

State Civil Defense Head Criticizes Delay in Releasing H Bomb Story

Salem — The United States has limousine atomic weapons and a model-T atomic education program. The two have combined to give the nation a brand of H-bomb fatalism that could retard the civil defense program.

That statement was made this week by State Civil Defense Director Arthur M. Sheets, who said the release of the H-bomb film "Operation Ivy" should not have been delayed a year.

"Because of this time-lag people must get their information second-hand, and that is why the power of the H-bomb has been exaggerated," he said. "Weapons are getting larger, but it is a matter of degree. The 1952 H-bomb, shown in the film, had an area of total destruction three miles in radius. It is misleading to say it erased an island, which could mean such land masses as Hawaii or even England. The island in this case measured one-quarter mile. The undersea crater it left in the fragile coral is a mile in diameter. If it had been an air-burst the stretch of coral might still be there."

Colonel Sheets said that if people are suddenly to throw up their hands and become excited about larger bombs, what accounts for the official complacency in the past? He said Russia has had the power for some time, by using only nominal atomic bombs, to destroy 10 to 15 million American lives overnight.

The problems of atomic survival did not begin with an H-bomb test at Eniwetok. They began on another island when our country used atomic bombs in combat. It is no longer academic. After eight years it is time that

we—as a people—forget about 'unbelievable' statistics and witless semantics, and begin concentrating on saving lives. Much can be done to solve civil defense problems, including dispersal of population, if they are broken down into small, manageable tasks."

Employment Up In Oregon Woods

Nearly 12,000 additional workers went back to work last month, dropping estimated Oregon unemployment to 52,130, a decline of 21,329 from the winter's high of 73,459, according to reports gathered from local offices of the State Unemployment Compensation Commission. This compares with 39,448 out of jobs April 1, 1953.

The seasonal pickup is most pronounced in Western Oregon, although Portland's immediate local office area still has 19,800 without work against 22,500 in February. Reports from down-state offices, mostly in the Douglas fir belt, show a much higher proportion re-employed. Eugene has 3,500 seeking jobs against 5,900 two months ago; Corvallis 600 against 1,600; Lebanon 1,432 against 3,050; Tillamook 460 against 1,400; and Toledo 700 against 1,500.

Claims for compensation also have been declining steadily. Last week 32,486 workers filed claims, and local offices estimated 4,497 others who had exhausted their benefits still were without jobs, although 9,883 insured workers have drawn their entire compensation for the year ending June 30.

Pathfinder Boys Join in Meet

Members of the local Seventh Day Adventist Pathfinder club participated in a track and field day Sunday, April 11, at Roseburg.

Ten clubs were represented in the meet, with a total attendance of 266. Sponsored by the Oregon Conference, the Pathfinder program is comparable to the Boy Scout organization. There are more than 40 clubs and 600 members in the conference.

Elder Walter D. Blehm was in

charge of the day's activities, which included contests in compass work, water boiling, knot tying, first aid, marching and others. The Pathfinder Clubs present competed as clubs for highest honors.

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