

Supply—Civil Defence

traffic can be readily moved through a city. In the city of Spokane we find a colour scheme is used for the different highways, and a stranger entering the city, who wants to travel through the city, has only to read the sign at the entrance to the city, on which the colour scheme of the highway is painted over which he wishes to travel, and he can go right through the city by following that colour without any trouble. In addition to that neon signs could be used in the colour scheme, which would be controlled at station points, which would bring arrows or other facilities into operation to guide the traffic.

I should like to say a word on the questions that have been dealt with here today with respect to the possibility of bombing in war. We should not rule out the possibility of guided missiles which are not of thermonuclear construction. While it is being realistic to think in terms of thermonuclear weapons, yet we must not rule out the possibility of other guided missiles which are being used for the purposes of war which would give, in fact, more time for evacuation.

I should like to confirm what the hon. member for Wetaskiwin has said regarding lines of demarcation, or marks to show where the traffic should go in the case of an attack.

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Chairman, my remarks are going to be very brief because I want to expedite the badly arranged business of this long drawn-out session of parliament.

With regard to civil defence, I might point out that this year we have had a much better opportunity to discuss the problem than in the past. We have spent 10 times the amount of time on civil defence that we were able to do last year because we had the benefit of the estimates committee, with several hours of discussion there with the minister and with his officials. The only thing I want to say on this occasion is that although we accept the policy announced by the minister for evacuation of cities, I consider it to be a single-barrelled policy, and it should be double-barrelled. I drew some attention to this in the course of the study in that estimates committee in April. I think more emphasis should have been placed on the question of survival on a family or household basis by means of shelter. I am of the opinion that in a thermonuclear war against this continent more Canadians will be in danger of radioactive fall-out than from a direct hit on cities, and even if there is evacuation of cities the people who are evacuated must have shelter against radioactive fall-out.

The minister has not emphasized that aspect of it, and at this stage I simply wish to express my opinion that evacuation of cities must go hand-in-hand with shelter against the fall-out. That may be essential even in the cities from which evacuation is planned because the time element may be such that the evacuation cannot take place. As I pointed out in the committee on estimates, in order to dispel the apathy in regard to civil defence, I think we should emphasize the fact that it is possible to survive even in thermonuclear warfare, as has been proven by the various tests that have been carried out. If people are protected against fall-out they have a chance for survival. It is important that that aspect of it be kept firmly in mind, because if the populace in large measure survives, then it might be possible to carry on the struggle more effectively later. But, if we are of opinion that nothing can be done under thermonuclear conditions, then no action will be taken, and I think a great deal of the delay in civil defence operations across the country has been due to the feeling that nothing can be done, and there are so many things that can be done. I think the civil defence organization is to be congratulated on what it has accomplished so far in establishing a good means of communication across the country—that is the prime essential—and in the training of great numbers of individuals in civil defence operations. I think that those people who have voluntarily given their time to take the courses in civil defence are worthy of special recognition; but I just emphasize the fact that the minister should have two schemes in mind, evacuation plus proper shelter on the family basis so that people will survive radioactive fall-out.

Mr. Martin: Mr. Chairman, I want to thank my hon. friend for having intervened in this debate. One could contrast what the hon. member has said with what was said by the hon. member for Winnipeg North, and although undoubtedly he said it with the best of intentions his attitude was that practically nothing could be done. The hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre has expressed my views and the views of the civil defence organization that we must not take a defeatist attitude. We know we cannot provide for 100 per cent survival. We know how disastrous the situation would be if a world war developed in which thermonuclear weapons were used. Nevertheless, we know, too, that we can minimize the blow, as I said in my earlier statement. I think the balanced statement we have just heard is one to which I would want to describe fully. Nothing will