



## Scientist to Milk Whales, Bears On Research for Radiation

Dr. Bruce E. Baker of McGill University, Montreal, Canada, has a whale of a job. He has an Atomic Energy Commission contract to study the mile of Arctic and sub-Arctic animals, such as wolves, bears, caribou, big horn

sheep, and—believe it or not—whales.

He is analyzing fatty acids, proteins, sugar components, carbohydrates, and any of the minute amounts of radioactive trace elements that might be in the

milk.

This study is part of an overall AEC program to investigate the bioenvironmental effects of nuclear radiation; to determine the movement, fate and effect of both natural and manmade radioactivity in the natural environment—especially the effects upon plant and animal life, and in the food chains on land and in water.

When Dr. Baker was asked how polar bears are milked, he grinned and said: "Very carefully." Actually, he noted, milking polar bears is not considered dangerous. He explains that larger animals are tranquilized before milking.

In the case of the polar bear, Dr. Baker said, "she is caught by a snare-like trap baited with seal meat, and is held by a front leg until the trapper arrives back on the scene several hours later."

Snares do not hurt the animals in any way, and the bears sit very quietly. They are tranquilized by means of a dart gun, and within 10 to 15 minutes are completely harmless and remain in this condition for one or two hours.