

Ideas for Improving, Changing Civil Defense System Reviewed

Several ideas for improving and changing the nation's civil defense system were offered and discussed at a meeting attended by a small group of citizens Monday noon at the Medford hotel.

It was noted that the purpose and function of civil defense is generally misunderstood by most citizens and that it needs to be overhauled and divided into two separate agencies, one to deal with defense against an attack and the other designed to cope with natural disasters.

It was also charged that civil defense gives many citizens a false sense of security and the feeling that the country can be made safe even in the event of nuclear war.

Grew Out of Presence
The gathering grew out of the presence in the city of Dr. George Stressinger, associate professor of biology at the University of Oregon, who spoke Sunday night on nuclear warfare at a dinner meeting sponsored by the Jackson County chapter, Oregon United Nations association.

Dr. Stressinger first gave figures about the effects of a nuclear attack upon the citizens of this nation, stating that his material came from congressional hearings and other official sources of the federal government.

Included was the fact that a nuclear attack sufficient to prevent this nation from retaliating would probably result in the death of 40 per cent of the population in the affected areas; that the remaining 60 per cent would find themselves living in a greatly changed environment without access to pure food and water; that their lives would be shortened because of radiation, they would be more susceptible to disease and that biological mutations would be doubled.

Speaks As Citizen
Following his factual talk as a biologist, Dr. Stressinger then spoke as a citizen, saying he believes that the civil defense program, particularly as it regards shelters, is not realistic and that "the shelter program pretends to do more than it actually could."

He said that civil defense officials speaking at parent-teacher association meetings in Eugene give the general impression that the program can effectively protect citizens, and that this is not borne out by the government's own figures and publications.

Dr. Stressinger said citizens are being led to believe that nuclear war is "feasible" that all can be protected from its effects, that this gives a false sense of security and as a result, some urge a belligerent attitude on the part of the government. This all suggests that the nation is contemplating attack, he said.

Effective Agreement
"What we need is an effective disarmament agreement," Dr. Stressinger said, and some in the group echoed the statement. "Our congress views with suspicion anything which does not benefit us militarily," he added. The speaker believes that a lowering of missile capacity might be brought about.

He pointed out that when

China and other nations have intercontinental ballistic missiles, no nation will be able to tell from where an attack has come, and against which nation to retaliate. He pointed out that military thinking is a development of past centuries, and that military, as well as civilian leaders, are not oriented to nuclear warfare.

"What we don't realize is that this is a new kind of warfare," the biologist stressed. "No one can win such a war; everyone would be the loser. This situation calls for a new kind of thinking."

Discuss State Expense
The group then turned discussion to the fact that the state legislature has questioned the expense of civilian de-

fense and after a time Warren Lomax, Ashland civilian defense director, pointed out that some in the group, and citizens in general, apparently do not know what civilian defense seeks to do.

Lomax declared that in Jackson county, civil defense is as much, or more, a matter of planning and training in what steps to take in case of

disasters such as fire, flood or wind storms, and not only a system of defense against war disasters or shelter planning.

D. Stressinger, and others, agreed in this and the professor said he believed the two should be separated, should have different names, different leadership and different budgets. "I agree that we

need a system which trains the citizenry in what to do to recover from a natural disaster but I am greatly opposed to having this tied up with a shelter program which supposedly protects us from nuclear warfare," the biologist declared.

In the group were Al Bradford, city councilman, and Thad Hatten, county assessor.

Department Heads Named at Oregon

Eugene — Appointment of two department heads, to fill vacancies created by resignations, has been announced by Acting Dean Marshall D. Wattles of the University of Oregon college of liberal arts.

The appointments, of two professors currently members of the university faculty, are subject to approval by the state board of higher education.

Dr. Frank B. Ebersole, associate professor of philosophy, will become head of the department of philosophy at the beginning of spring term, March 25.

Dr. Richard A. Littman, professor of psychology, will take over duties of head of the department of psychology Sept. 1.

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Stinson Alleges 'Politics' in New Airplane Contract

Washington — (AP) — Rep. K. W. (Bill) Stinson (R-Wash.) charged Monday that politics may have played a part in the selection of General Dynamics Corp. to build the new TFX fighter at its Fort Worth, Tex., plant.

Stinson suggested that the new plane might better have been called "the LBJ."

This indirect reference to Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, a Texan, prompted Rep. Jim Wright (D-Tex.) to a counter charge.

Proper to Ask
Since the question of political influence had been raised, Wright said, he thought it proper to ask Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) "If he is prepared to deny that on at least seven different occasions his office initiated contacts with top government officials" in behalf of the Boeing Co.'s attempt to get the TFX contract.

Boeing, with headquarters in Seattle, had proposed to build the new all-purpose plane at its plant in Wichita, Kan. The Pentagon's award of a \$5.8 billion contract to General Dynamics in spite of a lower bid by Boeing is being investigated by a Senate subcommittee which resumed closed hearings today.

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