

harbour front. The City could effectively use a larger number of men than are now available but, no matter how many firemen, or how much equipment they have for fighting from the shore, there would still be a dangerous situation in the event of enemy action, unless the waterfront were actually defended from the water. Experience has shown that these fires can only be properly controlled when they can be attacked from the water. They cannot be effectively controlled by shore based apparatus. At present there is no water borne equipment available for this purpose in this area, although the City does own a fire-boat in the False Creek area. The hazards there are even greater than on the harbour front and the equipment could not safely be made available elsewhere.

3. POSSIBILITY FOR DEFENCE:

Generally speaking, it is considered that it is the responsibility of the Municipal authority to maintain sufficient fire fighting apparatus to meet all ordinary hazards, while the Office of Civil Air Raid Precautions seeks to make available additional equipment to meet the emergencies which might arise from enemy action. The City has, in the ordinary course of events, equipment for ordinary needs, supplemented by ARP equipment to meet war conditions, and it might reasonably be argued that under those circumstances no further obligation rests on Federal authority. However, while the city might rely on being able to isolate the damage from one fire by the use of ordinary equipment, that equipment would not be sufficient to deal with a situation arising from enemy air attack on harbour buildings. Such fires to be controlled must be controlled from the water and, even if the city provided equipment for ordinary needs, that equipment would be insufficient for war needs. The Federal authority has a direct interest in this particular area. War production might be seriously curtailed; vital transportation facilities might be tied up for an indefinite period and other disastrous results follow the destruction of facilities at this point. From the standpoint of National Defence, as this is the main outlet to the Pacific Coast, it would seem that the Dominion Government might have a direct interest in this area to a much greater extent than elsewhere. Furthermore, even if the City did provide equipment to meet its own particular needs, this would not solve the whole problem. There are other important areas, outside of the portion controlled by the City, which require protection and it would appear to be desirable to have adequate equipment, sufficiently mobile, to be taken to any area affected in the whole inlet.

4. PROPOSALS:

The brief prepared by the Provincial Civilian Protection Committee, copy of which has been supplied to the Minister, adequately indicates the nature of the proposals. The tests carried out appear to have been exhaustive and the results satisfactory to the Chief of the Vancouver Fire Department who is regarded as being a very capable officer.