

St. John movement. In Ontario, we have people like Ian M. MacLaren, Brigadier I. H. Cumberland, General Sir Neil Ritchie, Lt. Col. I. M. R. Sinclair, Brigadier Eric Snow, and Commissioner Leonard Nicholson who are actively involved in our own Ontario headquarters.

It seems to me that the St. John Ambulance becomes the refuge for great soldiers after they have served militarily. They then fit into this great area of work which can be described as public welfare. In the welfare branch and the security branch, I believe, I have noticed the St. John movement works its way in there. To what extent is the government prepared to use a great organization like this, which has highly competent and qualified staff personnel—these people who were officers of high rank but who are now basically interested in welfare. They would be able to fit in if there should be some enormously important national emergency under the emergency measures organization. It seems that the St. John Ambulance is one thing which could provide cohesiveness, teamwork and great leadership, even though it is disguised to some extent as a non-war organization.

The CHAIRMAN: Do you have any comment, Mr. Bryce?

Mr. BRYCE: I cannot say in detail how far the excellent organization to which the member refers is being effectively organized into the plans, because most of those plans concerned to date are essentially local and provincial rather than federal. As the army takes over more and more of the rescue work, I would think it will be confronted to a greater and greater degree with the necessity of making effective use of the cooperation of such organizations as the St. John Ambulance, as well as other local organizations. For example, I have heard that in many localities there are very effective Legion organizations which would be a useful connection, for those engaged in organizing to meet the emergency, to get a body of able, enthusiastic people.

Mr. MATHESON: We know that the St. John Ambulance is training emergency measures organization people at the municipal level in the cities, towns and villages; we know that they are organized on a provincial basis; we know, too, that they are some of the most competent strategically qualified people we have in Canada. If their views, on a high level, could be sought on some of these things, they probably would be of a great deal of assistance in guiding our service personnel.

Mr. BRYCE: I think Mr. Curry knows more about this than I do.

Mr. CURRY: I have been very interested in the comments of the member of the committee. Certainly the potential of the St. John Ambulance is very well known and most welcome. They have acted at the local level a great deal, and a great deal of training was carried on by the St. John Ambulance, as you know, in the former civil defence organization and in the new organization in all the provinces. Only recently this matter to which you refer was the subject of extensive conversation in my office with some of the senior persons in the organization. The possibilities of using their services and their experience even more fully was canvassed, especially in relation to the area Mr. Bryce referred to, the army's re-entry and rescue operations. The fact that this organization is in existence, has experience, and some very good people in it, is completely recognized.

Mr. DESCHATELETS: Mr. Chairman, I understand we have already at work an organization for emergency measures in case of war or nuclear war; but, in view of the fact that there would be strong possibilities of radioactive fallout, I would like to know if this organization has already planned construction of public shelters in the major cities of Canada and also if it is contemplated to provide to the public facilities to build their own shelters if they so wish?

Mr. BRYCE: Mr. Chairman, the government has not made any decision to build public shelters in the cities. It has recommended that individuals build