

*Supply—Health and Welfare*

**Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace):** There are certain sentences which are not pertinent, but here is what the editorial has to say about the matter:

On the page opposite this there appears an article written for *Saturday Night* by Harvey W. Adams, director of information services for the Department of National Health and Welfare. It is an authorized article. General Worthington, the co-ordinator of civil defence, says "it is one of the latest and most complete summaries of civil defence thinking in Canada". In these circumstances everyone will wish to read it carefully and critically to see how far we have come along the road to survival.

The reader will quite early in the piece come upon this statement—

Then it gives the quotation regarding the hydrogen bomb and evacuation of cities which I quoted earlier. Then the editorial continues:

This is a hard saying. If it is true the individual must at this point ask himself, "What do I do? How do I evacuate the city? Where do I go? What do I do when I get there?"

Do any real plans exist? A little further on in the article the writer anticipates just this objection. It is absolutely untrue, he writes, to say that civil defence has no definite plan for an H-bomb disaster. "At the federal level, civil defence has worked out a basic plan to save life under H-bomb attack."

At the federal level—the grass roots plan is to be an adaptation of the federal level plan "to the local circumstances of each individual city, but in a number of cities this individual planning is either beginning or well under way."

This offers no comfort to the man in Montreal who asks what he is supposed to do to save himself and his family. It is true that Montreal as a city is not co-operating wholeheartedly with the civil defence people. But even if it were, would the individual now know what is expected of him? Toward the end of his article Mr. Adams says that the first thing every citizen can do in civil defence is to learn everything he can to protect himself and his family in case disaster should strike. But where, and how?

It does not do to be defeatist about civil defence, but it is difficult not to be in the face of a complete absence of effort to tell the individual what he should do. By the time planning on the federal level has sifted down to the individuals in the cities, either the emergency will have passed or the bombs will have fallen. If the threat is serious and plans to meet it equally serious, something more than voluntary local co-operation is required.

That is essentially the case against the civil defence organization of the federal government as such at present. What must be done is obvious—mass evacuation of cities. The fact that the public must be made aware of this is equally obvious; but because of the absence of any concrete plan or any particular specific information for the citizens of our major cities the public are apathetic, and they will continue to be apathetic until such time as the civil defence organization of the government comes forward with specific plans that can be laid in the hands of the public so that an individual living on a specific street at a specific number will know what he has to do.

**Mr. Martin:** I know my hon. friend is interested in the subject, but may I point out to him that we can now place plans for evacuation in the hands of any major community. The city of Calgary has those plans in fact now, and on the 22nd of September it will carry out the largest evacuation of a city of that size on the continent. Here are the documents. The plans exist. The city of Calgary has them, and they are available to any other city. I point that out because I expect that the city authorities will read what my hon. friend is saying and saying so well, and I want that to be understood.

**Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace):** Thank you very much. Perhaps the minister would have been wiser to have made a statement when I invited him to do so at the beginning. He had the opportunity. Let me say—and this is another essential criticism—that I am not talking about some very highly theoretical plan for the evacuation of a city which the department may have. I am concerned with the man who is living at 2044 Bay street, Toronto, if there is such a number, and what he has to do to get himself out of Toronto when he is told to do so in advance of the dropping of the H-bomb. We now know that if he is there when the H-bomb drops he is not very likely to remain alive. Even if I do come from Montreal I would not wish that on anybody from Toronto. That is a concession to my hon. friend from Broadview.

The minister talks about detailed plans. Let me tell him what I think of some of his detailed plans. I do not think they are too good. In a series of articles in the *Montreal Gazette* some time ago—very good articles, by the way—

**Mr. Martin:** Very helpful.

**Mr. Hamilton (Notre Dame de Grace):**—ten major routes were listed for evacuation purposes from the city of Montreal. Someone must have picked these routes out of the air. Traffic probably will be going hell bent for leather along every one of these evacuation routes, using every available lane, and as two of the major routes they give us Decarie boulevard and Cote de Liesse road. The interesting thing is that Decarie boulevard and Cote de Liesse road are intersecting roads, so that when one is in use the other one cannot possibly be in use. Then they give us as another evacuation route from the city Metropolitan boulevard. Anyone who knows the city of Montreal knows that Cote de Liesse road runs right into Metropolitan boulevard.

Therefore we have three so-called evacuation routes from the city of Montreal, two