

*Supply—National Defence*

and it probably will not be possible for everyone to participate directly in civil defence.

Where civil defence protective measures are not taken, this will to a large degree mean, not that the individuals and communities are being left exposed and naked to the danger of attack, but that they are considered relatively safe and immune from attack.

With these broad considerations in mind I should like to set out that in 1948, because of world conditions, the government decided to reconstitute the nucleus of a civil defence planning organization. In November of that year Major General F. F. Worthington, well known throughout Canada for his distinguished war record, was appointed federal co-ordinator of civil defence. In succeeding months General Worthington visited all the provincial premiers to get their views and agreement on the best over-all civil defence plan for Canada.

He then studied plans and programs of European countries and the United States. In August 1949 a civil defence co-ordinating committee was established to bring together on a continuing basis representatives from all federal departments and agencies concerned with civil defence. This committee advises on civil defence policy, formulates plans for particular aspects of the problem and generally helps to develop collaboration with the provinces and the municipalities.

Canada's civil defence planning is now in an advanced stage. It draws on the plans of other countries that have had more direct experience than our country in the problem of civil defence. It is, however, related to and based on the fundamental federal character of this country, which embodies a division of responsibility among federal, provincial and municipal governments.

In civil defence, local planning and effort are all-important. It is essential to build an effective organization on the local level. Civil defence in one of its essential aspects is the assurance of the maintenance of normal community services. Fire protection for property obviously must be handled on a local basis, and most other measures for defence and assistance must be organized locally and operated by the citizens of the locality.

In civil defence the main operational responsibility, apart from over-all plans, training and co-ordination, must fall on the local municipal agencies that now maintain the normal amenities of life in Canada's urban communities. In a sense the success or failure of civil defence depends as much on the individual as on the community, since

voluntary assistance and personal initiative and co-operation are of such importance. Civil defence can, moreover, be helped or hindered by the conduct of the people in the so-called danger area.

Obviously the defence and measures of assistance to be provided for an urban population with the courage and stamina of that of London, England, or of any other of the British communities that suffered so badly in the last war, can be organized much more effectively than that of a populace that might show less steadfastness. In both respects—in respect of readiness to aid in civil defence and in respect to conduct should danger arise—we are fortunate that we can rely on the qualities of the Canadian people.

Beyond individual and community efforts, the role of the provincial and federal governments is largely that of co-ordinating effort, assisting with local measures, and supplementing their preparations, particularly in areas where it is felt the danger is greatest.

To speed up civil defence planning throughout Canada, the first federal-provincial conference on civil defence was convened in Ottawa on August 24 last by the minister then in charge, the Minister of National Defence. This conference formed a continuing committee, made up of federal and provincial ministers and advisers, to further the organization and planning of the civil defence program. The federal government indicated that it would organize and pay for the considerable training program that will be later outlined.

On February 23, 1951, the continuing committee met in Ottawa. This is called the federal-provincial advisory council on civil defence. At this meeting it was announced that the federal government's responsibility would be as follows:

1. Civil defence organization within federal departments, the armed forces and other federal agencies.
2. Co-ordination with provincial and local authorities.
3. Information regarding general civil defence policy.
4. Co-operation with the United States and other countries.
5. Allocation of officers of the armed forces to work with provincial authorities to ensure co-ordination.
6. Provision of an advance warning system in co-operation with provincial and local authorities.

[Mr. Martin.]