

Sen. Asks FRC For Food Chain Radiation Data

Last week, Sen. E. L. Bartlett sent a letter to John W. Gardner, chairman of the Federal Radiation Council, again requesting the Council for report on the extent and degree of hazard caused by the radioactive contamination of the Arctic food chain.

Bartlett's previous request was made on January 7 for which he did not get a reply. His latest letter of May 11 was prompted by the recent detonation of a nuclear device by the Red Chinese.

"The detonation of the third Chinese atomic weapon of this week makes this report even more necessary than it was in January," the senator wrote. "Radio reports indicate that the fallout released by the last Chinese weapon is 200 times the amount released by the first. This surely indicates increased contamination in the Arctic.

"The planned Pacific detonation of an H-bomb this summer will also add to present Arctic contamination levels.

"I know the Radiation Council has a grave responsibility on the preparation of its reports because they serve as national policy. I know, therefore, that it takes time and careful judgment to prepare the reports.

"I can understand, therefore, that perhaps the report on Arctic contamination is not yet ready for release, however, I would appreciate learning its status. When can we expect to receive it?"