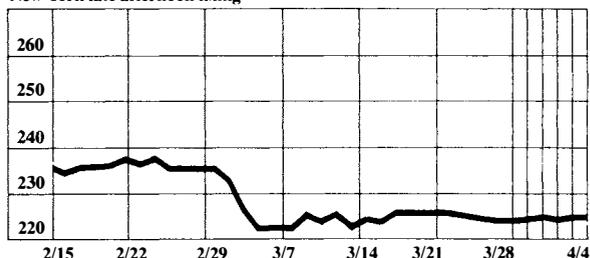
### The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



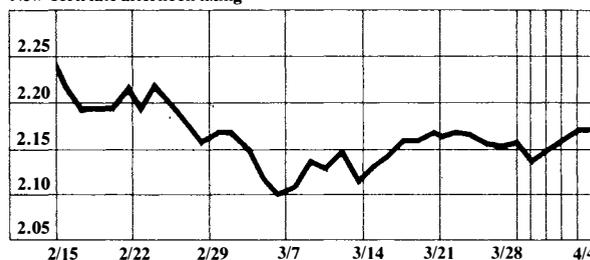
### The dollar in yen

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

