

The CHAIRMAN: On your point of order, Mr. Martin?

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): You have been a very fair chairman, within certain contexts, but I do not propose to let you assert something that is not in harmony with the record. My questions may have been embarrassing to the government, but because they were—

Mr. MONTEITH (*Perth*): Not at all.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): But because they were it is not proper for you to suggest I was seeking to impart information and not to elicit answers.

The CHAIRMAN: With all due respect, Mr. Martin, the Chair does not consider it has offended, in any way, any of the privileges you enjoy as a member.

Mr. MONTEITH (*Perth*): I would like to point out to Mr. Crouse, in answer to all three points I think he brought up, that nothing had been done when we assumed office.

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): Mr. Chairman, that statement—

The CHAIRMAN: I wonder if you would be kind enough—

Mr. MARTIN (*Essex East*): That statement is inaccurate.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Martin, I wonder if you would be kind enough to wait. You will have an opportunity later.

Mr. MONTEITH (*Perth*): The policy of the civil defence organization had been one of evacuation up to that time. This was taken under study as time progressed and, as General Pearkes has outlined the situation, a policy was developed of consideration of shelter, provision of a seat of government in case of emergency, and protection from fall-out.

I will say there had been a radiation department inaugurated some time earlier, which is a very excellent branch of the department and which has been studying fall-out ever since this inauguration of the branch.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Argue?

Mr. ARGUE: Mr. Chairman, I was interested in what Mr. Bryce had to say about the construction of underground shelters or other facilities to operate the government in case of war. I want to make it perfectly clear that I think that is a laudable procedure and that it is one that should be followed.

I am not certain if I have got the gist of what Mr. Bryce had to say to us. Did I understand from your reply that there is in progress at this time the building of one underground shelter with, you said, rock protection of adequate thickness, so that there is at least one spot where government facilities would be carried out, or might be carried out in the event of an atomic war?

Mr. BRYCE: There is one site already in existence, sir, which was made ready at the time of the Berlin crisis about a year ago.

Mr. ARGUE: An underground, rock-protected shelter?

Mr. BRYCE: Yes. It is safe against fall-out, but it is not safe against blast.

Mr. ARGUE: I am not trying to put words in your motuh, but there are other shelters under construction, or about to be constructed?

Mr. BRYCE: We have plans for others. The biggest problem is the problem of communications rather than that of accommodation, because the communications of the whole country are largely dependent upon land lines and upon micro-wave, both of which are vulnerable to nuclear weapons. So our biggest problem is getting radio communications which could service as a back-up to them. Some of those exist in the government networks—such as those of the R.C.M.P. and those of the armed services.

This is a responsibility which has been laid upon the army, as you will see from the order in council distributing the responsibilities.