

*Supply—Civil Defence*

do not believe the situation is such that there should be anything done which at the present time would create any hysteria and we think the minister is adopting a cautious attitude in this respect. We consider it advisable that research should continue as to the best method which might be employed in order to limit the casualties and the damage which might be done both in the area of the bomb explosion and also in the larger area which would be affected by the fall-out.

During the discussion in this committee we noted the excellent work which had been done by members of the civil defence organization in almost every province in connection with disaster relief and the emphasis which has been placed by the co-ordinator of the civil defence and the civil defence generally concerning the training for disasters which might occur and which arise from acts of God rather than from war. We believe that work should be continued.

There does appear to be somewhat of an anomaly and perhaps the minister would devote some consideration to this matter with a view to removing it. The anomaly is in connection with the compensation that can be paid to civil defence workers.

It was pointed out during the committee's discussion that civil defence personnel if injured when carrying out training or civil defence exercises would be compensated for their injury or loss of time which might arise from it. On the other hand, however, if civil defence personnel are injured when called out to assist a province or municipal authorities in connection with some disaster which has occurred, they do not receive any compensation because they are dealing with an actual disaster rather than a civil defence exercise or training.

I pointed out at the time that service personnel, personnel from the armed services who might be working alongside the civil defence personnel, would of course receive compensation for any injury they might receive but civil defence personnel do not.

I hope it will be possible to review that situation between now and the time when the estimates are brought down at the next parliament to see if that anomaly might be removed. Otherwise we are satisfied that reasonable steps are being taken to keep the public informed and to consider what action should be taken in the event of the disaster of war being brought to this country and thermonuclear bombs falling on Canadian targets.

**Mr. Herridge:** Mr. Chairman, I wish to make a few brief comments on this item and I can assure the minister they will be very brief.

As he knows, I represent a district where civil defence efficiency is possibly as high as in any area of Canada owing to the co-operation of the municipalities, the industries and the employees concerned. They have been organized very effectively to serve also in the case of disaster which is an aspect of civil defence which I feel has to be emphasized in order to retain public interest over a continuing period of time.

I want to ask the minister this question. A representative from my district was down here about two weeks ago to take a course at Arnprior. He understood when he came that he was to take a course in what is called orientation, whatever that is, and also in administration. He spent a week there and took the course in orientation and then he was told that unfortunately the course in administration would be coming on later in the year and so he would have to go home.

I just bring this up because it appears to me that this is a waste of public money. This man tells me it cost about \$300 to bring him from a point in Kootenay West to Arnprior to attend the course. He thought it was a very poor arrangement that would require him to go back again because an additional \$300 would be required for him to return to take the course in administration. I bring this to the minister's attention because I think it is most unfortunate for those who are giving their time voluntarily to take part in this work to get the impression that money is no object with respect to the federal administration of civil defence.

**Mr. Martin:** Mr. Chairman, I want to make just a brief statement, but first I should like to thank the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich for the assistance he has given in this matter, both today and in the committee where we had a most thorough discussion. I also want to thank him very much for the tribute he paid to the civil defence co-ordinator and those under him throughout the country who are faced with a difficult problem and are doing their best in carrying out what is perhaps one of the most difficult assignments of any modern government.

Before dealing directly with one aspect about which I have indicated to the committee I would say something, I should like to say to the hon. member who has just spoken that I shall make careful note of the situation he has described. If the facts are as related by him, and undoubtedly they are—

**Mr. Herridge:** As given to me.

**Mr. Martin:**—they will certainly be corrected. I can assure my hon. friend and also the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich that