

A-Attack Procedure Questioned by Official

The current practice of sending school children home in case an atomic attack is threatened is both foolish and dangerous, today stated Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, vice chairman of the Civil Disaster Committee of the county Supervisors Association of California.

Speaking both as a parent and a county official, he said the prospect of turning children as young as 5-years-old onto the streets is frightening.

Present policies of most school districts is that when school authorities are given

notice of possible attack they must send the children home.

RE-EVALUATE

After reading what happened at Miraleste Elementary School on the palos Verdes Peninsula, Hahn called acting County Superintendent of Schools Dr. R. B. Walter and Roy Hoover, County civil defense coordinator, and asked them to carefully re-evaluate the present practice of most school districts.

At Miraleste, a short circuit caused a "yellow alert Tuesday and school officials

complied with orders and began dispatching children home to supposed safety — if their parents were home, if the door wasn't locked, if they reached the house.)

ADEQUATE WARNING

"Even if school officials had 'adequate' warning (one hour), the time limit involved could quickly change as new information reached civil defense authorities and was relayed to the school, the Supervisor said.

"I shudder to think of the possibility of sending the children home — thinking they have an hour to make

it — and then receiving a revised report that the city may be under attack within only a few minutes," he said.

JURISDICTION

At present, each of the more than 100 school districts in the county have separate jurisdiction over their schools in civil defense. Hahn feels there should be a uniform, statewide procedure on civil defense regulations.

Problems of sending children home are compounded in instances of working mothers, or in the very reason-

able situation in which the mother may have left home to go shopping, to a luncheon, to a meeting or any number of other places.

NO KEYS

"Many school children do not even have keys to their homes," the Supervisor observed. "Their parents find it unnecessary to give the youngsters keys when they logically assume that between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. the children are under good supervision on school grounds."

"If working parents knew their children were being released from school when at-

tack was imminent, there would be huge traffic jams caused by frantic parents trying to pick up their children.

PROCEDURES

"However, if parents were assured children would be kept at school under carefully worked out civil defense procedures, they could at least have some peace of mind in finding shelter themselves."

Hahn vigorously feels that the ultimate solution to such a problem is the building of adequate fallout shelters under school grounds, not only

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for the children, but also for adults of the community.

He pointed out that virtually every home is within 15 minutes walking distance of one of the 1600 schools in Los Angeles County.

Holiday Heirlooms Shown

South Bay Garden Club featured holiday decorations for the home at a meeting held Monday afternoon.

Holiday heirlooms were discussed by Mrs. Camillus Angel of Arcadia, national flower show judge, member of Ike Bana International, and student of the Kazan School of Scenic Flower Arrangement.

A kitchen workshop on Christmas wreaths was conducted by Mrs. Jack Bennett of Torrance.

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