

Will Americans Wake Up Too Late for H-Bomb Civilian Defense?

About 160 Million Would Be Killed In Atomic Attack

By LOUIS CASSELS
UPI Correspondent

Washington—(UPI)—Civil defense authorities are beginning to wonder what they have to do to awaken Americans to their extreme vulnerability to nuclear attack.

Recently, the country accepted with apparent calmness and no noticeable outcry a Congressional report estimating that most of us—nearly 160 million persons—would be killed in an H-bomb raid on 150 cities.

And such an attack is militarily possible today.

Rep. Chet Hollifield (D-Calif.) chairman of the House subcommittee which issued the report based on a secret study of home defenses, summed up the matter this way:

"We spend \$40 billion a year for defense. We gamble everything on the idea that our retaliatory power will prevent an atomic war. But what if it doesn't? The nation has virtually no civil defense at all."

You can test the state of U. S. civil defenses for yourself by answering a single question:

How many people do you know personally who have built family fallout shelters in their basements?

Fallout Casualties

Authorities estimate that about half the casualties from a nuclear attack would be caused by radioactive fallout, the deadly rain which des-

cends on an area 200 to 300 miles downwind from a big-bomb explosion.

Fallout shelters would be little help to anyone who was within five to eight miles of ground zero when an H-bomb went off. But those who lived beyond that radius of near-total incineration, or who had enough advance warning to evacuate the immediate target area, could survive in properly-prepared shelters.

For the past several years, the federal government has been under increasing pressure from several quarters to undertake a nationwide program of fallout shelter construction. The idea has been pushed by former Civil Defense Administrator Val Peterson, by members of Congress and by the Rockefeller report on U. S. defenses, among others. Estimates of the cost range from 12 to 40 billion dollars.

To Educate Public

After prolonged consideration by President Eisenhower and his cabinet, the administration announced its decision last May 7. It said the government will try to "educate" the public about the need for shelters, will conduct research on shelter design, and build model shelters in federal buildings. But "there will be NO massive federally-financed shelter program."

What this announcement means to every American family is simply this: if you want to survive an atomic attack, you'd better get busy fixing up a fallout shelter in your basement or backyard. The government is NOT going to do it for you.

It will, however, provide you with detailed, free advice on how the average home

basement can be converted into an adequate shelter at modest cost. Write to your city or state civil defense office, or to Federal Civil Defense Headquarters, Battle Creek, Mich., and ask for the pamphlet: "Family Shelters for Protection Against Radioactive Fallout."

What about the people who are caught in one of the 72 "critical target areas" including most of our largest cities that are regarded as likely aiming-points for H-bombs?

Shelters Expensive

Some engineers believe that it would be possible to build deep underground shelters that would afford substantial protection from blast and heat within a mile or two from ground-zero. Such shelters would be enormously expensive and none is being built, or planned, at present. The official position of civil defense authorities is that "more research" needs to be done to determine if they are worthwhile.

Evacuation of the target area offers more hope, but this hope is dwindling as the advent of jet bombers and intercontinental missiles steadily lowers the prospective warning time of an attack.

One of the chief accomplishments of the federal civil defense program is the completion of a very high speed

national warning network. On a recent test, this network was able to flash word of an impending mock attack to every potential target area in 90 seconds.

Air Raid Systems

Most cities now have reasonably adequate air raid siren systems to relay the warning to the public. And civil defense is currently testing a new gadget which can be plugged into electric wall sockets of private homes, schools and other buildings in areas beyond siren range. A surge of highcycle electric current over the regular power system will set off these alarms.

The big question for most citizens, however, is "what do I do if the warning sounds?" Civil Defense's answer is, "turn on your radio to the 'conelrad' emergency frequency—640 or 1240 kilocycle—and wait for official directions."

If your local civil defense authorities believe there is time for an orderly evacuation, they will advise you on the general direction in which to head. If an attack is imminent, they'll tell you to get into the best fallout shelter you can find, and hope that the aiming point is elsewhere.

With its annual budget held to about \$40,000,000—one-tenth of one per cent of

the nation's outlay for military defense—Civil Defense has had to settle for limited objectives, even in areas where federal responsibility is accepted.

Supplies Stockpiled

It has purchased and stockpiled enough medical supplies to treat five million atomic casualties for three weeks. No civil defense official considers this adequate.

One of the urgent needs after an atomic attack would be a radiological monitoring system to determine which areas were safe and which were heavily contaminated by radiation.

Civil Defense has taken a few steps in this direction by ordering 15,000 monitoring kits which will be distributed during the coming year to high school science teachers. Employees of about 900 local weather and Civil Aeronautics Administration stations also are being trained and equipped for radiological monitoring service.

Some Headway

Civil Defense has made some head way in providing for "continuity of government" in case of attack. Federal agencies have set up alternate headquarters in 85 dispersed sites, and officials get quickly to these sites, and functioning from them. A few states have heeded Civil Defense pleas that they provide legislatively for "succession in depth" of the governor and other key officials. A handful of states have even set about the tremendous task of duplicating their essential official records and storing copies in safely dispersed sites.

On the other hand, little has been achieved toward dispersing industrial plants. The vast majority of America's industry is still concentrated inside the critical areas.

To sum it all up, the United States, at the civilian level—and that means all of us and our children and our homes—is NOT prepared for a catastrophe that could happen even today.

Few Auto Mechanics Declared Able To Perform Services

By ROBERT J. SERLING
UPI Correspondent

Washington—(UPI)—Only 10 per cent of the nation's automobile mechanics are qualified to cope with the intricacies of the modern car.

This comes from a veteran in the automobile business—Martin H. Bury, a car dealer for 38 years. And Bury, who runs a dealership in Philadelphia, told UPI in an interview that there's no improvement in sight because:

1. Only one out of 10 mechanics can service such things as automatic transmissions, power steering, complicated carburetor systems, involved electrical equipment and other newer developments.
2. Development of dealer facilities has failed to keep pace with the increasing number of cars on the road.
3. Most dealers lack adequate supervisory personnel.
4. Apprentice mechanics are not being trained as replacements.
5. Except for "far-sighted exceptions," dealers have very little incentive to correct these situations under present industry conditions.

Can't something be done about the situation?

"How could there be?" Bury countered. "Car dealers who attempt to sell new cars at sufficient gross profit to permit maintenance of

proper service facilities and manpower soon find themselves without sufficient sales volume to stay in business."

Bury concedes that articles about phony engine repairs and deliberate cheating are true in part—but "they would have you believe such things are the rule instead of the exception."

"Most dealers are honest, although their service departments may be inept, unqualified and unable to keep a promise," Bury said. "Admittedly, some of them make the wrong diagnosis or in their ignorance perform major repairs where only minor adjustments are necessary. Actually, the unscrupulous segment of the industry is no larger than in any other industry servicing consumer products, such as TV sets. But it seems to be larger in the auto business because there are so many car owners needing service for a product that takes more abuse than any other."

Study Manual

To the motorist, Bury offers this advice:

1. Start studying the instruction manual that comes with every new car and defines how to avoid or prevent serious failures; not more than one of 10 new-car buyers, he says, does more than glance through it casually.
2. The motorist who understands what goes on beneath the hood and floorboards is better able to explain to a mechanic just what he wants corrected.
3. In shopping for a new car, check whether the dealer offering you the lowest price is also offering the least service.

Fifi No Threat To United States

Miami—(UPI)—Fifi, a storm that faded from a hurricane to little more than a stiff gale with 60-mile-an-hour winds, drifted northwestward today.

It posed no apparent threat to the United States.

Reconnaissance planes centered Fifi 600 miles south of Bermuda. It was moving toward the northwest at about seven miles an hour.

Fifi, the sixth tropical storm of the season, lost its hurricane punch Monday when its intensity dropped from 75 miles an hour.

Forecasters said there was "some potential threat to Bermuda" but that it was too early to tell its exact course. "It could miss Bermuda by as much as 300 miles," Chief Forecaster Gordon Dunn said.

Man should Have Looked at Her Teeth

Tampa, Fla.—(UPI)—Want to be sure your girl isn't lying about her age? Look at her teeth.

Criminal Court Judge L. A. Grayson recommended this method Monday during the trial of Vernon Alfred, 36, a truck driver.

Alfred had been charged with contributing to the delinquency of a 15-year-old girl. He explained to the judge that he thought the girl, a nurses' aide, was older.

"Didn't you look at her teeth?" the judge inquired. "You can tell her age from her teeth, like a horse." Alfred drew 90 days in jail.

WHAT'S IN A NAME

Winston-Salem, N. C.—(UPI)—Henry Ford reported the theft of his car. Yes. It's a Ford.



SURPRISED BEAUTIES—This was the scene in Atlantic City, N. J., as the winner of the Miss Congeniality award of the Miss America Pageant was announced. It's difficult at a glance to determine the winner because of the joyed expressions radiated by several of the girls. Ann Louise Willis (left, center), Miss Rhode Island, was the winner.

Woman Holds Line; Man's House Burns

Sonoma, Calif.—(UPI)—Fire officials of the Valley of the Moon were looking today for a woman who refused to give up a party line telephone conversation so a man could report a fire.

As a result, the \$7000 home of F. H. Carpenter burned to the ground last Saturday. The fire department arrived a half-hour later.

Carpenter suffered minor burns while pleading with the woman to make an emergency call from his burning home.

"Mister," said a woman's voice, "if your home is on fire, you really have tough luck but I'm going to finish my call."

Persons who refuse to give up a party line for an emergency are guilty of a misdemeanor in California.



QUARREL BRINGS TRAGEDY—Tortured by pain from self-inflicted bullet wound, Air Force Sgt. Robert Venator of Levittown, N. Y., writhes in agony as his bride of two months, Carolyn, 15, holds his hand. Police said Venator shot himself critically after quarreling with his wife.

New Schedule Out For Medford 'Y'

Swimming is among the activities scheduled for the fall-winter-spring sessions of the Medford YMCA, according to Herb Partridge, youth director.

A complete schedule will

be mailed to each member as soon as printed, Partridge said. Additional schedules will be available at the YMCA desk.

Swimming activities will be available for beginners, intermediates and advanced swimmers. Besides the play swims with each class open periods will be held on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday for families and members.

A special swim feature of this year's swimming program is a daily period for fathers and sons. Clubs will be allotted a period in the pool as will the YMCA swim team. A special skin-diving club is to be organized for high school youth.

Youth Emphasized

Largest section of the swimming program will be devoted to youth, Partridge said. Two classes in each of the skill divisions will be offered each week. Classes are listed for tadpoles, flounders, minnows, fish, flying fish, sharks, life-saving and instructors.

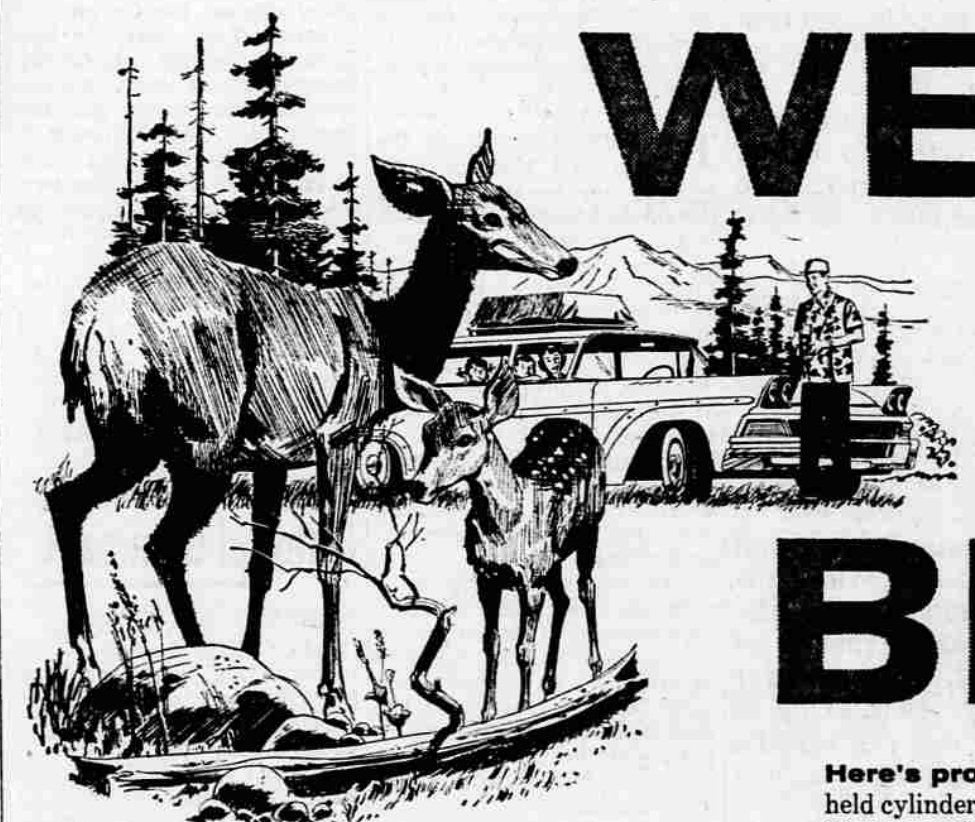
Any youngster over 8 years old can progress through these classes, Partridge said. Classes are offered also for youngsters 6, 7 and 8 years old.

Women's swimming classes will be held each Tuesday and Thursday evening. Mother and daughter, and preschool swimming lessons will be given in the morning.

The gym schedule has been set up for after school activities for all age groups, Partridge said. Monday afternoon and Thursday have been set aside for junior high youth. Grade school youngsters will have Tuesday and Friday sessions. Wednesday will be open for high school boys and girls.

Special courses include self defense, tumbling and trampolines. Self defense will include judo, wrestling and boxing fundamentals. Other classes will be given in baton twirling, ballet, badminton, volleyball and exercising.

Participants must register for each class. More information may be obtained by calling the YMCA—Spring 2-6295.



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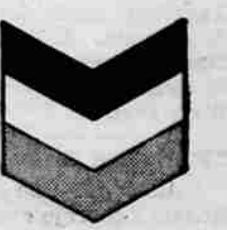
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