

*Supply—Finance*

The departments concerned most immediately with this matter are the privy council, national defence, national health and welfare and justice. The privy council office, whose activities are now before the committee, is the co-ordinating agency in this field. It deals with these departments in all aspects of their planning as well as with all other federal departments and agencies having responsibilities in this field, and with the provinces.

The role of E.M.O. in respect to civil defence is to ensure that all planning bodies work to clearly defined objectives with dispatch and without gaps or overlaps. The efficacy of the arrangements made last year comes under review constantly. Close examination occurs at the time of national exercises, such as the one held in May of this year, and at conferences of federal and provincial ministers such as that held in October, 1959. National exercises and conferences will be repeated from time to time as the need for them arises.

One aspect of civilian emergency planning, is the home shelter program. Useful and practical information on the construction of basement fallout shelters is now being provided throughout Canada. It seems to be generally agreed among those who have given study to the question that the greatest danger to the greatest number of Canadians in nuclear war is radioactive fall-out.

From time to time one hears two views, both of which are negative and dangerous in that they counsel Canadians to do nothing in the face of possible danger. On the one hand it is alleged that nuclear war is so awesome in character that it will never occur. On the other hand it is said that if it does occur all, or nearly all, of our people will inevitably perish. Those who have made a thorough study of this subject believe that both these points of view are wrong. If there is a nuclear attack on Canada a great deal can be done by the government and by individuals to enable this country to survive the awful terror of nuclear war.

The provision of various types of fall-out shelters as a measure of prevention is necessary. Some say that there would be no survival anyway. That is not the opinion of those who have the responsibility of civil defence in our country or in other countries in the free world. On the other hand, there is a widespread interest. More than 4,000 people have written to the E.M.O. offices in recent weeks asking for information and plans for basement home shelters. I believe that each and all of us should make provision in this regard. In the Prime Minister's home which belongs to the people of Canada there will be provided such a basement shelter.

I think generally speaking among those who have responsibilities in government or in opposition action in this regard is simply a necessity with full regard to all the circumstances.

Last year I spoke of the continuity of government in wartime. We have endeavoured to make provision in that regard to the end that if we are struck by a nuclear attack without warning the government of the country shall be continued. This matter engages the attention of departments and agencies of the federal government as well as provincial and municipal authorities. Provision must be made for suitable accommodation and essential communications. The functions to be carried on in an emergency must be determined now and the individuals who will be concerned must be selected and trained. The government has plans for central, regional and zonal facilities to ensure continuity of government in the event of attack. I wish to report that these plans have gone forward not only nationally but regionally with the co-operation of the provincial governments. In all of the provinces the necessary facilities will be provided.

The central facilities will be staffed by federal civilian personnel and by the army. It is planned that each regional centre will be occupied also by persons representative of the public service of provincial government. E.M.O. is currently engaged in working out with provincial authorities the relation between federal and provincial wartime responsibilities in order to ensure the best possible working arrangements.

Various federal departments are involved in plans for continuity of government. Two or three examples may suffice. National health and welfare has expanded and intensified its emergency planning in both health and welfare in order to aid provinces to make more ample provision in these fields. The Department of Transport has created a new agency, the emergency national telecommunications organization, to plan in detail the controls required in that field in wartime. The Department of Defence Production has set up a planning body to develop the elements of a war supply agency charged with control over production, distribution and pricing of civilian and military supplies in wartime. In all these activities E.M.O. has a significant part in its role of co-ordination.

While I would not wish to create the impression that all elements of emergency planning have been dealt with fully since there are some that arise as the problems receive study, I feel that the house would want the assurance that progress has been made in the period under review.