

*Supply—National Defence*

subcommittees or working parties dealing with such subjects as casualty services, sanitation services, industrial medical services, mental hygiene, nutritional problems, and medical and health supplies. The working party on civil defence casualty services has now completed its preliminary plans for first aid, ambulance service, and emergency hospital accommodation. The working party for laboratory services, which deals with clinical laboratory services, public health procedures and biological warfare, is now preparing its report. The same is being done for other health problems.

I do not propose to deal with the question of research. This is a matter that more specifically comes under the Minister of National Defence, who would be better able to deal with it. One need only point out, with regard to biological and chemical warfare, that very significant work has been done in the research division of the Department of National Defence under Dr. Solandt.

One of the responsibilities assumed by the federal government was to arrange for collaboration with civil defence authorities in the United States. A joint meeting was held in Ottawa on February 21 of this year to agree on measures of co-operation and mutual aid between our two countries in the event of attack. As a result of this meeting, there will be full co-operation on civil defence information, research, planning, organization and training. The object is to ensure that civil defence will be carried on between Canada and the United States as if there were no border.

The agreement, which was confirmed on March 26 by an exchange of notes between the two governments, constitutes the basis for continued co-operation between the federal civil defence authorities in each country, as well as direct co-operation between provincial and state authorities and municipalities where that is desirable. This will make possible direct working relationships in civil defence between provinces and states—for example, between British Columbia and the state of Washington, or between the prairie provinces and the north central states, or between Ontario and Michigan, Ohio and New York. It will also facilitate co-operation between cities like Vancouver and Seattle, or my own city of Windsor and Detroit.

Preparation for civil defence, Mr. Chairman, like modern warfare itself, involves the work and effort of the people of the country—men, women, and even children have a part to play. If we are to be prepared,

there must not only be the fullest co-operation of all governments, but also whole-hearted public support. The greater part of what is required to be done today calls for time and patient effort, preparation and planning. In the months that lie immediately ahead it will be possible, on all three levels of government, to make accelerated progress in building what I know all governmental authorities have in mind—a compact civil defence organization, well planned, well organized, well trained and as adequate as we can make it to meet whatever the uncertain future may hold for this country's civilian population.

It must always be kept in mind that there are great uncertainties centring around any planning for civil defence, uncertainties as to the possible time, place and scale of enemy attack. We have to do the best we can on the basis of such assessments as can be formed of the urgency of preparation, the state of international tension, the possibility or probability of the actual outbreak of hostilities, and the degree of risk and probable scale of attack. We recognize, all of us, that we cannot afford to be complacent or to content ourselves with inadequate preparations. Nor can we afford to develop an elaborate organization prematurely, and have it rust away in idleness. We must maintain a proper perspective, a proper balance. We must guard against needless diversion of time, manpower, efforts and funds from the main job of production to support our positive military defence efforts.

Above all, we must remember that for a community there is no hiding place. If war, total war, strikes this nation every man, woman and child in every possible target area must develop—as I know they will if that should be necessary—that resolute courage in the face of danger that has always been the mark of our own fighting men. For those living in less vulnerable areas, the instinct to help their neighbours must take a practical and planned form. We must not let the threat of enemy action alarm us into paralysing the life and productive capacity of this country. If we are forced to accept war, we must also accept danger to ourselves at home as well as to our servicemen. We must prepare against enemy attack on our civilian population, while knowing that no preparation, however complete, can cancel out the risk. That is the fact that each one of us must learn to live with. It is the challenge, I think, of our generation, to face the terrors of modern war and not to flinch; to face them, if they should ever come, in