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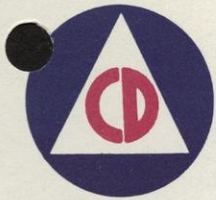
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CIVIL DEFENSE NEWS BULLETIN

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VOL. IV, No. 7

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AUG.—SEP. 1963

"Fallout shelters represent our most effective passive defense because they protect the public from other than direct blast effects . . . we see Civil Defense as a most important part of our active and deterrent posture within the total national security effort."

General Earle G. Wheeler
Chief of Staff, U.S. Army

NAVAL STUDIES SHOW INCENDIARY USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AS HIGHLY UNDEPENDABLE

In testimony before the House Armed Services Subcommittee, during the recent hearings on shelter bill HR3516, Walmer E. Strope, Research Director of the Office of Civil Defense, completely refuted the earlier testimony of William F. Schreiber, Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering at MIT, who argued that the principal hazard from enemy nuclear weapons would be fire effects and that fallout shelters do not offer fire protection.

Using the latest data obtained from recent studies made by the U.S. Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory (NRDL) and the Naval Materials Laboratory which corroborated NRDL findings, Strope told the Subcommittee that the use of nuclear weapons detonated at high altitudes for incendiary purposes would be highly unlikely since it would be an extremely undependable weapons system. Dr. Schreiber's theory has recently been used extensively by opponents of the shelter program in attempting to build a case against the usefulness of the program.

In demolishing Schreiber's argument, Strope said that, whereas Schreiber based his conclusions on *old data* that newspaper would ignite when subjected to six or eight calories of heat per square centimeter of paper, the new naval studies conclusively showed that it would take approximately *five times as much* heat to start newsprint burning.

Strope said these findings have been "fully accepted" by the Defense Atomic Support Agency and are being included in new editions of *official* government publications that describe the effects of nuclear weapons.

Using Schreiber's example of a 30-megaton weapon detonated at an altitude of 17 miles, Strope pointed out to the Subcommittee that such a detonation barely exceeds the new ignition thresholds and would ignite newsprint only within a radius of about 5 miles on a *clear day*, and would be negligible under many other weather conditions. He said an analysis made by the Defense Atomic Support Agency shows that the ignition radius following a nuclear explosion *does not exceed the range of moderate blast damage*.

In further stressing the uncertainties of the use of a high-yield, high incendiary weapon system for use in an attack on the United States, Strope told the Subcommittee how weather and climate entered the picture.

"The transmission of the thermal energy from the burst to the target area is strongly affected by the presence or absence of clouds, their types and locations, by visibility, by surface reflectivity, and by other meteorological factors. The ignitability of the materials in the target area and the possibility of spread of fires after initial ignition are directly influenced by the weather conditions at the time of attack and during the weeks preceding attack."

Strope said a detailed analysis of cities of 100,000 population or larger showed the average city to have 120 clear days a year and less than 10 per cent to have as much as 200 days. He said the average American city has about 120 days of heavy cloud and over 100 days a year of rain. Thus, for the average American city, a high-altitude incendiary weapon system would be fully effective 1/3 of the time, partially effective 1/3 of the time, and completely ineffective 1/3 of the time. In addition, Strope pointed out that the condition where the skies are clear simultaneously over all of our major cities is extremely infrequent and hard to predict.

"No military planner would be satisfied with a weapon system of such low reliability," Strope said.

He said current information clearly supports Secretary Pittman's earlier testimony that *the major fire threat would be in areas of extensive blast damage*.

As far as protection from fire in fallout shelters is concerned, Strope said that a large number of survivors could be expected even in the fringe areas of blast and heat around a surface nuclear detonation. He said this included the shelters now being marked and stocked and that such shelters offered complete protection against the flash burns that Dr. Schreiber used as his criterion of effectiveness for thermal radiation, and that, in fact, they would provide a small but significant protection against blast.

He cited, as an example, the records of the U.S. Bombing Survey which shows that at Hiroshima a dozen people who chose to remain in a building only a quarter mile from ground zero, snuffed out fires, and survived in the heart of the fire storm area.

In summing up his testimony, Strope said that thermal radiation (fire) is the "most fragile effect" of a nuclear detonation, and that any opaque substance stops it completely—even modest weather changes. If aggressors were to commit themselves to that type of weapon system, suggested by Dr. Schreiber, *the potential effectiveness of civil defense would be sharply increased*, he said.

"We don't think they are likely
to make such a mistake."

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Since the last issue of the Bulletin (we missed a month because of the fiscal situation) a major victory was scored by civil defense.

As you all know by now, the House Armed Service Subcommittee on August 13 approved a fallout shelter bill which provides for \$175 million in federal assistance to schools, hospitals, institutions and other non-profit organizations for the addition of fallout shelters to new or existing buildings. The bill also provides for \$15.6 million for the addition of fallout shelters to federal buildings.

The action culminated seven weeks of extensive hearings on original Bill HR 3516 during which 108 witnesses testified pro and con on the shelter program. Upon conclusion of the hearings on July 12, Chairman F. Edward Herbert announced that the Subcommittee had *unanimously* agreed to approve the concept of a National Shelter System to protect Americans from the effect of fallout in event of nuclear attack. The bill approved on August 13 is a rewritten version of HR 3516 but provides for the same amount of federal funds and type of shelter program requested by the administration in the original bill.

Hebert openly acknowledged that when hearings began on Bill HR 3516, most of the Subcommittee members were either against the idea or didn't care. However, he said an exhaustive briefing by civil defense experts, including Stuart L. Pittman, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Civil Defense, had a sobering effect on the lawmakers and those skeptical did a complete about face.

All in all, the hearings showed conclusively that civil defense is a vital element in our nation's overall defense posture as well as rendering an invaluable service to the community during a natural or other man-made disaster.

Summing up the feelings of the Subcommittee on the program, Chairman Hebert said, "I don't play God. I won't pass judgement on the lives of tens of millions."

As usual, testimony favoring the shelter bill was backed up by scientific data and fact resulting from countless tests and research conducted by the Atomic Energy Commission, the military, and other government research agencies. And as usual, critics of the program invariably based their testimony on theory with little or no supporting evidence. Suffice to say, *not one* person testifying against the bill was able to suggest an alternate program.

Among the favorite arguments of civil defense opponents, which was demolished during the hearings, was their theory that shelters were useless because fire effects of nuclear weapons exploded in the atmosphere would kill more people than fallout and would incinerate those who were in them.

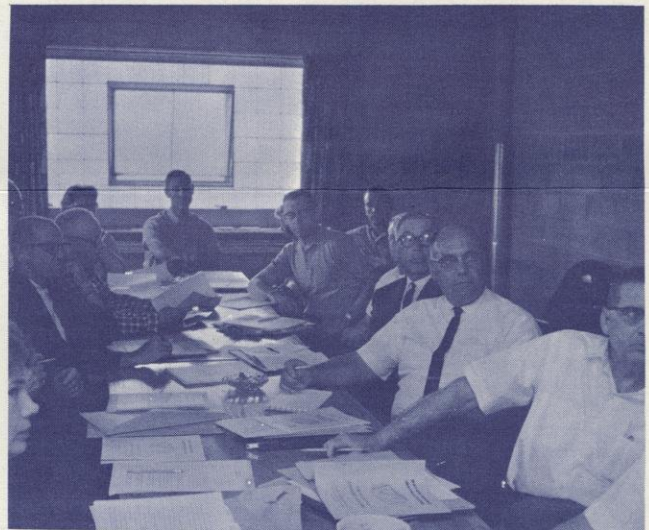
Testifying to the *fallacy* of that argument was Walmer S. Strobe, OCD Research Director. (See front page article.)

Also notable during the hearings was the request by Secretary Pittman to amend the Federal Civil Defense Act to include natural disaster activities. In making the request, Pittman said that civil defense at the state and local levels has increasingly played a vital role in natural disaster work which has paid off in the relief of suffering and the saving of lives and has also strengthened CD organizations to perform more effectively in a wartime emergency.

AREA ECONOMIC STABILIZATION MEETINGS HELD

Local CD Directors and their Economic Stabilization Officers attended a series of meetings on the consumer rationing program, held at various locations in the state during the period June 24 - July 30.

The briefings were conducted by Stan Grimstad of the State CD Bureau, and were designed to assist county officials in developing their own emergency rationing programs. Local officials were given emergency rationing instructions and ration coupon kits to be prepositioned with the County Clerk where they will be immediately available for emergency use in event of enemy attack.



County CD directors and economic stabilization personnel from the state's Northwest CD Area listen intently to a briefing on consumer rationing at a meeting in Spooner on July 9. Second from right is Glenn R. Douglas, NWA Economic Stabilization Director and a member of the Governor's Civil Defense Council. Other area meetings were held at Green Bay (June 24); Dodgeville (June 25); Black River Falls (June 26); Milwaukee (June 28); Watertown (July 2); Rhinelander (July 11); and Madison (July 30).

CONELRAD REPLACED BY NEW EMERGENCY BROADCAST SYSTEM

Wisconsin citizens will no longer tune in Conelrad (640 - 1240 k.c.) on their standard AM radio dial to receive warning of enemy attack or emergency instructions, as the result of a basic change in the nation's emergency radio system.

Under a new interim plan, which went into effect August 5, Conelrad was replaced by a new Emergency Broadcast System (EBS). The public will now disregard the specially marked points on the AM radio dial formerly reserved for civil defense broadcasts in emergency and tune in local stations on their regular

frequencies. The new EBS plan will permit far greater coverage, since EBS stations will be operating under full power, and it will also allow additional stations to come into the system without the special equipment needed for Conelrad. More than 1,300 broadcasting stations are now participating in the EBS, including 34 in Wisconsin. Future plans also call for the adding of FM and TV stations to the EBS as soon as technical arrangements permit.

Standard broadcast stations that are not part of the EBS system would, during an emergency, direct their listeners to tune to local EBS stations instead of the former 640 or 1240 k.c., and then go off the air. EBS stations continuing to broadcast will not use their call letters but will identify the community in which they are located.

The State CD Bureau has mailed copies of the new interim plan to county and municipal CD directors along with a list of the stations and other pertinent information prepared by Norm Blume, State Communications and Warning Officer. The plan was distributed by FCC to the broadcasters in July.

The new interim plan, which is expected to become a permanent operating plan by Jan. 1, 1964, was prepared by the FCC in cooperation with its National Industry Advisory Committee, the Office of Emergency Planning and the Office of Civil Defense. It is a result of a Department of Defense determination that present enemy techniques would not involve the use of radio transmissions to guide bombers or missiles to targets and, hence, Conelrad was outmoded.

All leaflets, wallet cards, or other material relating to the former Conelrad system *obsolete and should be destroyed* by local CD directors. It is expected that literature on the new EBS system will be available in the near future from OCD. Directors will be notified immediately when available.

*** CD ***

SURPLUS PROPERTY NOTES

The State Agency for Surplus Property (SASP) has notified the CD Bureau that it will no longer accept applications for trucks or adding machines until further notice. SASP advises that a large backlog of applications for these two items exists and none have become available from federal sources for some time.

Several inquiries have been received from local directors as to when new surplus eligibility cards will be issued by SASP. This will be done as soon as FY 1964 Program Papers submitted by counties and municipalities are returned as "approved" by OCD. Meanwhile, directors will continue to use their FY 1963 cards which bear the expiration date of June 30, 1963. No other cards will be accepted by warehouse personnel. It is expected that the new cards will be issued the last part of August or first part of September. As soon as the new cards are issued, the FY 1963 card will automatically become void.

Directors are reminded that the correct Federal Supply Classification number (Group No.) for surplus property items must appear in the appropriate column on the application form. Several applications have been received recently with the surplus warehouse bin numbers for the item given instead of the Group number. These bin numbers appear on lists of property

mailed to donees by the SASP and can be included in the description of the item but *not in the Group No. Column*. Group numbers are to be obtained from Cataloging Handbook H 2-1 in Federal Surplus Property Manual AM-7 and are necessary in order for the State CD Bureau to determine whether the item requested is usable and necessary (U&N) or a restricted (NO) item. *All requests for CD surplus property must be submitted to the State CD Bureau on the standard application form and not to SASP.*

*** CD ***

TEST BAN WON'T AFFECT CIVIL DEFENSE

The following statement by Assistant Secretary of Defense Stuart Pittman on the effects of any nuclear test ban on civil defense programs is quoted for the information and guidance of all concerned:

"The defense of the United States is a continuing effort which would not be suspended by agreement restricting the testing of nuclear weapons. It would make no more sense to interrupt the shelter program than to stop production in equipment required for our anti-aircraft defenses, to use one example. The vital task of lessening international tension by agreements of the kind being negotiated in Moscow must be carried on against a background of a clear willingness on the part of the American people to defend themselves. Civil Defense is important evidence of our national attitude. In my personal judgment, progress toward effective civil defense contributes to other national security efforts, including the eventual achievement of arms control. We must maintain a balance in all of our major and national security programs. Civil defense is one of them." *****

UNDERGROUND SCHOOL COMPLETES SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR

The Abo Elementary School in Artesia, New Mexico, which is the first and only school in the nation to be built underground, has completed a very successful first year, according to Vernon R. Mills, Superintendent of Schools there.

Mills, in testimony during the recent hearings on Bill HR 3516, said the school has been well received by pupils, parents, and teachers alike. He said the teachers called the experience "stimulating," and that two of the teachers in a letter to the Artesia Board of Education stated: "Speaking from one year's experience as teachers in the world's most unique school, we feel as refreshed and ready to go at the end of the school term as we did when Abo's doors opened for the first time last August."

In addition to providing complete underground shelter against nuclear attack, Abo offers daily advantages of body comfort, proper lighting, minimum distractions, minimum of dust, no window breakage, and reduces allergies and asthmatic conditions to a minimum. The building was conceived and constructed by the Artesia school district in cooperation with the Office of Civil Defense which partly financed it as a pilot project for the nation.

The Artesia Board of Education has valued the facility enough to plan, and has already let bids, for the construction of a new junior high school which will contain as much floorspace underground as the Abo School.

SCHOOL CHILDREN TO RECEIVE CD BOOK COVERS

OCD has furnished the State CD Bureau with 11,000 school book covers imprinted with civil defense instructions for distribution to grades one through six in public, parochial and private schools throughout Wisconsin. The program is designed for the purpose of putting basic emergency instructions in the hands of pupils and their parents. Distribution will be made to school officials by the Area CD offices. Since there are not enough book covers for all schools, local directors are urged to contact advertisers in their areas relative to having such covers produced for schools in their communities.





CIVIL DEFENSE AROUND THE STATE



*** what your neighbors are doing ***



WEST ALLIS - Shown above is the new 15-foot OCD trailer exhibit which was displayed by the State CD Bureau, in cooperation with Milwaukee county civil defense units, at the State Fair, Aug. 9-18. The attractive exhibit featured pertinent information on the public shelter program and home preparedness measures. Special effects included a taped recording of the CD warning signals which exhibit-visitors could hear by pushing a button on one of the panels. Free publications on fallout, shelter designs, and the public shelter program were distributed at the site.

*** CD ***

RICHLAND CENTER - Certificates of graduation were recently issued to 31 Richland county residents who completed the Fallout Shelter Managers course on June 6, 1963. In event of an emergency, the graduates will be in charge of public fallout shelters now being stocked with food, water, and survival items throughout the county. In other CD activities, William Drone, Richland county Auxiliary Police Director, reports that auxiliary police did a superb job in handling over 4,000 people that attended the recent Rodeo here. Another example of the value of having trained CD personnel to assist regular authorities in maintaining law and order under other than normal conditions.

*** CD ***

GLIDDEN - The Glidden unit of the American Legion Auxiliary received an award for outstanding work in the field of civil defense at the state department meeting of the Auxiliary at Madison, July 19-21. Mrs. Gus Breitenfeld, Ashland, in presenting the award, commended the Glidden unit for "the best fulfillment of the Civil Defense program in Wisconsin." Also praising the unit was county CD director Clarence Day. Day said the unit had been outstanding in the job of informing the public on CD matters, arranging civil defense courses, and participating in "alerts" and other tests.

*** CD ***

MILWAUKEE - Twelve candidates for the job of Assistant Director of Civil Defense for the city of Milwaukee will be given oral examinations on September 6, it has been announced by Donald R. Morrison, supervisor of examinations for the city service commission. Originally, there were 21 applicants for the position but only 12 passed the written examination. The names of the top three on the written and oral exams will be submitted to Mayor Henry Maier who will then select the assistant director. Since Milwaukee has chosen not to appoint a CD Director, Maier as mayor is the Director of Civil Defense under state statutes. The new assistant director, however, will supervise the day to day operations of the department.

*** CD ***

BARABOO - The federal government has picked Sauk county as one of the sites for a pilot study in conjunction with the National Shelter Program. The purpose of the study is to determine the amount of federal funds needed to improve existing shelter areas in fiscal, educational and welfare institutions. This would include increasing the capacity of the shelters, improving ventilation, and increasing the radiation protection factors. When the study is completed, the data will be used to assist in determining improvement costs for other Wisconsin shelters.

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