

## Chances Of Living Through Atomic Bomb Attack Good If Shelter Is Quickly Obtained

By DOUGLAS B. CORNELL

WASHINGTON, March 29. — (AP) — Your chances of living through an atomic bomb attack could be a lot better than you think. You might come through it alive and unharmed—if there are shelters and if you get a warning in time to dive into one.

The Atomic Energy commission (AEC) says this:

"Safety will, in large measure, depend upon adequate warning of an attack, warning which must be assumed will come from the radar system of the national military establishment. Such warning when combined with shelters for those who must stay in threatened areas, will minimize, or even eliminate casualties."

But before you start bubbling with optimism, there is this to consider:

The Defense department is working on that radar network, plus a system of volunteer spotters to fill in the gaps. But only a start has been made. Furthermore, nobody has done much about shelters.

And there is no use trying to hide the fact that if you are caught in an unprotected spot anywhere near an atomic explosion your chances of surviving are just about zero. You would be killed by the blast, terrific heat, collapsing buildings, or maybe radiation.

Yet any sort of protection, even clothing, is better than none. The best spot is an airtight shelter covered by plenty of earth, steel or concrete.

You ought to stay out of buildings, unless they have built-in shelters. The AEC says a building isn't safe within three miles of a likely target.

**Home Basement Good Spot**

But the basement of your home would give you reasonable protection against a distant explosion, provided you had a way to get out if the house caught fire.

Maybe you have an idea that the rays from an atomic blast are what

do most of the killing and injury. That seems to be wrong. In Japan, only 15 out of 100 deaths apparently were due to radiation. Blasts and burns were the big killers.

That is because the effects of blast and heat reach out much farther than those of radiation. The Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs spread destruction and serious damage to buildings and death and serious injury to people two miles from the points above which they went off. The extreme limit of damage was around four miles.

If you came through an atomic explosion and survived the radiation, government doctors say you would have a good chance of returning to a normal life. There probably wouldn't be any peculiar, lasting, after-effects as a result of exposure to radiation.

Perhaps you've seen pictures of Japanese who lived through atomic explosions but were horribly scarred or crippled. The doctors say this was a result of infection and slow healing—burns suffered in non-atomic bomb raids caused about the same sort of scars.

The AEC says even loose clothing provided some protection against flash burns from the radiant heat of atom bombs. White clothing was more protective than dark because it tended to reflect rather than absorb the heat.

Textbook Ban In Texas Approved

HOUSTON, Tex., March 29.—(AP)—The Houston School board backed up previous action of banning a civics textbook by selecting another for students to study.

The board yesterday selected "Living in the People's World," by Roth-Hobbs-Greenleaf as the text high school students will study for the next six years.

Last October the board banned the late Dr. Frank Magruder's "American Government" from the city's ten high schools.

Magruder's text was banned after, some members of the board said a footnote paragraph might cause students to think Socialism and Communism are good.

Selection of the new text was made on recommendation of teachers' textbook committee.

This group rejected a recommendation from a civics teachers group which unanimously asked Magruder's text be retained. This group said "Living in a People's World" is a social problems text.

Magruder's text is still in use here. It was decided students could study it the remainder of the school year in that at the time of the banning they had already passed the section containing the objectionable paragraph.

The paragraph appears in the book's 1945 edition. It mentions public school systems as an example of Communism.

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