

The Address—Mr. McCusker

clothing and feeding of victims of atomic attack—such problems are being dealt with, key workers are being given special training, and basic programs are being shaped up with the active participation of voluntary welfare organizations and of provincial and local welfare officers.

(e) Research. An important aspect of federal effort in civil defence is research into the many aspects of modern warfare. The defence research board and the national research council supply expert advice and assistance on defensive measures against atomic, biological and chemical warfare, and in technical aspects of civil defence planning.

(f) Training. By the end of this year, apart from hundreds of nurse-instructors, we will have trained 400 leaders and instructors in civil defence. These 400 federally-trained leaders and instructors then are going on to train provincial instructors who, in turn, will train the many thousands of volunteer workers required and who are now beginning to come forward in large numbers.

(g) New activities. The federal government has many plans actively in mind:

(1) The stockpiling of millions of dollars worth of essential medical supplies across Canada;

(2) We are strengthening the staff of our federal civil defence headquarters;

(3) Through plans to train 100 instructors and 2,500 volunteer workers, we are proceeding with the protection of the federal civil servants living in Ottawa;

(4) We are working out a formula for sharing with the provinces the cost of compensation for anyone injured while training for civil defence;

(5) We are planning to extend our training program by providing financial assistance to provincially-operated schools.

From what I have said today it can be seen that a great deal of progress has been made in the nine months in which we in the Department of National Health and Welfare have had this grave responsibility of preparing a program for the protection of Canada's civilian population.

No one pretends that there is not still a great deal to do. But I might remind the house, as I have already pointed out earlier in this talk, that civil defence is the responsibility of all three levels of government—and the chief operational responsibility must inevitably and properly rest with the municipal authorities.

Mr. Ferguson: Could we not just take this as read and have it put on the record? Surely that would save a lot of time.

Mr. McCusker: I would not say that my hon. friend is not interested in the defence of our country or in civil defence.

Mr. Ferguson: I heard the hon. member say that he had said something, but would it not be better if he said that he had read something? Let it go at that; put it on the record. Just pass it over because that will save a lot of time.

Mr. McCusker: This is the first time I have read anything to this house. Usually I speak without notes but I considered it most important that this should appear on the record correctly and I would not trust it to memory. I repeat, I would not wish to say that the hon. member is not interested in matters of civil defence and national defence, but I suggest to him that when he gets an opportunity, he take this and read it at home and use it in his own constituency.

Mr. Ferguson: I still suggest that we take it as read.

Mr. McCusker: I have only a few more words.

Mr. Ferguson: The hon. member has no right to read it.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Regina City says that he has only a few more pages to read.

Mr. McCusker: I shall not delay the house much longer.

Mr. Speaker: Probably the objection to reading this speech might have been made a little earlier. Perhaps under the circumstances the house will give unanimous consent to the hon. member finishing.

Mr. McCusker: I notice the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) is amused and laughs. If I repeated a speech as frequently in this house as he does I would not have to refer to notes, but this is the first time this speech has been made.

Mr. Ferguson: My speeches are always made from knowledge and I do not have to read them.

Mr. Knowles: On a point of order, have I not the right to show my approval of Your Honour's ruling without being subjected to the remarks the hon. member has made?

Mr. Speaker: The ruling I made was that under the circumstances the hon. member for Regina City should be allowed to finish reading his speech.

Mr. McCusker: If I misunderstood the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre I will withdraw that remark.

In many of our communities the authorities are alert to their responsibility. In most parts of Canada civil defence programs are beginning to take on solid form. The federal government, for its part, is steadily increasing its capacity and programs to assist the provinces and, through them, the municipalities.