'Revolution' for Yam Industry Told

By I. J. VIDOCOVICH

NEW ORLEANS (UPI) -- The Chairman of the Louisiana Sweet Potato Commission said today that a second processing plant for yam flakes will open for business in the state in time for the 1964 crop.

Chairman Harvey Garrett said the plant now in operation in St. Francisville and a new one in Ville Platte, would "revolutionize" the yam industry in Louisiana, the state's fourth largest money crop.

Garrett addressed about 100 delegates to a meeting of the Institutional Food Editor’s Council at a breakfast at Brennan's restaurant this morning.

On the menu were Golden Louisiana Yam Nuggets, some stuffed with pork sausage and others with prunes and pecans. The new dish, made with instant yam flakes, were served with Eggs Sardou, a Brennan specialty.

It was one of the first times the new recipe was served to a restaurant clientele.

Garrett said consumer tests of the new yam flakes met with "highly favorable reaction." The flakes can be mixed with hot water, milk, or juice. Garrett said he planned to introduce them in all the state's restaurants.

He said the Princeville Canning Co., at St. Francisville, which opened last Fall and the Corbett Canning Co., to open in Ville Platte, would "soon make this remarkable new product available in volume."

"We hope yam flakes will meet with the same high measure of success as white potato flakes," Garrett said. "Yams, he said, "have long been recognized as one of the best dehydrated foods."

Garrett introduced Dr. Julian C. Miller, who developed the yam.

Commissioner of Agriculture Dave Pearce agreed with Garrett that the new yam product would revolutionize the industry in Louisiana.

He explained the difference between the yam and the sweet potato for the predominantly out-of-state audience.

"First of all it comes from Louisiana," Pearce said. "He said it was a sweet potato which was more moist, tastier and lower in calories than its older cousin, the sweet potato.

After his address, Garrett said he had not had time to sample the opinion of the audience, but everywhere else they had been greeted with enthusiasm, he said.

Dignitaries at Yam Breakfast

ABOUT 100 food editors attended a traditional breakfast at Brennan's in New Orleans today, given by the Louisiana Sweet Potato Commission. Among the dignitaries, from left: Harvey Garrett, chairman of the commission; Dr. Julian C. Miller, LSU horticulturist; Harriet Scott, Yambilee Queen, and Dave L. Pearce, state commissioner of agriculture. -- (UPI Facsimile)