

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

be destroyed over southern Canada and above the atmosphere by Spartan missiles. Others penetrating the Spartan umbrella will, in theory, be shot down within 25 miles or so of their target in the United States by the Sprint ABMs. However, although the nuclear explosions caused by the Spartans over our heads in Canada will cause very little blast or fallout radiation damage, they will blind millions of Canadians from glare if they are not protected from it. Anyone looking at such an explosion, or happening to be looking at a surface or object that reflects a sufficient amount of the glare, will lose his eyesight. The extension of the Safeguard system, therefore, increases this risk for Canadians and our need for fallout shelters.

Explosions resulting from Sprint contacts with incoming missiles in the atmosphere short distances across our border from the proposed Michigan, Ohio and New England ABM sites will, on the other hand, contaminate great areas of the southern halves of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and much of the Maritimes, with radiation, the degree depending upon the direction of the wind. It is urgently important, to ensure against blindness and radiation effects, that Canadians within at least 400 miles of the United States border have properly prepared and marked fallout shelters to go to immediately, if and when the warning sirens sound.

It now appears that the plans of the Emergency Measures Organization have been blocked at the halfway mark, and if we were attacked tomorrow the millions of dollars already spent would serve little or no purpose except perhaps to provide evidence to those who might survive of government's prodigal spending of public funds. What this government needs to do, Mr. Speaker, is take a good look at the Boy Scout motto—Be Prepared.

Mr. D. W. Groos (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, first of all, along with the hon. member for Spadina (Mr. Ryan) I should like to cor-

rect an impression which seems to be prevalent, namely, that there is extreme danger as a result of the explosion of defensive weapons. These are designed to burst at such a height that they do not constitute a danger. Furthermore, it is not expected that the intercepted enemy weapon would itself explode. Even if it did, the extreme height of the explosion would reduce any possible damage to small proportions.

Mr. Ryan: Except through glare.

Mr. Groos: It should be added, also, that there is no significant radioactive hazard resulting from such high altitude bursts. Thus, one would not tie in fallout shelters with the question posed by the hon. member for Spadina with respect to explosions involving the Safeguard antiballistic missile system. Fallout shelters are designed to deal with the problem of nuclear weapons actually evading the defence system and bursting at or near ground level, thus creating widespread radioactive fallout.

As was stated at the recent Federal-Provincial Ministerial Conference on Civil Emergency Measures, the government of Canada authorized the Canada Emergency Measures Organization to carry out a fallout shelter survey of large buildings across Canada. This survey has been completed and the information is now being processed. I can tell the hon. member that the minister has asked to be provided with full advice concerning the analysis of the results of this survey as soon as possible. Until such time as he has had an opportunity to study them, he will not be in a position to advise the government with respect to the actions which might be taken in connection with community shelter plans, shelter marking and related matters to which my hon. friend referred, but these questions will be gone into.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.30 p.m.