

We are lacking in shelters to protect our families at home, at school, at work or at public meeting places. We have no stockpiles of food or water. Our citizens do not have adequate information on how to care for themselves either before, during or after a nuclear explosion. Our people are confused and perhaps still somewhat apathetic. Our laws and administrative procedures are not, at present, set up so as to give maximum encouragement to those who wish to provide protection for their families in the event of an emergency. Although there is a growing anxiety among Marylanders seeking information and guidance in this area, I fear that unless we can lead our citizens into action, the problems of preparing for an uncertain future may become insurmountable.

No one need be reminded of the constant pressure being applied on free nations of the world by the Soviet Union. It is clear that as long as the Kremlin leaders think they can bully their opponents into submission by threats of 100 megaton nuclear devices and the like, they will continue to do so. There will be no change in this policy unless free societies can demonstrate that they are ready to defend their rights with a willingness to resist and fight back. We owe it to our nation and to President Kennedy to demonstrate that willingness now. As a result, I have called this meeting with the idea in mind of preparing a plan of action for Maryland.

The immediate purpose of this plan is to inform our citizens of the dangers of nuclear blast and fall-out and to acquaint them with the steps which must be taken if we are to survive a nuclear attack. Our long run purpose is to promote the establishment of mass public shelters in schools, hospitals and places of work and to insure that adequate steps are taken to provide emergency stockpiles of food, water, medical supplies, fire fighting equipment and other materials which may be needed in the event of an attack.

First, it is imperative that the civil defense units of Maryland be coordinated. To accomplish this, a strong vertical structure must evolve so that information from the federal, state and local levels will flow into every household rapidly and without confusion. Although many worthwhile booklets and pamphlets offering advice on action to be taken in the event of nuclear attack are being printed, this information is not being distributed widely enough.

A clear-cut example of what can be done in this area was offered us two weeks ago when the *Baltimore Evening Sun* published 250,000 booklets containing a series of articles on civil defense and then enlisted the aid of the Boy Scouts in distributing this information