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Civil Defense--A Bold Proposal

(Editor's note: This is the second of three articles on Civil Defense written by a regular reader of the Torrance Press.)

By ADOLPH ERNST

I read recently that an authority on Civil Defense stated that an appropriation of 30 billion dollars would be asked of Congress for building shelters all over the country over a period of 10 years.

This is a fine idea in principle. We would have to ask the enemy, however, to postpone his attacks until all shelters are ready.

Who knows when war will start? Let's pray that it will never happen--yet it could any time. Therefore, we have to be prepared--now!

I remember that there was much talk of a forthcoming war about seven years ago. Many large financial institutions, insurance companies and other important houses located on the East Coast set their archives, valuables and other important papers hundreds of miles away to be sheltered in prepared underground safes, caves, and tunnels.

These items are probably still there, waiting for the war to start.

Underground Shelters

I only see one way out to the problem of Civil Defense--Congressional legislation requiring all communities, without exception, to build safe, underground shelters within one year, beginning immediately.

Let's let Congress decide where the money will come from. Even if it would mean a few extra pennies in taxes, aren't the lives that we will save worth more?

On the other hand, shelters could also be profitable.

Trash Problem To Be Checked

Trash collection problems at a medical center corner Torrance Blvd. and Acacia will be looked into and properly taken care of, it was indicated this week by the city manager's office.

This announcement was made in the light of a news picture published by the Torrance Press last week showing the accumulation of trash. Commercial trash should be picked up three times a week but is being picked up only once a week, it was reported.

Firm Offers Boats, Motors, Cabinet Wood

B. W. Byrne & Sons, offering one of the largest varieties of boats and cabinet materials, recently opened its modern display rooms and warehouse at 24650 Crenshaw Blvd.

The firm was formerly located in Long Beach. The company, specializing in motors and boats, also has on display an extra-large supply of woods, including ash, oak, birch, maple, walnut, Philippine mahogany, Honduras mahogany, Japanese Katsura and everything else in hardwood, softwood and plywood, it was stated.

George C. Byrne, Rex Little and B. W. Byrne III invite all interested to come in and see the display. The firm is also the exclusive distributor of Mercury outboard motors and will assist in any problem involving cabinet making or shipbuilding.

For instance, if Los Angeles should ever decide to build a subway, it could also be used as shelter in case of attack.

In this way, another very important problem would be solved--the smog problem. If a million daily riders would take the subway instead of their cars, there would be no more smog in Los Angeles.

As long as the danger of war exists, all kinds of construction of new buildings should be limited and, as much as possible, be done underground.

Underground Construction

For instance, new schools and hospitals could be placed underground. Santa Monica plans a new auditorium which will cost three million dollars.

Why not put it underground? In case of aerial attack it would make a wonderful shelter.

A resident of Santa Monica indicated that he prefers a building which is above-ground because he will enjoy the sight of it every day. If it were underground, he could enjoy it only in case of attack, which might never occur.

Therefore he prefers to gamble. But he is gambling with his life.

Underground shelters in Santa Monica would be very economical because it would be easy to build them in the soft earth under the hills. This, too, would help avoid landslides which have occurred recently.

South Bay Shelters

We also have magnificent possibilities for building shelters in the South Bay area, namely, the Palos Verdes peninsula.

This would stabilize the whole mountain range, which is none too stable, I believe.

Shelters in the mountains or Portuguese Bend area would certainly stop the whole area from sliding.

The shelters would have many entrances and there would be much room of accomodate a large portion of

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the Los Angeles population if it would manage to get here in time.

On the other hand, Los Angeles also has several hills suitable for shelters, like Bunker Hill and the hill east of the Civic Center.

These shelters could be provided with facilities which would make them independent of the outside world, such as lighting, ventilation, sewer system, and even water.

Safes could also be built for important archives of local governmental offices, large and small companies, and even military purposes.

(Next week: THE JOB OF THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT IS DEFENSE)

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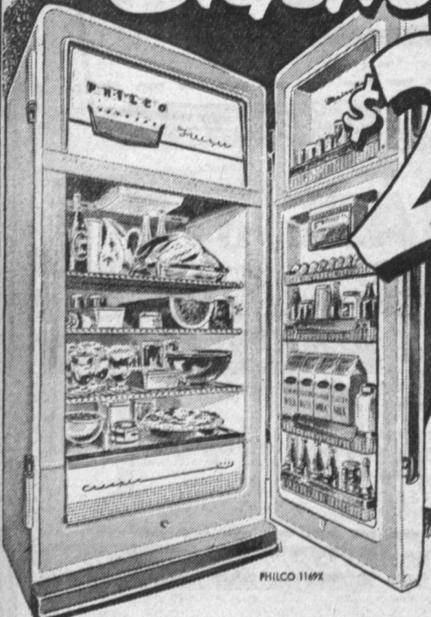
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