

*National Defence Emergency Measures*

courses, each lasting six weeks. Approximately 25,000 will be trained on each course in existing military armouries across the country.

These courses will provide sufficient basic military training to maintain the discipline and response essential to the control and effective employment of such a force on operations, but emphasis throughout will be on the teaching of subjects essential for national survival. During the period of their course trainees will serve in the militia on a continuous call-out basis. They will receive normal pay, with subsistence allowance in lieu of rations, as given to a regular army recruit private of single status. Physical requirements will not be as stringent as those now in force for the regular army, and standards of enrolment will be modified to permit acceptance of applicants between the ages of 18 and 50 years, married or single.

The first course is scheduled to get under way in mid-November. When the courses are completed, Canada will have a sizeable reserve of trained manpower essential to carrying out many tasks required for survival should this country come under nuclear attack.

I want to emphasize particularly what I am about to say. I would not want these measures to be interpreted in any way as being taken in contemplation of an early outbreak of war. Rather, they are insurance which the government, realizing the possibilities, must take as prudent, safeguarding precautions. I now ask to table the two orders in council in question.

**Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I think perhaps it would make for a more orderly presentation if I were to make this further announcement. Recent decisions have been made in respect of accelerating the army's program in national survival. I should like to outline the various decisions that were taken and the action that has resulted from these decisions so far.

It was decided to initiate partial manning of emergency headquarters by military staffs in order to provide greater reliability in the army command structure. As a result a full time skeleton staff was in operation in Camp Petawawa from the 24th of August, thus providing an emergency army headquarters. In addition, emergency command and area headquarters were established in each province at the same time, and the army centres from which the warning would be issued to the public were moved out from major centres of population.

We have been planning to establish headquarters associated with each likely target city. Their establishment has been accelerated, and in the last two weeks the staffs and in-

terim sites have been selected and the senior officers will attend a two week training course later this month.

It was further agreed that additional stocks of food should be bought and that stocks of food, vehicles, blankets, clothing, medical and other such stores required to meet army needs should be dispersed to installations outside of target cities. We are now in process of making these purchases, and army commands have started to disperse their holdings.

It was decided to expedite the formation of the nuclear detonation and fall-out reporting system by redistributing certain radiation monitoring equipment on issue to army units for use in re-entry operations pending receipt from the various suppliers of the equipment which has been on order for some time. This action is going on and the system now has a limited capability. It was further decided that the Department of National Defence should speed up the survey of existing fall-out protection offered by its buildings. This is going ahead.

Department of National Defence officials have been in touch with the officials of the Department of Transport and of the C.B.C. with a view to ensuring that the emergency broadcast system is brought into being at the earliest opportunity. Steps have been taken to expedite the siren installation program that had already been approved and, in addition, an extension to this program has been authorized and is now being undertaken.

Orders for additional radiac and rescue equipment are now being placed to permit the reorganized re-entry units to be equipped as soon as possible. This reorganization involves almost tripling the rescue force, and includes an increase in the militia.

It was agreed that to enable the army works service to undertake the extra work involved in providing fall-out protection for the nuclear detonation and fall-out reporting system, the accelerated siren program and the survey of buildings, a civilian increase should be provided to the army works service. This has been approved, and arrangements are being made to take on the necessary engineers and technicians. In addition certain decentralization of authorities—G.O.C.'s and others—has been arranged to expedite the whole program.

**Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, the house has heard two statements the importance of which I certainly do not depreciate, and based on situations the seriousness of which it is not easy to exaggerate, statements on matters which are very much in all our minds today.