

in the Baltimore area. This was an invaluable service to the community by a public spirited newspaper and I congratulate the *Sun Papers* for it.

However, to be effective, we must make provisions for a permanent means of distributing information to the people of this State as it is prepared by the various civil defense organizations. To do this, I suggest that you study a proposal calling for the appointment of civil defense officers to serve on a voluntary basis in every neighborhood, in every town and in every community of this State. Each of these officers would be responsible for from 50 to 100 families in a specific area. They would function as liaison men and women between local civil defense headquarters and the families living in their sector. These officers would disseminate information as it is made available, urge families to construct private fall-out shelters, make constant checks on the progress in their sectors in fall-out shelter construction and provide local, state and federal civil defense officials with up-to-the-minute information on the preparedness of our citizens.

Secondly, I propose that you discuss the feasibility of offering a course in civil defense procedures in our public and private junior and senior high schools. Such a course would serve a dual purpose. It would arm future generations with the knowledge essential to them if they are to prevent panic and to survive a nuclear holocaust and it would provide a means of disseminating information to parents who have children of high school age.

Neither the first nor the second of the proposals I have put forth will be easy to put into effect. Before teachers and civil defense officers can begin instructing, they must first be instructed. It may be possible to begin instruction in basic survival techniques almost immediately. Perhaps not. The task before us will require utmost patience and cooperation yet, in my opinion, it must be done with all possible speed. We may have ten years to prepare, we may have ten days.

I have been informed that, in December, the Defense Department will publish millions of copies of a booklet providing all citizens with the latest information on means of surviving a nuclear attack. It has been reported to me that this booklet will place greater emphasis on the role of the householder in providing protection for himself and his family. This is as it should be. It is the individual's responsibility for safeguarding his own and his family's lives. It is our responsibility to provide him with the information on how to do it.

We must do all in our power to assist those who take steps to