

# Will America Wake Too Late To The Need For H-Bomb Civilian Defense?

By LOUIS CASSELS  
United Press International

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 dollars a year for defense and it gives us no final 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?

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

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 construction 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 shelter at modest cost. Write to your city or state civil defense office, or to Federal Civil Defense headquarters, Battle Creek, Michigan, 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?

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 also 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 nationwide 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. 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 high-cycle 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.

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 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.

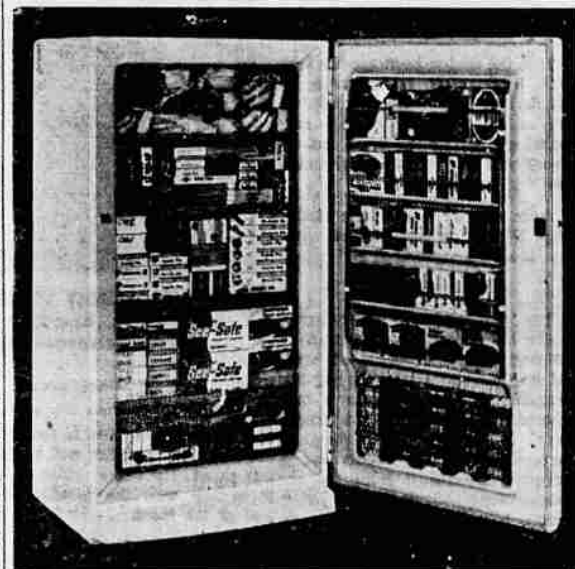
Civil Defense has made some headway in providing for "continuity of government" in case of attack. Federal agencies have set up alternate headquarters in 85 dispersed sites, and officials get annual practice in moving quickly to these sites and functioning from

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 es-

sential 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 target

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.



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## Used Plane Market Eyed

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The dawn of the jet air travel age brings the headaches of the used car dealer to the U.S. aviation industry.

By 1960, the airlines expect to retire at least half of their 1,700 piston-engined transport planes, replacing them with a three billion dollar fleet of jets and turbo-props (jet engines hitched to conventional propellers).

What do the airlines do with their outmoded piston aircraft?

In the past, smaller airlines and foreign carriers have provided a ready market for surplus aircraft disposal by American airlines. But now the smaller lines are turning to new, short-range turbo-props and the foreign lines want the bigger jets, not discarded piston-engine airliners.

Many U.S. carriers have partially financed new equipment by selling their older planes. But now, for the first time, they are going into a major replacement program with virtually no market for their unwanted aircraft.

In a few cases, airlines have persuaded the jet manufacturers to accept obsolete planes as "trade-ins"—adopting the time-worn tradition of the automobile business. But most carriers plan to retire their Constellations, DC-6's, DC-7's, Convairs and Martins gradually, hoping to find a buyer here and there.

On the threshold of the jet age, the airlines literally are asking: "Anyone wanna buy a DC-6 with only 593,004 miles on it?"



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