

Supply—National Defence

branches of possible danger to Canadians, to find that after eight and a half months we have only a plan existing on paper. That has been a great disappointment. I covered all these matters last year. At the same time in that speech I pointed out the difficulty. With the idea of doing something about this, people have written to Washington to get some circulars. I have not yet seen any circulars put out for the people of Canada. I did see something in a magazine the other day which told you how to take care of yourself if there was an atom bomb attack, but some of it seemed a little unusual to me, because if there is an atom bomb attack I do not think you are going to get much chance to do some of the things they suggested. However, I was glad to see somebody doing something about it.

This matter of training the people should have been one of the first things done by this committee which has been set up. It would be very easy to get into operation across Canada organizations like St. John Ambulance, the Canadian Legion and the Canadian Red Cross. If nothing comes of the training, all well and good. It will not be expensive because all this will be largely voluntary and the expense will be practically nil.

It is an advantage to learn some of these things. There is no reason why these people should not have been busy on the job. It is going to take three or four months thoroughly to train people in first aid and in the care of casualties. As I said before, you are not going to do it the same day that you expect that something like this is going to happen. Therefore I implore the minister, even if he has made out plans on paper to deal with this matter, to do something concrete about it. I am always suspicious of plans. May I suggest to the minister that, in his capacity as minister in charge of this work, he take a trip across Canada. I would like to hear him make fifty or a hundred fighting speeches like the one he made at Connaught. If that were done then we would be getting some place, and the people of Canada would be alerted to the possible danger we are in. If there is any co-operation needed, he certainly will get all the co-operation from this side of the house and from this party; but we want to get on with the job, and we want to get something done.

While I like the idea of the elaborate plans he has made, I say this to him: Be careful you do not get bogged down in paper work and get nothing practical done.

Mr. Noseworthy: Following what the minister said, I should like to direct a question

to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Has his department, or any of the civil defence officers, given any consideration to or done anything to prevent the present trend of providing all our hospital or civilian hospital accommodation in the heart of the large cities? I am thinking now of the city of Toronto, for instance, where we have just completed what is probably one of the best children's hospitals on the continent. We have built it right in the heart of the city, next door to the Toronto General Hospital. We are building another hospital there. We are going to find ourselves with the bulk of the civilian hospital accommodation in the Toronto district all located within a few city blocks of each other. I wonder whether the minister has thought just what would happen to his civilian defence organization in the city of Toronto if a bomb dropped somewhere near the Toronto General Hospital. I find that is true in Toronto, and I understand Montreal is at present about to build hospitals on what is known as the Mile of Mercy, where practically all hospital accommodation is to be centralized. What is being done to see that in future, in view of the kind of world in which we live, something cannot be done to see that hospitals are not built in the centres of cities?

Mr. Martin: The hon. member has touched upon a point which, of course, would be in the mind of anyone dealing with this problem. I know it was very much in the mind of the Minister of National Defence when he was charged with the responsibility for the matter, and it is very much in our minds.

I would point out, as I said in my statement, that in the pursuit of our plans we are observing the federal character of the country, and that means collaborating with those who are closer to the operations than we can be, sitting at the centre in a federal state.

With regard to the particular situation in mind, only ten days ago we discussed this and kindred matters with Sir John Hodson, head of the civil defence program in the United Kingdom, and with Governor Caldwell, civil defence co-ordinator in the United States. We have made known our views. These will be studied by the responsible authorities in Ontario and, I presume, through them, by the authorities in the city of Toronto.

Mr. Gillis: I should like to ask a question, while we are on this matter of civil defence. The minister has made a comprehensive statement. I do not think he missed a single detail, and I could not criticize it in any respect. I am glad he went to the proper