

# Public Interest in Fallout Shelters Expected To Show Increase This Fall

Editor's note: "When the skies are clear, no one is interested in civil defense. Suddenly, then, when the clouds come after all, and we have no assurance that they will not come, then everyone wants to find out why more has not been done about it." — President Kennedy at his July 5 news conference.

**By DARRELI GARWOOD**  
Washington — (UPI) — The tall, lean, 43-year-old Yale graduate who heads the nation's civil defense program is willing to gamble that interest in fallout shelters will pick up this fall.

Assistant Defense Secretary Stuart L. Pittman believes, furthermore, that the resurgence of interest will not reflect a rise in international tensions. The reasons, he thinks, will be closer to the family hearth.

When Pittman left his Washington law practice to take the civil defense job last Sept. 21, the Berlin crisis was at its height and the big shelter program was the apple of the administration's eye.

Now he is faced with monumental indifference in Congress and a pall of apathy on the subject throughout the country. But he isn't discouraged.

**More Intensive Action**  
"I think we're at a low point," he said in an interview. "I think public interest will pick up when we get more intensive action at the local level. And that will be soon."

Pittman has purchased \$35 million worth of food and equipment which is scheduled to start moving next fall into well-marked public shelters. He made clear he expected

this to perk up public interest. He conceded that it is difficult to stir enthusiasm for distributing umbrellas when it isn't raining, and that national interest in homefront protection seldom runs high when diplomatic waters are calm.

"But," he said, "when you come hard up against deciding who is to get what shelter space, and under what circumstances you should bring the baby's bottle, such small questions in total may have a strong if less spectacular hold on the public interest."

Pittman said there are several misconceptions about the shelter program, and listed them as follows:

— That Congress is about to scuttle the whole shelter project. It's true, he conceded, that Congress has scheduled no hearings and seems unlikely to act favorably on the \$460 million "shelter incentive program," but 135 million shelter spaces are planned under other programs and 60 million already have been selected. Without the incentive money, civil defense still should have about \$235 million for the fiscal year begun July 1, or about the same as last year.

— That studies have shown fallout shelters would save many lives in a nuclear war. On the contrary, Pittman said, the trend is toward a potential war situation in which shelters would be increasingly effective. He pointed out that more and more intercontinental missiles are being placed in underground launching silos, and that attempts to knock these out would require ground nuclear bursts — the kind that create fallout.

— That people are no longer concerned about fallout and are opposed to shelters. This apparently confuses apathy with a change of opinion, he said. Pittman said a study just completed for the Defense Department by the University of Michigan indicates that 71 percent of the population still favors the government's shel-

ter program as far as it goes. This, he said, includes 26 percent who think it doesn't go far enough.

**Horrible Prospects**

"I can't believe people are no longer concerned about fallout, when it poses some of the most horrible prospects ever contemplated by man," Pittman said.

"Just imagine," he continued, "a situation in which a series of ground nuclear bursts has scooped up millions upon millions of tons of fallout, and millions or tens of millions of people without shelters have suffered a lethal dose of radioactivity in the first half hour or hour after the fallout begins."

"But they will not die for about two weeks. The man who thinks he is going to have his breast for a quick death in the nuclear war should think about those possible two weeks of living death."

While Pittman did not mention the fact, the recent trend in nuclear strategic thinking as well as in weapons deployed underground has suggested to many that increased importance should be given to shelters.

**Incentive To Spare Cities**

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara, in an Ann Arbor, Mich., speech, said the U.S. nuclear force is sufficiently strong to permit a strategy in which only Russian military targets would be attacked in war. This, he said, would give the Soviets the "strongest possible incentive" to spare American cities.

The shelters admittedly could not save people within blast range of attacks on cities. But if the attacks could be confined to military targets they would have a good chance of saving civilians



**A DIFFERENT RIDE**—The Gillis family who traveled in a horse drawn wagon from Providence Forge, Va., to California enjoy a different kind of ride after 294 days on the road. They are shown taking a thrill ride on the "Sea Shell" at Pacific Ocean Park at Santa Monica, Calif. From left, they are Alan, 17; Carol, 15; Janet, 10; father Leon Gillis, George, 7; Mrs. Ivone Gillis, Lee Ann, 18; and Barbara, 14. (UPI)

## El Paso Citizens Due Settlement In Border Dispute

El Paso, Tex. — (UPI) — Mayor Ralph Seitsinger says that American property owners in El Paso will get about \$35 million indemnity in the settlement of a border dispute between the U.S. and Mexico.

He said he has been told of plans for changes in the U.S.-Mexico boundary but could not disclose them at this time.

"The new boundary will provide a beautiful new frontier for El Paso and the United States," Seitsinger said.

President Kennedy and Mexican President Adolfo Lopez Mateos discussed the question during Kennedy's visit to Mexico June 29-July 1. The United States promised to press for an amicable settlement.

**Good for U.S.**  
"While the change may hurt some people in the area it will be to the over-all good of the United States," Seitsinger said. "The indemnity that will be paid to American property owners in the disputed area will amount to approximately \$35 million."

"This will come back into the El Paso economy in new buildings and improvements, thereby aiding the city."

Earlier, Seitsinger said he had no information that any definite agreement had been reached.

"There has been a designated area (discussed and they (officials) are determining the possibility of an agreeable land transaction," he said.

**Major Industry**  
A meat packing plant is the only major industry in the disputed area, Seitsinger said the plant would be offered a new site in or near El Paso.

The area also includes four elementary schools, one high school and a government housing project.

Lopez Mateos told Kennedy that Mexico's national pride was more of an issue than the 630 acres which was left on the U. S. side when the Rio Grande changed course in 1864. In 1911, an impartial boundary commission recommended that the land be turned back to Mexico. The United States refused to accept the recommendation.

**High, Low Airports Two Miles Different**  
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