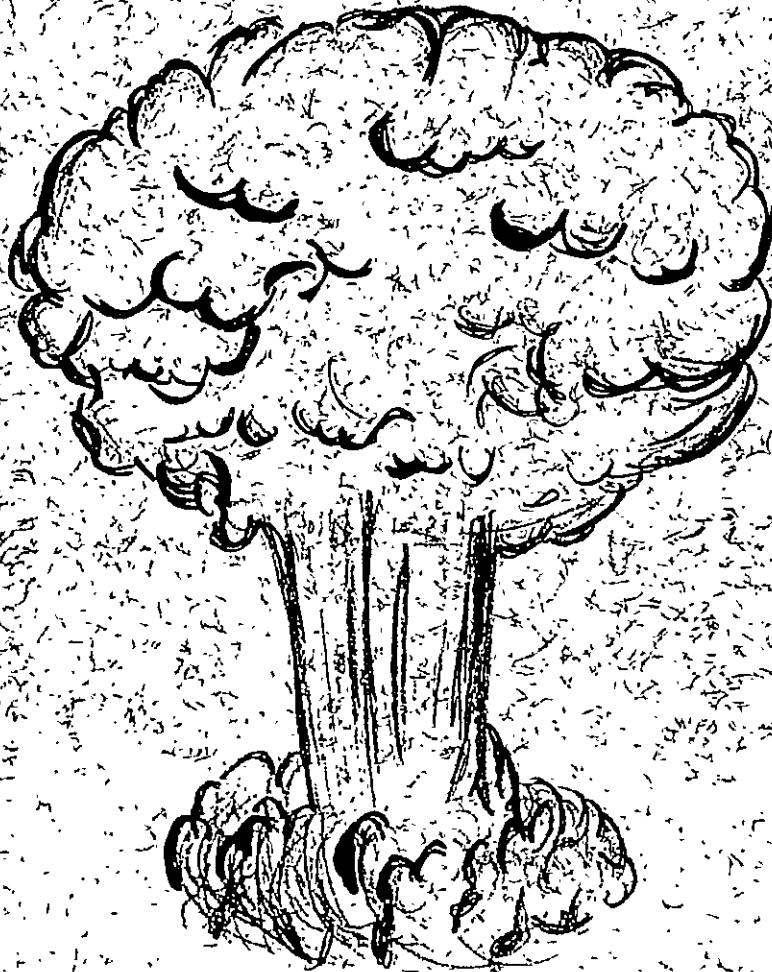


PUBLIC THINKING ABOUT ATOMIC WARFARE AND CIVIL DEFENSE

FIVE AMERICANS STATE
THEIR CONCEPTIONS OF
ATOMIC WARFARE AND THE
PROBLEM OF CIVIL DEFENSE



ILLUSTRATIVE INTERVIEWS

SURVEY RESEARCH CENTER

Survey Research Center
University of Michigan

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Five Americans State
their Conceptions of
Atomic Warfare and
the Problem of Civil Defense

Project No. 89

October, 1950

In October of 1950 the Survey Research Center of the University of Michigan conducted interviews with people living in the eleven largest cities of the United States. The people interviewed were scientifically selected to represent all the adults living in these major cities. The main topic covered in the interviews was Civil Defense.

The study was designed to answer such questions as: Do people expect a major war soon? Will American cities be hit with atomic bombs? What would an atomic attack mean? What are people most afraid of? What do they think ought to be done to prepare for possible attacks?

The report covering the results of the study will be presented soon and in it will be given the various statistics and generalizations on the whole study. The interviews presented in the following pages are not "representative" in any sense. They are reproduced mainly to show how our interviews are conducted and how discussions are developed on the topics we are studying.

This interview was taken in a New England metropolitan center. The respondent is a middle-aged married Negro male. He has had one year of elementary education and earns between \$2000-2900 a year as a railroad yardman. He belongs to a union, voted in one of the two most recent local elections, and is favorable in his attitude toward his city.

(How do you feel about the way things are going here in this country these days?)

Well, you know, you can't go too much by what you read in the papers and hear on the radio these days. It's still a free country, but you've got to be careful what you say. Well, things aren't what they should be.

(How do you mean?)

Wages are low. Cost of living is high. Many poor people are just scraping along. Coal is pretty high now. If you have to burn five or six tons of coal in the winter it's pretty hard to get by.

(Are there any other things that are happening here in this country that upset or disturb you?)

Lots of things are happening. As far as war is concerned--why should this country go back into war after only five years? Hundreds of thousands of young men getting killed--for what? They say, I suppose, that they're protecting our interests all over the world. Of course the interests are those of the rich. If it weren't for the millionaires there wouldn't be any wars. Also, this country makes such distinctions about the color of your skin--it's much harder getting a job if you're black, but the cost of living is just the same.

(How much would you say you've been bothered or worried about things in this country -- very much, quite a bit, some, just a little, or not much?)

Well as far as being bothered's concerned, I get along in this country all right. (Question repeated) Quite a bit, right now.

(How do you feel about what's happening in the world these days?)

The way I feel, I think what's happening in the world right now is pretty serious. Sometimes you go to bed, and you don't know when you go to bed if you're going to wake up; you might be blown off the earth while you're still sleeping! You're living in the Atomic Age today. Seven or eight thousand miles don't mean anything. The fast planes--jet planes, thunderbolts, rockets,--they're

building them nowadays to travel. How do we know when we go to bed, or in the day when we're working, what'll happen?

(Are there any other things about what's happening in the world today that have upset or disturbed you?)

Power! That's one of the greatest problems today. One of the reasons people can't come to agreements is on account of power. The U. N., after 5 years, can't come to any peace terms. Why? "I want more than the other fellow." No, it isn't any other thing. I think those things are really destroying us. They should do away with some of these new devices for destroying civilization.

(How much would you say you've been bothered or worried about things in the world -- very much, quite a bit, some, just a little, or not much?)

I think I told you that before. It bothers me a lot--very much.

(Which would you say has bothered you or been on your mind most: the way things are going in this country or the way things are going in the world generally?)

The way things are going in the world today. The condition of the world isn't getting any better. We're sitting on a bag of dynamite. Very few countries today are not all on edge, ready to explode.

(Speaking of world affairs, how likely do you think it is that we're in for another world war--no question about it, very likely, probably, about a fifty-fifty chance, probably not, very unlikely, or absolutely not?)

Very likely.

(Why do you feel that way?)

You look at the papers and the radio: these different countries, the way they're picking arms--soldiers marching, squabbling. Course they don't say it is a war--but they're doing it right now.

(If war does come, do you think it's likely to happen in the next six months, the next year or two, or when?)

In the next six months, if it does come. If we can slide by for the next six months, we won't have it. (Why is that?) These people, where they're getting together in the U. N. and peace talks, they might be able to come to some kind of agreement by then.

(If you were asked at the present time to work on a civil defense project, like learning to fight fires or taking care of people wounded in a bombing attack, and so on, how would you feel about it?)

I'd feel I was doing a great thing. I'd feel good about it, trying to save lives.

(How would you feel about giving a few hours a week for at least six months to learning this kind of work?)

I'd give three or four hours a week. Yes.

(In case we have another world war, how well do you think the Army and Air Forces could do in preventing air attacks on our cities?)

I think the Air Force could do wonderfully.

(What makes you say that?)

The U. S. always has a great air power. They could cover all the vital places and ways the enemy could come in, and could prevent the enemy from getting here.

(All in all, would you say the Army and Air Forces could protect our cities completely, protect them from heavy damage, or wouldn't be able to prevent heavy damage?)

No. Not completely, but I believe it would protect them from heavy damage.

(If the United States is attacked, do you think our cities are likely to be hit with atomic bombs?)

Yes, I believe so.

(Why do you feel that way?)

The atom bomb is more destructive. If the enemy could get here and drop one bomb they wouldn't need to drop any more--the city would be crippled. With blockbusters they'd have to drop many--maybe 1500 tons. With the A-bomb, they'd need only two at the most.

(What about your city? Do you think it would be bombed?)

Yes, I think so.

(Do you think your city is more likely or less likely to be attacked than other big cities?)

I think it would, yes.

(Why do you say that?)

I think all large cities would: Boston, New York, Chicago, 'Frisco all those large cities. Philadelphia, Washington --all the big railroad cities where there's a lot of vital supplies transported all over the country. They cut off your supplies and your troop movements. The larger the city the more likely.

(In case we have another world war, do you think your city will be in danger from any other kind of enemy activities or attacks?)

Well, outside the airplane and the bomb, I don't think it would.

(How about an enemy purposely spreading germs, or what they call biological warfare: do you think there would be any danger like that to your city?)

That could be a danger--spraying germs. Think they might. In fact, I believe they would.

(What about a lot of sabotage to our factories, power plants, railroads, and so on: would there be any danger there?)

Yes. They'd be after that one, too. There'd be plenty of it. There's so many people in this country come over especially in the last three years, and how do you know? Germans and Russians, and they'd always have that feeling about their country. Lots of those people would try sabotage.

(How about poison gas, or what they call chemical warfare?)

Might be some of that, though since the first World War... Well, during the second World War they weren't so keen about it. You don't hear much about it now.

(Of all these--germs, atomic bombs, poison gas, sabotage--which do you think is most likely to be used?)

The atom bomb.

(Which one do you think would be the most terrible?)

The bomb.

(Why do you feel that way?)

Drop one atom bomb in Boston, maybe two in New York City--you could wipe the whole city out.

(Suppose an atomic bomb were dropped in the center of your city. What do you think would be the results?)

From Hiroshima--I go by that--saw it in the movies--the whole city would go.

(Do you think it would be any different from an attack with ordinary bombs?)

Yes. Ordinary bombs could bomb Boston five, six, eight times and do damage, but they wouldn't destroy the city.

(What do you think would happen to the people?)

Well, those people that wouldn't be killed outright would never be any good anymore. They die gradually, because the fumes from the bomb get inside them and eat them up. Of course everybody doesn't get killed right away, but they're no good anymore.

(Anything else?)

No. The atom bomb is the biggest fear I have.

(Have you heard of radioactivity or atomic rays or something like that in connection with the bomb?)

Yes, I've heard of those.

(What have you heard about it?)

Well, I haven't heard too much about them. I heard some guy talking on the radio say the bombs don't have to come by planes anymore. It could be sent by radiation--in rockets that would be controlled by radiation, I mean.

(What have you heard that these rays do to people?)

Those rays? I think they really just shock you and then just eat you up. Course I can't tell you much about that.

(About how far away from where the bomb falls do you think these rays would be dangerous?)

Twenty-five to thirty miles, maybe.

(How long after a bomb explodes do you think these rays are dangerous to people?)

For at least a couple of hours.

(Is there any way at all of finding out whether or not these rays are around?)

I think you got me there.

(Do you think anybody in this country really knows very much about what an atomic bomb would do to a city?)

I think that's kind of a large order. The average person...
(Question repeated) Yes, I think some people.

(Who would really know?)

People that worked on them. The man who worked on them at Oak Ridge Tennessee, General Leslie Groves. He would know. He was head of that department. I spoke of him because I heard him on the radio. I imagine there are others.

(In the last year or so, have you read or heard anything about the effects of atomic bombs?)

No, I haven't. Well, I've heard how destructive they were and that's what makes me fear them so much.

(Where have you read or heard about these things?)

I heard most of it. I don't see too much in the papers. I heard round table discussions on the radio.

(Do you think these things you've heard or read give you a good idea of what would happen if an atom bomb hit?)

You get an idea. You hear how you'd be destroyed, how dangerous and powerful and deadly they are.

(Is there anything on how an atomic bomb would affect your city or the people in it that you'd like to know more about?)

Yes, I would. I'd like to know what would be the outcome for the people who wouldn't get killed outright. The people within an area of twenty-five to thirty miles--would they be any good? Could they work anymore?

(What do you think your city would be like after an attack: do you think it could operate pretty much as usual for the first few days after an atomic bomb hit, or would the city be at a stand-still?)

If the atom bomb fell in Boston, there'd be nothing but rubble.

(What do you think things would be like?)

There wouldn't be any living here in the city. We'd have to build a new city. Maybe a few buildings on the outskirts would be left.

(About how long do you think it would take the city to start rolling again--with lights and gas on, buses and street cars running, and stores open?)

It would take the city at least two years. You couldn't build up a city in six months.

(What about the people who are still living: what would things be like for them right after an attack?)

Just naturally it would be hard. Business would be destroyed. How would they live?

(If an atomic bomb hit in the center of your city what would cause most of the deaths?)

For the distance of twenty-five to thirty miles it would be the fumes, not the shell itself. On the outskirts of Boston where they grow vegetables nothing would grow there for three or four years, because of the fumes.

(Is there anything else about the bomb that would kill or harm people?)

No. I think we covered that before.

(Suppose you were standing out in the open: what do you think is the nearest you could be to an atomic explosion and still be safe?)

That's hard. I can't answer that. The blast of it--the shock--would kill you even if the debris didn't hit you.

(Have you read or heard anything about what a person ought to do for his own safety if there were an atom bomb attack?)

Well I heard never to rush to a building; it's better to stay indoors. Throw yourself flat on the ground. Get to a wide open space like the Boston Common and throw yourself on the ground.

(Do you think you know as much as a person can know now about how to take care of yourself and your family in case of an atomic attack?)

No. I'll be frank with you. I haven't made a study of it.

(Are there things you'd like to know more about?)

Sure. (What are they?) Where to go and what to do.

(Do you think anybody in this country really knows very much about what to do in case of an atomic bombing?)

Yes, I think so. You asked that before. (Question repeated, showing difference between the two questions) No. I don't know whether there is or not.

(What do you think you'd do if you heard over the radio that your city was in immediate danger of an atomic bomb attack?)

There's no going down in your cellar 'cause it's not far enough underground. I'd try to go in the subway.

(What is the first thing you would try to do after the attack?)

I'd go around and see who I could help--maybe there'd be somebody I could save.

(What do you think you would try to do after that?)

I don't know offhand.

(Well, how about your neighbors or people generally--do you think they would help each other out, or do you think they'd be mainly concerned with their own safety?)

I think they'd try to help each other. They're good people, friendly people. They'd try to help somebody out.

(What do you think would be the most important things that would have to be done in the city right after an attack?)

Try to get your different railroads functioning to restore transportation. When it's cut off and people can't get back and forth, your city's dead.

(Anything else?)

I hate to think of it. The city would be in such bad shape it would take some time.

(Whose job would you say it is to get these things done?)

The way I feel, I guess it's everybody's job who's left. They'd be trying to save everybody who was wounded. Every good citizen would.

(So far I've been asking you about what an atomic bomb would do to a city and what would happen to people. Now I'd like to talk to you about what might be done to prepare in advance for such an attack. First of all, what about the system of civil defense our cities had in the last war. What did you think of it?)

It was very good I thought.

(Why?)

It was alert, on the job, efficient.

(Was there any thing else you felt was particularly good about it?)

No. I guess maybe I don't remember. I tried to erase all that stuff from my memory.

(Was there anything you felt was particularly bad about it?)

No, I can't say there was.

(Did you or any member of your family take any part in it?)

No. I was too busy working on the railroad in the last war.

(As far as you know, who is in charge of civil defense in your city now-- the state government, the federal government, the city government, or the Army?)

The state government, as far as I know.

(How about the way your city is set up now? Do you think it'd be able to do a good job of taking care of people after an atomic attack if it were to happen right now?)

Haven't made too much of a study of it. Well, yes, I think so in one way or another.

(Why do you say that?)

You can't tell what's going to happen in a big city because there are so many people. I guess they're prepared, or should be.

(What do you think ought to be done now to prepare for a possible atomic attack?)

Well, I think bomb shelters should be built. I don't know if there's a bomb shelter in any of these big cities. There isn't any here!

(How do you feel about the things they're doing now to prepare?)

I don't see them doing anything--just talking.

(Do you think they should begin a campaign now to get people to work in civil defense?)

Sure. I think so. Yes.

(Do you think this preparation should be the job of the city government, or do you think getting your city ready to take care of an atomic attack should be the job of the Federal Government, the Army, or some other group?)

I think the job of the state government.

(Why?)

All cities and states should take care of their own.

(What about the American Legion, the Red Cross, and organizations like that--do you think they should play a part in getting your city ready to meet an attack?)

The Red Cross? They take up a lot of money each year. Why don't they appropriate some of it for the state government to build up these things like shelters? The American Legion is another group that has money, is well organized. They have a lot of business men and contractors. They should build these places.

(Do you think most of the actual work in a civil defense program will have to be done by ordinary people who've had some training, or will most of the work be a job for regular firemen and policemen?)

The big job'll be for the ordinary people.

(Why do you say that?)

The firemen and the policemen have their jobs. They'd be busy on so many things they just wouldn't have the time.

(Do you think the ordinary people can do a good enough job?)

If trained.

(Why do you feel that way?)

You can't take a greenhorn and put him there.

(Here's a list of jobs that might have to be done in such a program:

1. fighting fires
2. watching for and reporting fires
3. spotting airplanes
4. getting children and old people out of danger areas
5. giving first aid to injured and burned people
6. rescuing people from wrecked buildings

Which do you think you could do or be trained to do?)

I'd like to be trained to save old people out of danger areas and wrecked buildings.

(Would there be anything that would worry you about doing these jobs?)

No.

(What if this work had to be done in places where there were a lot of dead and injured people and where there would be danger from fire and atomic rays--under these conditions how would you feel about taking part in civil defense work?)

Wouldn't worry me.

(Are there any things in your work or personal life that might make it hard for you to do work in civil defense or keep you from doing it?)

My job maybe. Like in the last war--I worked all hours. Railroad work is vital in wartime.

(What about a set-up where certain people would take care of children and sick people so that everybody else could work on civil defense. Would you be willing to go along with a plan like this, or do you feel the best thing you could do would be to stick with your family?)

Yes, I guess so.

(Why do you feel that way?)

I don't know.

(All in all, do you think all this preparation for civil defense can really do any good if there's an atomic attack?)

I think it can. Yes, it'll save a lot of time.

(To close now, do you find this topic of atomic bombing interesting, or do you wish there weren't so much talk about it?)

Well, it is interesting, in a way, because atomic energy can be used for other things besides killing, you know. But the way they perfected it to destroy--that's the hard part. Atomic energy is a wonderful thing--but not for destroying.

This young housewife was interviewed in a midwestern city. She is a college graduate married to a medical student and has one very young child. The respondent and her husband are dependent for support on their respective parents. She belongs to no community or national organizations, has voted in neither of the two most recent local elections, and has a favorable attitude toward the city in which she lives.

(How do you feel about the way things are going here in this country these days?)

As far as my opinion, I just read last night that there is no hurry about preparing for Civil Defense in case of bombing here. I am naturally an optimistic person and maybe it is wishful thinking, but I do not think we are going to have an atomic bombing, at least in Cleveland, in the foreseeable future. But I don't think that it is any excuse at all for not preparing for it.

(How do you mean?)

My general feeling about how things are going in this country is that they are going just a bit too slowly. We are going to be living in the kind of a world where constant preparedness must fit in and we are just going to have to change our way of thinking.

(Are there any other things that are happening here in this country that upset or disturb you?)

As far as other things go, I believe whole-heartedly in our two-party system, but with the changes that go on around election time, despite the seriousness of the world situation, I often wonder about the caliber of men that this very same system brings into politics.

(How much would you say you've been bothered or worried about things in this country--very much, quite a bit, some, just a little, or not much?)

Some.

(How do you feel about what's happening in the world these days?)

I feel that we have come to a point in the world situation where we must realize that something concrete must be resolved in the conflict between communism and democracy.

(What do you have in mind?)

It seems to me that although the two can't live together in the world, war with one or the other being the victor in battle will

still bring no solution. But I feel that we must live either in a constant state of preparedness until war comes or else something drastically and exceptionally dynamic will happen to the U. N. and it will then help solve the problem without additional loss of life.

(Are there any other things about what's happening in the world today that have upset or disturbed you?)

Too many other things to get me started on.

(How much would you say you've been bothered or worried about things in the world--very much, quite a bit, some, just a little, or not much?)

Very much.

(Which would you say has bothered you or been on your mind most: the way things are going in this country or the way things are going in the world generally?)

The way things are going in the world generally.

(Speaking of world affairs, how likely do you think it is that we're in for another world war--no question about it, very likely, probably, about a fifty-fifty chance, probably not, very unlikely, or absolutely not?)

I would say probably.

(Why do you feel that way?)

Well, just because I can't see us from preventing communism to continue to overrun Asia, then Europe; and I can't see either, Russia just sitting back and taking it. But I know so little about Russia, how frightened they are of the atomic bomb, etc., that I can't be certain in my own mind that our show of strength will incite them, at least within the next few years, to be the open aggressor. And if they wait a few years and we wake up and really arm ourselves, then we may come to an impasse where both countries are so well prepared that the U. N. will then be the one whom both can go to for the answer.

(If war does come, do you think it's likely to happen in the next six months, the next year or two, or when?)

I really don't know enough to say.

(If you were asked at the present time to work on a civil defense project, like learning to fight fires or taking care of people wounded in a bombing attack, and so on, how would you feel about it?)

I would feel very willing.

(Why do you feel that way?)

Because at the moment I feel very frustrated in being upset about a situation that I really can't do a thing about.

(How would you feel about giving a few hours a week for at least six months to learning this kind of work?)

I would be perfectly willing to as long as I could see the worth of such a job.

(In case we have another world war, how well do you think the Army and Air Forces could do in preventing air attacks on our cities?)

I feel that they could do a pretty good job of warning us with radar, etc., in making it possible to keep some of the planes away.

(What makes you say that?)

I don't feel that Russia would send planes loaded with atomic bombs to this country without well knowing what our defense situation was and expecting all or at least some of their bombs to get by us. Therefore, as I stated before, Civil Defense projects in our cities are as important as preparing our defense in the air.

(All in all, would you say the Army and Air Forces could protect our cities completely, protect them from heavy damage, or wouldn't be able to prevent heavy damage?)

I would say protect them from heavy damage.

(If the United States is attacked, do you think our cities are likely to be hit with atomic bombs?)

I would say likely, yes.

(Why do you feel that way?)

I don't feel Russia would attack without having that much power under her belt.

(What about Cleveland? Do you think it would be bombed?)

I think we would be.

(Do you think your city is more likely or less likely to be attacked than other big cities?)

Probably less likely.

(Why do you say that?)

I don't think Cleveland is one of the most strategic cities.

(In case we have another world war, do you think your city will be in danger from any other kind of enemy activities or attacks?)

Yes.

(What kinds?)

Probably sabotage.

(How about an enemy purposely spreading germs, or what they call biological warfare: do you think there would be any danger like that to your city?)

I really don't know.

(What about a lot of sabotage to our factories, power plants, railroads, and so on: would there be any danger there?)

I think there would be danger there.

(How about poison gas, or what they call chemical warfare?)

I do not have too much of an opinion there.

(Of all these--germs, atomic bombs, poison gas, sabotage--which do you think is the most likely to be used?)

Sabotage or atomic bombs.

(Which one do you think would be the most terrible?)

Atomic bombs, I imagine.

(Why do you feel that way?)

Just because one bomb would affect a larger area in a shorter time.

(Suppose an atomic bomb were dropped in the center of Cleveland. What do you think would be the results?)

If an atomic bomb were dropped within the year here, I think the result would be complete chaos and panic even worse than the extent of the destruction.

(Do you think it would be any different from an attack with ordinary bombs?)

Yes.

(In what ways would it be different?)

People would be so frightened of the damage that would be done by radiation after the first impact of the bomb has passed, while with an ordinary bomb those who survive the explosion itself have no reason for further fear.

(Anything else?)

No.

(You've mentioned radiation. What have you heard about it?)

From newspaper articles and a quite complete description in Time Magazine, I have heard that the radioactivity of the atomic bomb is most powerful and can cause complete destruction within a radius of, I believe, between $\frac{1}{2}$ or 1 mile of the spot that the bomb hits, with lessening destruction as you get further away from the center.

(What else have you heard that these rays do to people?)

I have heard that they either kill or badly burn and I have been led to understand that there are other effects on the human body which may not appear until sometime later.

(About how far away from where the bomb falls do you think these rays would be dangerous?)

I believe there would be some effect anywhere up to a radius of three to four miles.

(How long after a bomb explodes do you think these rays are dangerous to people?)

I am not certain in my own mind; but with the strictly layman's knowledge, added to fear caused by ignorance, I would probably be afraid to get near an area for about twenty-four hours.

(Is there any way at all of finding out whether or not these rays are around?)

Yes, with the renowned Geiger Counter.

(How do you mean?)

Civil Defense should provide civilians with it.

(Do you think anybody in this country really knows very much about what an atomic bomb would do to a city?)

Yes.

(Who really knows?)

I feel certain that the scientists and military men have been thoroughly studying the effects of atomic bombs and it is important for them to inform the people of all the details--something which they are attempting to do already.

(In the last year or so, have you read or heard anything about the effects of atomic bombs?)

Yes.

(What sort of things have you read or heard?)

As stated above, I have read what the scientists are trying to inform us of, and that is all the details concerning the effects which they know and which they can relay to us in the layman's language.

(Where have you read or heard about these things?)

Time Magazine and the Cleveland Press.

(Do you think these things you've heard or read give you a good idea of what would happen if an atom bomb hit?)

Yes. The only place where it falls down is with myself, in still not taking it quite seriously enough to fully absorb what they are trying to teach me.

(Why do you say that?)

I say that because I feel that those responsible really want to educate us. However, there are others who try to minimize or exaggerate what the scientists can give us. So I think it is important that fact be labeled fact and opinion be labeled opinion.

(Is there anything on how an atomic bomb would affect your city or the people in it that you'd like to know more about?)

Yes.

(What would you like to know more about?)

I would like to know not only how people in given areas would be affected, but also what we can do to most alleviate the effects.

(Anything else?)

I would just like to know anything and everything that would be helpful in alleviating ignorance and facilitating being as calm as possible and as helpful as possible in case of an attack.

(What do you think your city would be like after an attack: do you think it could operate pretty much as usual for the first few days after an atomic bomb hit, or would the city be at a standstill?)

At the moment--if a bomb were dropped tomorrow--the city would be at a stand-still because we have not been prepared or given jobs that would help those surviving to take over for those lost. So we come back again to the importance of civilian defense.

(What do you think things would be like?)

I think there would be panic throughout the city as well as the prescribed destruction within the radius of the bombing; but I do have faith that there are some quick-thinking leaders among us common people who would start thinking and acting as soon as possible.

(About how long do you think it would take the city to start rolling again--with lights and gas on, buses and street cars running, and stores open?)

If preparations have been made so that we all know what our individual jobs are, it should not take longer than a few hours, at least to get the necessary things running in a temporary way.

(What about the people who are still living: what would things be like for them right after an attack?)

Here it depends not only on the preparation, although that will make a big difference, but also on the individuals themselves. The stronger, quick-thinker will take responsibility upon himself and by keeping busy alleviate his own panic; while the uneducated (about the atomic bomb) will fall by the wayside in panic and cause more trouble to the workers than he would be of help.

(If an atomic bomb hit in the center of your city, how far away from where it fell do you think everybody would be killed?)

Within a half a mile radius.

(From what you've heard, what would cause most of the deaths?)

It seems to me the atomic rays.

(Is there anything else about the bomb that would kill or harm people?)

Yes, the danger of falling debris from destroyed buildings, etc.

(Suppose you were standing out in the open: what do you think is the nearest you could be to an atomic explosion and still be safe?)

Probably outside of a three-quarter mile radius if one properly protected himself by getting under something that could protect him from the rays .

(Have you heard or read anything about what a person ought to do for his own safety if there were an atom bomb attack?)

Yes.

(That were some of these things?)

I read that one should throw himself upon the ground and hide his face or crawl under a bed or any such protection, immediately upon hearing the warning or the explosion.

(Do you think you know as much as a person can know now about how to take care of yourself and your family in case of an atomic attack?)

No.

(Are there things you'd like to know more about?)

Yes, as stated above, I would like to know as much as they can teach me so that I can adequately protect myself and help others.

(Do you think anybody in this country really knows very much about what to do in case of an atomic bombing?)

Yes.

(Who would you say really knows about this?)

The scientists who have been studying the effects since before Japan.

(What do you think you'd do if you heard over the radio that your city was in immediate danger of an atomic bomb attack?)

If Civil Defense had already been set up I would do the job that had been assigned to me; but if we still hadn't gotten around to taking this thing seriously, why then I would crawl under a bed with my family and pray.

(What is the first thing you would try to do after the attack?)

I would thank God I was there to do something; and if Civil Defense hadn't provided me with a job to do, I would run across the street to the nearby hospital and offer my services.

(What do you think you would try to do after that?)

Whatever I was told to do by a competent authority.

(Well, how about your neighbors or people generally--do you think they would help each other out, or do you think they'd be mainly concerned with their own safety?)

Once again I think it depends on the individual.

(Why do you say that?)

Being a person who has quite a bit of faith in the inherent goodness of man, I feel that once they realized they were still in one piece most people's next thought would be for the friend and neighbor.

(What do you think would be the most important things that would have to be done in the city right after an attack?)

We would have to be certain that the essentials to living--water supply, etc.--would still be functioning; if not, temporary means must be set up. Then would be care for the living but wounded as well as burial of the dead.

(Anything else?)

There will be numerous other things to be done such as getting our important, if not essential, transportation system, lighting, and so on repaired and operating.

(Whose job would you say it is to get these things done?)

I would say the overall job belongs to all those living and able, but the individual jobs should be allocated amongst the people who have had proper training prior to any attack.

(So far I've been asking you about what an atomic bomb would do to a city and what would happen to people. Now I'd like to talk to you about what might be done to prepare in advance for such an attack. First of all, what about the system of civil defense our cities had in the last war. What did you think of it?)

Civil defense, in terms of what we are talking about now, was non-existent in the last war in my opinion.

(Why?)

By that I do not mean to say that Civil defense was not adequate. At that time I do not feel that anyone really took seriously the threat of an air raid here, except perhaps in the coastal cities such as San Francisco and New York. I was too far removed from them to fully realize what preparations they were making.

(Was there anything you felt was particularly good about it?)

Any effort that was made at least gave the civilian at home the feeling that he, too, had a job to do; but I do not feel that its value extended far beyond that.

(Was there anything else you felt was particularly bad about it?)

No, I didn't feel there was the need for alarm then.

(Did you or any member of your family take any part in it?)

No.

(As far as you know, who is in charge of civil defense in your city now--the state government, the federal government, the city government, or the Army?)

Nobody, since the mayor not only hasn't found anyone yet, but now states there seems to be no hurry.

(How about the way your city is set up now? Do you think it'd be able to do a good job of taking care of people after an atomic attack if it were to happen right now?)

No.

(Why do you say that?)

No efforts have been even begun as yet.

(What do you think ought to be done now to prepare for a possible atomic attack?)

I think shelters should be built, jobs assigned to individuals, and the general public should be bombarded with a thorough educational program on the effects of and their jobs in an atomic attack.

(How do you feel about the things they're doing now to prepare?)

I feel so far it is all talk and no action.

(Why do you feel that way?)

Because nobody, at least in the city of Cleveland, seems to be making any definite steps toward preparation.

(Do you think they should begin a campaign now to get people to work in civil defense?)

Yes, but first get our leader and then give us a plan.

(Do you think this preparation should be the job of the city government, or do you think getting your city ready to take care of an atomic attack should be the job of the Federal Government, the Army, or some other group?)

The city government under an overall plan proposed and perhaps coordinated by the Federal Government.

(Well, which one do you think should take the lead?)

The Federal Government should take the lead so that all cities can begin their own preparation in a unified way, rather than leaving it up to each city's own interest or lethargy.

(What about the American Legion, the Red Cross, and organizations like that--do you think they should play a part in getting your city ready to meet an attack?)

The Red Cross, of course, will be an important part of any such preparation. And all other appropriate organizations should cooperate wherever they can be most useful.

(What do you think they could do?)

They can get their members to offer their services as a unified, already organized group and the civil defense leader in the city can decide where they best fit in--whether as an organization or as individuals.

(Do you think most of the actual work in a civil defense program will have to be done by ordinary people who've had some training, or will most of the work be a job for regular firemen and policemen?)

The actual work, I feel, will have to be shared by all.

(Why do you say that?)

The effects of such a bombing will be so vast that the help of all those who can possibly help will be needed.

(Do you think ordinary people can do a good enough job?)

Yes, if they have been prepared ahead of time.

(Why do you feel that way?)

Because who are the regular firemen and policemen but ordinary people who have been trained for a job?

(Here's a list of jobs that might have to be done in such a program:

1. fighting fires
2. watching for and reporting fires
3. spotting airplanes
4. getting children and old people out of danger areas
5. giving first aid to injured and burned people
6. rescuing people from wrecked buildings

Which do you think you could do or could be trained to do?)

I feel I could be trained for any one of them, but probably giving first aid would be more in my line.

(Would there be anything that would worry you about doing these jobs?)

Not if I had the confidence that my training was adequate.

(What if this work had to be done in places where there were a lot of dead and injured people and where there could be danger from fire and atomic rays--under these conditions how would you feel about taking part in civil defense work?)

If I had a job to do I would do it as long as I felt it was necessary and helpful; for in a situation like this one cannot merely think of one's self.

(Are there any things in your work or personal life that might make it hard for you to work in civil defense or keep you from doing it?)

No.

(What about a set-up where certain people would take care of children and sick people so that everybody else could work on civil defense. Would you be willing to go along with a plan like this, or do you feel the best thing you could do would be to stick with your own family?)

I feel that my first desire would be to stick with my own family, but that the best and most efficient thing would be a set-up such as you suggest. I would go along with it in view of the seriousness of any such situation.

(All in all, do you think all this preparation for civil defense can really do any good if there's an atomic attack?)

Yes.

(To close now, do you find this topic of atomic bombing interesting, or do you wish there weren't so much talk about it?)

I don't like the talk, but the more talk the better.

(Why do you feel that way?)

Because we cannot be ostriches and hide our heads in the sand. It is far better to be prepared and not to have to use the preparation than to find out that it is too little too late.

This interview was taken in a midwestern urban center. The respondent is an insurance broker, is over sixty, and is married. He has a ninth-grade education and an income over \$5000. He is a member of a fraternal organization and of a professional group, has voted in the last two local elections, and is favorable in his attitude toward his city.

(How do you feel about the way things are going here in this country these days?)

I am very concerned.

(How do you mean?)

All this has brought on a little nervous breakdown on my part. I think we have an irresponsible government running the country. You don't know what is going to happen, you can't adjust yourself, and you can't make plans.

(Are there any other things that are happening here in this country that upset or disturb you?)

Yes.

(What things are you disturbed about?)

Those officers of the unions are to blame for much of our domestic troubles. People building a home are always troubled with the unions. A home could be built in three months, but you are fortunate if you can get it built in nine or ten months; it is due to strikes of the labor unions.

(How much would you say you've been bothered or worried about things in this country--very much, quite a bit, some, just a little, or not much?)

Very much.

(How do you feel about what's happening in the world these days?)

Of course the farther away you are from what is happening in the world the less you think about it. I don't believe our boys have any right to be over in Korea. I haven't given too much thought to the rest of the world—we should just leave them alone. Let those countries take care of themselves.

(Are there any other things about what's happening in the world today that have upset or disturbed you?)

Nothing else.

(What things are you disturbed about?)

This Formosa business is bothering me; we shouldn't turn it over to the Reds. MacArthur knows what it is all about and he will take care of things.

(How much would you say you've been bothered or worried about things in the world--very much, quite a bit, some, just a little, or not much?)

Some.

(Which would you say has bothered you or been on your mind most: the way things are going in this country or the way things are going in the world generally?)

This Korea business bothers me personally. It shows the trends the government is taking and that isn't right. I don't believe the American people are in favor of it.

(Speaking of world affairs, how likely do you think it is that we're in for another world war--no question about it, very likely, probably, about a fifty-fifty chance, probably not, very unlikely, or absolutely not?)

Probably not.

(Why do you feel that way?)

I don't know if this country could stand another war. I guess that's about all. Russia may give us trouble if we are looking for it. If we leave them alone they will leave us alone.

(If war does come, do you think it's likely to happen in the next six months, the next year or two, or when?)

Couple of years at least.

(If you were asked at the present time to work on a civil defense project, like learning to fight fires or taking care of people wounded in a bombing attack, and so on, how would you feel about it?)

I don't think it is necessary for everyone to help.

(Why would you feel that way?)

I saw so much rubbish in the last war that didn't mean anything, so I don't feel it is necessary and it will just be a waste of time. If you had to do it that would be different. It is just the doings of the bureaucrats to make you think it is more serious than it is.

(Are there any things in civil defense you feel you would be willing to do?)

Only if I am forced to help or it was definitely necessary, not just created.

(In case we have another world war, how well do you think the Army and Air Forces could do in preventing air attacks on our cities?)

I think eventually they would, but at first they would be out of luck.

(What makes you say that?)

The country is pretty big and probably it is physically impossible to protect it all with the equipment we have now. You have just so much equipment and it will protect just so much territory.

(All in all, would you say the Army and Air Forces could protect our cities completely, protect them from heavy damage, or wouldn't be able to prevent heavy damage?)

Other countries couldn't prevent it so how can we? Germany had a fine air force and they couldn't prevent it. We would have heavy damage.

(If the United States is attacked, do you think our cities are likely to be hit with atomic bombs?)

Probably eastern cities.

(Why do you feel that way?)

They probably have a system where they could hurl it by aircraft or from the sea. But we have the production and ability to stop it.

(What about your city? Do you think it would be bombed?)

I don't think it would be profitable for them.

(Do you think your city is more likely or less likely to be attacked than other big cities?)

Even chance, being an inland city.

(Why do you say that?)

You would think they would want to do more military damage. Chicago is spread out and the factories aren't in the city anymore. They're on the outskirts of the city. The city has no military value to make it a target for bombing. If the bomb is as they say, by putting one in the lake it would affect the water of the lake and do harm.

(In case we have another world war, do you think your city will be in danger from any other kind of enemy activities or attacks?)

It would be tried.

(What kinds?)

If they could do something to cripple electric and utility companies, that would do the trick and would be a major hamper to industries.

(How about an enemy purposely spreading germs, or what they call biological warfare: do you think there would be any danger like that to your city?)

They might, but you can't say how successful it would be because of the big area the city covers.

(How about poison gas, or what they call chemical warfare?)

No.

(Of all these--germs, atomic bombs, poison gas, sabotage--which do you think is most likely to be used?)

Sabotage.

(Which one do you think would be the most terrible?)

Sabotage.

(Why do you feel that way?)

There are people in this country in the last twenty years that have developed hatred against America and they would like to get at big industry just generally. A lot of labor heads would like to get back at business.

(Suppose an atomic bomb were dropped in the center of your city. What do you think would be the results?)

It is hard to visualize--I just wouldn't know. They are greatly publicized, but in reality you don't know how they would work out.

(Do you think it would be any different from an attack with ordinary bombs?)

Apparently.

(In what ways would it be different?)

We have no knowledge of the A-bomb except from one place: that is a Japanese city. It did such a large amount of damage over so much greater area than ordinary bombs did.

(What do you think would happen to the people?)

If they had a chance they would leave the city. I just wouldn't know.

(Have you heard of radioactivity or atomic rays or something like that in connection with the bomb?)

Yes, I read it.

(What have you heard about it?)

It seems that the particles the bombs are made up of will travel through the air for some distance.

(What else have you heard that these rays do to people?)

Just from reading: it will make different kinds of burns on the human body. I'm not up on that; I'm just not interested in it.

(About how far away from where the bomb falls do you think these rays would be dangerous?)

Perhaps fifty miles.

(How long after a bomb explodes do you think these rays are dangerous to people?)

Immediately and for several weeks after.

(Is there any way at all of finding out whether or not these rays are around?)

Yes.

(How do you mean?)

They have testing machines or instruments.

(Do you think anybody in this country really knows very much about what an atomic bomb would do to a city?)

I doubt it. I even doubt that scientists know; they would have to have an actual test.

(In the last year or so, have you read or heard anything about the effects of atomic bombs?)

No.

(Is there anything on how an atomic bomb would affect your city or the people in it that you'd like to know more about?)

No.

(What do you think your city would be like after an attack: do you think it could operate pretty much as usual for the first few days after an atomic bomb hit, or would the city be at a stand-still?)

It would be at a stand-still.

(What do you think things would be like?)

If it was an A-bomb it would affect the whole city, with no utilities, lights out, no water. It is a pretty big city made of stone and steel and I don't know if it could do all that damage, as they say. I don't think it will be as bad as they say.

(About how long do you think it would take the city to start rolling again--with lights and gas on, buses and street cars running, and stores open?)

Because of radiation, it depends on how long it would take to get rid of the effects of it. I couldn't say any definite time.

(What about the people who are still living: what would things be like for them right after an attack?)

Well, it may have the same effect on the people as the Chicago fire had--confusion and so forth--but I doubt that it would be that bad. I just haven't read anything on the A-bomb.

(If an atomic bomb hit in the center of your city, how far away from where it fell do you think everybody would be killed?)

I would say a mile.

(From what you've heard, what would cause most of the deaths?)

The radiation and burns caused by it.

(Is there anything else about the bomb that would kill or harm people?)

The direct blowing up perhaps, the eruption of the bomb.

(Suppose you were standing out in the open: what do you think is the nearest you could be to an atomic explosion and still be safe?)

Ten miles.

(Have you heard or read anything about what a person ought to do for his own safety if there were an atom bomb attack?)

Yes.

(What were some of these things?)

Try to get underground--in the cellar, they say.

(Do you think you know as much as a person can know now about how to take care of yourself and your family in case of an atomic attack?)

No.

(Are there things you'd like to know more about?)

No.

(Do you think anybody in this country really knows very much about what to do in case of an atomic bombing?)

No.

(What do you think you'd do if you heard over the radio that your city was in immediate danger of an atomic bomb attack?)

Make a run for the country.

(Suppose you were in the city during the bombing: what do you think would be the first thing you'd try to do after the attack?)

There would be too much confusion to do much. I would try to get out of the city.

(What do you think you would try to do after that?)

Never having been in a position like that, I wouldn't know.

(Well, how about your neighbors or people generally--do you think they would help each other out, or do you think they'd be mainly concerned with their own safety?)

I think there will be a lot of help.

(Why do you say that?)

I think the American people are inclined to help in an emergency of any kind.

(What do you think would be the most important things that would have to be done in the city right after an attack?)

Well, somehow or other to get rid of the effects of the bomb. Try to get things in order and take care of the wounded.

(Anything else?)

I can't think of anything.

(Whose job would you say it is to get these things done?)

City officials and other leaders developed for that kind of an emergency and the people themselves.

(So far I've been asking you about what an atomic bomb would do to a city and what would happen to people. Now I'd like to talk to you about what might be done to prepare in advance for such an attack. First of all, what about the system of civil defense our cities had in the last war. What did you think of it?)

Nothing, absolutely nothing. It was the most foolish thing they did. It was just a lot of bunk.

(Was there anything you felt was particularly good about it?)

Nothing that I could see.

(Was there anything you felt was particularly bad about it?)

The things I saw, like the wardens chasing balloons, and just everything. The wardens and everyone just didn't know what they were doing. I just thought it was all foolish.

(Did you or any member of your family take any part in it?)

No.

(As far as you know, who is in charge of civil defense in your city now-- the state government, the federal government, the city government, or the Army?)

The city.

(How about the way your city is set up now? Do you think it'd be able to do a good job of taking care of people after an atomic attack if it were to happen right now?)

Fairly well.

(Why do you say that?)

The city is well organized for emergencies, whether it is a fire or an explosion or any disaster that may happen. I don't mean the city so much as private institutions and business places.

(What do you think ought to be done now to prepare for a possible atomic attack?)

Nothing that I can foresee.

(How do you feel about the things they're doing now to prepare?)

I have no knowledge of anything being done.

(Do you think they should begin a campaign now to get people to work in civil defense?)

I'm against it, but I believe in preventing wars. This preparation is all unnecessary.

(Do you think this preparation should be the job of the city government, or do you think getting your city ready to take care of an atomic attack should be the job of the Federal Government, the Army, or some other group?)

Private groups, or better yet, industrial leaders. Politicians do more talk than action.

(Why?)

Whenever there are politicians in it there is always a mess. They just want votes and what they can gain; they don't have the people's interest at heart. Private industry can do a better job.

(What about the American Legion, the Red Cross, and organizations like that--do you think they should play a part in getting your city ready to meet an attack?)

No.

(What do you think they could do?)

I don't think either one is capable of doing much good or help in any way. The Red Cross is too much of a political group.

(Do you think most of the actual work in a civil defense program will have to be done by ordinary people who've had some training, or will most of the work be a job for regular firemen and policemen?)

Ordinary people will have to help.

(Why do you say that?)

The policemen and firemen don't have enough men and it isn't a big enough organization; it would be too immense for them.

(Do you think ordinary people can do a good enough job?)

Yes.

(Why do you feel that way?)

They always have been able to. That has been demonstrated in the past in other disorders.

(Here's a list of jobs that might have to be done in such a program:

1. fighting fires.
2. watching for and reporting fires.
3. spotting airplanes.
4. getting children and old people out of danger areas.
5. giving first aid to injured and burned people.
6. rescuing people from wrecked buildings.

Which do you think you could do or could be trained to do?)

Getting children and old people out of danger areas.

(Would there be anything that would worry you about doing these jobs?)

No.

(What if this work had to be done in places where there were a lot of dead and injured people and where there could be danger from fire and atomic rays--under these conditions how would you feel about taking part in civil defense work?)

If it had to be done, I feel I would have to do it the same as the rest of them.

(Are there any things in your work or personal life that might make it hard for you to do work in civil defense or keep you from doing it?)

No.

(All in all, do you think all this preparation for civil defense can really do any good if there's an atomic attack?)

I doubt it, because there is nothing known about it or how to prepare against it in a city like Chicago or a modern city.

(To close now, do you find this topic of atomic bombing interesting, or do you wish there weren't so much talk about it?)

I don't care to hear about it.

(Why do you feel that way?)

I feel the whole thing is unnecessary if we mind our own business and stay out of everyone else's business. Wars could be prevented. If George Washington was alive today and we followed his doctrines, the American people wouldn't have to fear A-bombs or war with other countries.

This sixty-two year old housewife was interviewed in a large eastern community. She is an immigrant from Ireland and has a ninth-grade education. Her husband is a linotype operator and their income, including rentals, is over \$5000. They belong to a church club and her husband is a member of a union. She voted in the last two local elections and is favorable in her attitude toward the city in which she lives.

(How do you feel about the way things are going here in this country these days?)

Well, it's not too good. Not with all the problems we have these days.

(How do you mean?)

Well, there's this war business and the young men being sent to Korea. And the cost of living is right out of this world.

(Are there any other things that are happening here in this country that upset or disturb you?)

Yes. The graft of the politicians and the police, too.

(Anything else?)

Yes. All the terrible things the politicians say about each other. It's a shame people have so much hate in their hearts.

(How much would you say you've been bothered or worried about things in this country--very much, quite a bit, some, just a little, or not much?)

Some. I could worry lots more, but if I do I'll make myself sick and that's foolish.

(How do you feel about what's happening in the world these days?)

Just the same--only worse. It's downright bad, I think.

(What do you have in mind?)

The war. The way the savages are killing our people in Korea.

(Are there any other things about what's happening in the world today that have upset or disturbed you?)

Yes. The way Vishinsky and Molotov treat the Americans at the U. N. It turns my stomach to hear it.

(Anything else?)

Well, the way the foreigners are spending the money we send them--- and the way it makes our taxes jump.

(How much would you say you've been bothered or worried about things in the world---very much, quite a bit, some, just a little, or not much?)

Plenty worried. Say quite a bit.

(Which would you say has bothered you or been on your mind most: the way things are going in this country or the way things are going in the world generally?)

It's all together, to me. But I guess the world conditions are worse.

(Speaking of world affairs, how likely do you think it is that we're in for another world war--no question about it, very likely, probably, about a fifty-fifty chance, probably not, very unlikely, or absolutely not?)

Aren't we in it already? I think we're in the third world war right now.

(Why do you feel that way?)

Well, I can't see why my nephews are being drafted, unless the government thinks this Korean war is the opening gun of a world war.

(If war does come, do you think it's likely to happen in the next six months, the next year or two, or when?)

As I see it, it's likely to happen tomorrow--or next week.

(If you were asked at the present time to work on a civil defense project, like learning to fight fires or taking care of people wounded in a bombing attack, and so on, how would you feel about it?)

If I could be of use I'd help.

(Why would you feel that way?)

I think we'll all have to help. That's our duty. We have to do what we can.

(How would you feel about giving a few hours a week for at least six months to learning this kind of work?)

I'm no good at learning. Can't seem to keep my mind on it. But I can help some way, I know.

(Are there any things in civil defense you feel you would be willing to do?)

I heard they might need women to work in nurseries or cook. I can do that; I'd be good at it.

(In case we have another world war, how well do you think the Army and Air Forces could do in preventing air attacks on our cities?)

They'd try--they'd do their best. But I don't know if they could prevent it entirely.

(What makes you say that?)

Those Russians are so tricky. How do we know they haven't got some bombs right here in this country now? It would be just like them to sneak a few in here.

(All in all, would you say the Army and Air Forces could protect our cities completely, protect them from heavy damage, or wouldn't be able to prevent heavy damage?)

I don't know that. It would all depend on how they were equipped to fight--how many planes there were and how much radar was used. (Interviewer asks respondent if she could say how she really feels about this question.) If I did do that, I'd say we don't need to worry because we have the finest air force in the world. Only I do anyway because the Russians are so sneaky.

(If the United States is attacked, do you think our cities are likely to be hit with atomic bombs?)

Oh yes, you can be sure of that. If the Russians have the bombs, they won't come over here and leave the bombs at home.

(Why do you feel that way?)

If they come over here they'll try to scare us. They'll try to kill as many of us as they can--quick, right off--to discourage us.

(What about your city? Do you think it would be bombed?)

I suppose so. Yes.

(Do you think your city is more likely or less likely to be attacked than other big cities?)

More likely, I guess.

(Why do you say that?)

Well, all the talking Russia does about the capitalists and the Wall Street gang. Wouldn't she love to drop a bomb on them? Give her real pleasure to do that.

(In case we have another world war, do you think your city will be in danger from any other kind of enemy activities or attacks?)

Yes.

(What kinds?)

The spies, the Russian agents in this country. They'd try to sabotage everything to hinder us from fighting well.

(How about an enemy purposely spreading germs, or what they call biological warfare: do you think there would be any danger like that to your city?)

I don't think so, no. Because our doctors know more about that than the Russians do, and they know that we'd go right over to Russia and drop worse germs. If they ever did that, we'd have to have our revenge on them.

(How about poison gas, or what they call chemical warfare?)

No, I think they'd skip that, too. The atom bomb is deadlier and kills people quicker.

(Of all these--germs, atomic bombs, poison gas, sabotage--which do you think is most likely to be used?)

The atom bomb.

(Which one do you think would be the most terrible?)

The atom bomb.

(Why do you feel that way?)

Well, it's terrific. All those reports about Hiroshima can't be lies. The atom bomb is right out of this world.

(Suppose an atomic bomb were dropped in the center of your city. What do you think would be the results?)

Ruin, destruction, panic, mass killings. It would be terrible.

(Do you think it would be any different from an attack with ordinary bombs?)

Yes, of course.

(In what ways would it be different?)

It spreads so much further and kills so many more people. You know, though, in a way it's more merciful. Better to have one bomb than to have little bombs dropping all over the place night after night. This way you'd be scared, but you wouldn't have to expect to meet your Maker every day. Those atom bombs are so expensive they can't have too many of them to use.

(What do you think would happen to the people?)

God help us all. We'd either be killed or have our family or friends killed, I'm sure. Everyone would be in despair; everyone would be affected.

(Anything else?)

No, except that it would be like the end of the world.

(Have you heard of radioactivity or atomic rays or something like that in connection with the bomb?)

Yes, I read about that.

(What have you heard about it?)

They burn--burn terribly. They can kill you if the blast doesn't.

(What else have you heard that these rays do to people?)

They blind them--and burn the clothes off their backs and the flesh off their bones.

(About how far away from where the bomb falls do you think these rays would be dangerous?)

I think it's about two miles.

(How long after a bomb explodes do you think these rays are dangerous to people?)

I don't know that. Maybe for a day or two--but it seems to me I read that they keep getting weaker.

(Is there any way at all of finding out whether or not these rays are around?)

Yes--a machine. I forget what they call it.

(How do you mean?)

It's like a thermometer, I think. It tells how many rays are around and how strong the rays are.

(Do you think anybody in this country really knows very much about what an atomic bomb would do to a city?)

Surely. The men who went into Japan after the bombs were dropped.

(Who would really know?)

I think it was the Army that went in--or was it the Marines? And of course Mr. Lilienthal and his workers should know that, too.

(In the last year or so, have you read or heard anything about the effects of atom bombs?)

Yes. I read a story in the magazine about it.

(What sort of things have you read or heard?)

It told what would happen if a bomb fell in New York City. I think it was kind of exaggerated, though.

(Where have you read or heard about these things?)

I forget if was the Saturday Evening Post or Colliers. It was a few weeks ago.

(Do you think these things you've heard or read give you a good idea of what would happen if an atom bomb hit?)

Yes. At least they give me some idea, even if the men who wrote those stories did exaggerate.

(Why do you say that?)

Well, it gave me a good healthy scare. It made me realize how serious it could be.

(Is there anything on how an atomic bomb would affect your city or the people in it that you'd like to know more about?)

No, it would just worry me. If one comes, then I'll do what I can to help other people--always presupposing the good Lord spares me when the bomb falls. But I'm not going to get myself all excited and looking for trouble.

(Why is that?)

I only work well when I'm not nervous. I kind of have to have something hit me quick; then I'm calm and sensible. But if I go worrying about things before they happen, I make myself sick and I'm no good at all.

(What do you think your city would be like after an attack: do you think it could operate pretty much as usual for the first few days after an atomic bomb hit, or would the city be at a stand-still?)

Oh my, no! It wouldn't operate at all. It would be at a dead stand-still.

(What do you think things would be like?)

Terrible. It would be a mass of ruins. And the people, God help them, would be killed or badly injured. Those that were spared would be almost crazy from the shock and the horror. Like lost souls--no place to go--, they'd wish they'd been killed, too. If a bomb falls, a lot of people who never believed in Hell will believe in it all of a sudden.

(About how long do you think it would take the city to start rolling again--with lights and gas on, buses and street cars running, and stores open?)

Months. Maybe a year. Section by section they'd have to work on it. Some sections might be cleared up faster than others, but I think it would take at least a year before the whole city was running nice and smooth again. That doesn't mean rebuilding, you know. Rebuilding will take about twenty or thirty years.

(What about the people who are still living: what would things be like for them right after an attack?)

I told you they'd be like lost souls--souls who had seen hell. I think there'd be lots of them who wouldn't want to go on living; they'd probably commit suicide. But of course, too, there'd be some who'd run away--as far as they could get from New York--to save their own skins. That's an animal instinct, I heard. But it comes out more in some people than it does in others. Some people would probably go crazy, too.

(If an atomic bomb hit in the center of your city, how far away from where it fell do you think everybody would be killed?)

I think I heard it was within a half mile. Is that right?

(From what you've heard, what would cause most of the deaths?)

Burns. The heat of the blast and the rays, too. In New York we'd also have another danger. The skyscrapers would be tumbling and the steel and the bricks and the stones would perhaps kill more people than the burns or the rays would.

(Is there anything else about the bomb that would kill or harm people?)

Well, there's no gas in it from what I've heard. But it would contaminate all the food and the water so it would be poisonous.

(Suppose you were standing out in the open: what do you think is the nearest you could be to an atomic explosion and still be safe?)

Well, let's see. If it can kill at half a mile, say ten times that to be safe. I'd say maybe five miles away you'd be safe.

(Have you heard or read anything about what a person ought to do for his own safety if there were an atom bomb attack?)

Yes. Get down on the ground or the floor, and get under something if you can.

(Anything else?)

Yes. Stay where you are till you're told it's safe to move. And keep your eyes covered. Wash yourself as fast as you can.

(Do you think you know as much as a person can know now about how to take care of yourself and your family in case of an atomic attack?)

I'd just go down cellar with my husband, if the bomb came now. I think the President is going to send people directions on what to do, though. Right now I don't know much.

(Are there things you'd like to know more about?)

Just how to help. Us--and our neighbors, too. If there's a bomb and God spares me, I'll know he means me to try to help others. And I'll do it, just to thank Him for saving me.

(Do you think anybody in this country really knows very much about what to do in case of an atomic bombing?)

The experts must know.

(Who would you say really knows about this?)

The Army generals. And the doctors who are studying it. The men who work with atoms, and maybe the Red Cross disaster unit.

(What do you think you'd do if you heard over the radio that your city was in immediate danger of an atomic bomb attack?)

I'd get my husband and go right down cellar and stay there till the "All clear" sounded.

(Suppose you were in the city during the bombing: what do you think would be the first thing you'd try to do after the attack?)

I'd do whatever I was told to do by the people in charge. All the stores must have people who will be in charge of the customers if there's a bombing.

(What do you think you would try to do after that?)

I'd do as I was told to do. I could cook or help nurse the wounded, or I could even run errands. I'm sixty-two, but my feet, thank God, don't bother me so I could walk all right. Because of course the bus wouldn't be running.

(Well, how about your neighbors or people generally--do you think they would help each other out, or do you think they'd be mainly concerned with their own safety?)

Oh yes, they'd see to their own families first; that's human nature. But as soon as they could they'd help their neighbors and friends.

(Why do you say that?)

Because I've lived here nineteen years and I know these people. I know that they always go to the aid of people when there is trouble.

(What do you think would be the most important things that would have to be done in the city right after an attack?)

Everyone would have to do the job they could do best. The firemen and policemen would have to put out fires and protect the people. And the men would probably have to help clear the streets of rubble because the ambulances would have to get through. The men would also have to try to rescue people who were hit by falling buildings. The women could help by taking care of the injured and by trying to see that families found each other. There'd be plenty of work for everybody.

(Anything else?)

Well, the children would have to be cared for--and the old people.

(Whose job would you say it is to get these things done?)

It's everybody's job. At a time like that everyone would have to help.

(So far I've been asking you about what an atomic bomb would do to a city and what would happen to people. Now I'd like to talk to you about what might be done to prepare in advance for such an attack. First of all, what about the system of civil defense our cities had in the last war. What did you think of it?)

It was pretty good out here.

(Why?)

Well, our wardens were very strict. And the families who thought it was smart not to obey the instructions soon found out that their own neighbors didn't stand for that nonsense, so they got into line and followed orders like the rest of us. They had to, or they'd have been in trouble with all of us. War's no time for fooling or shooting off your mouth.

(Was there anything you felt was particularly good about it?)

Yes, the cooperation between the wardens and the people.

(Was there anything you felt was particularly bad about it?)

No, except that when nothing happened a lot of the workers got tired of it and dropped out.

(Did you or any member of your family take part in it?)

No. In this neighborhood it was the young men around thirty or forty years old who worked on it. My husband had high blood pressure even then so he couldn't help.

(As far as you know, who is in charge of civil defense in your city now--the state government, the federal government, the city government, or the Army?)

I think it is the city and the federal government. That Dewey, he's not interested in stuff like that. He only wants to grab the money and speak at dinners at the swank hotels.

(How about the way your city is set up now? Do you think it'd be able to do a good job of taking care of people after an atomic attack if it were to happen right now?)

No, not now. It's not ready yet. It's just getting started on the work.

(Why do you say that?)

Because I read that Mr. Wallender is going to run it and he's asking now for volunteers. Just this week he asked that.

(What do you think ought to be done now to prepare for a possible atomic attack?)

Everything that can be done to help keep people safe: shelters, and telling us what to do, and telling us what to expect, too.

(How do you feel about the things they're doing now to prepare?)

Well; so far, they're just asking for volunteers. I think that's good, certainly.

(Why do you feel that way?)

Because if those sneaky Russians ever bomb us, we'll need plenty of volunteers who know what their job is and know how to do it.

(Do you think they should begin a campaign now to get people to work in civil defense?)

Of course. That's what I've been saying.

(Do you think this preparation should be the job of the city government, or do you think getting your city ready to take care of an atomic attack should be the job of the Federal Government, the Army, or some other group?)

I think it should be the city and the Federal Government together.

(Why?)

Because the Federal Government has more trained people--all the military and the scientists. They can teach the people in the cities what to do.

(Well, which one do you think should take the lead?)

The Federal Government, by all means.

(Why?)

Because even though there's a lot of complaining and ridiculing of the government in the papers, most people have more faith in the Federal Government than in the city government.

(What about the American Legion, the Red Cross, and organizations like that--do you think they should play a part in getting your city ready to meet an attack?)

The Red Cross, yes. I don't know about the Legion, though. I think of them more as marchers and running bazaars. I don't think they're too serious-minded.

(That do you think they could do?)

Whatever they're fitted for; that's what they can do best. And that's what they should do.

(Do you think most of the actual work in a civil defense program will have to be done by ordinary people who've had some training, or will most of the work be a job for regular firemen and policemen?)

Everybody should help. The government, the officials, the police and the firemen, the doctors and nurses, the people who are trained, and the ordinary people like me. We can all help.

(Why do you say that?)

Because there'll be work to do. And in a time like that, I think most people will be willing to take orders. Everybody can't be the boss. It's workers, not bosses, that will be needed.

(Do you think ordinary people can do a good enough job?)

Yes, I do. -I think that with everybody working and taking orders from the people who are trained, we can help a lot to save lives and get our city running again.

(Why do you feel that way?)

Because I think people--most people--are very decent; they'll work hard and pull together if there's real trouble.

(Here's a list of jobs that might have to be done in such a program:

1. fighting fires
2. watching for and reporting fires
3. spotting airplanes
4. getting children and old people out of danger areas
5. giving first aid to injured and burned people
6. rescuing people from wrecked buildings

Which do you think you could do or could be trained to do?)

I could get children and old people out and I could take care of the injured.

(Would there be anything that would worry you about doing these jobs?)

No. Women could do that. Those are jobs for women and I could help that way.

(What if this work had to be done in places where there a lot of dead and injured people and where there could be danger from fire and atomic rays-- under these conditions how would you feel about taking part in civil defense work?)

If God spared me when the bomb went off, I'd feel he had work for me to do and he'd take care of me while I was doing it. I'd still want to help and I'd have faith in Him to help me through.

(Are there any things in your work or personal life that might make it hard for you to do work in civil defense or keep you from doing it?)

No. My husband has high blood pressure, but I'd see he was safe before I left him. And I'm healthy myself. I'd be able to help, I'm sure.

(What about a set-up where certain people would take care of children and sick people so that everybody else could work on civil defense. Would you be willing to go along with a plan like this, or do you feel the best thing you could do would be to stick with your own family?)

Yes, that would be good. Now, that could be a place for older women to work: women older than me or women whose feet hurt them so they can't be very active.

(Why do you feel that way?)

To tell the truth, if that's what I was asked to do, I'd bring my husband right along with me. Then he could help, too, and I could keep an eye on him at the same time. We'd both be able to feel we weren't a couple of old crocks.

(All in all, do you think all this preparation for civil defense can really do any good if there's an atomic attack?)

Of course. The Lord helps those who help themselves. We can't just sit and wring our hands--that's very silly.

(To close now, do you find this topic of atomic bombing interesting, or do you wish there weren't so much talk about it?)

Usually I don't like to talk about it, but today I did like it. You've been asking about how people can help if it comes. Most times I hear about it, I hear nothing but horrible things--like I'm going to be blown into little bits, or my clothes will be burned off me and I'll be lying naked in the streets. That talk I don't like.

(Why do you feel that way?)

There's enough trouble in the world without trying to scare people to death.

This young woman was interviewed in a large east coast city. She is married, lives with her parents, and is working toward a Master's degree in a city college. She earns between \$2000 and \$2999 a year as a stenographer. She belongs to no formal or informal organizations, voted in one of the last two local elections, and likes the city in which she lives.

(How do you feel about the way things are going here in this country these days?)

Generally, the standard of living is being depressed.

(How do you mean?)

The trend is in that direction. When you have rising prices, and high taxes, that's what happens.

(Are there any things that are happening here in this country that upset or disturb you?)

The fear engendered in people is such that they are practically unwilling to express themselves freely.

(Anything else?)

Fear of war, in combination with what I've said before.

(How much would you say you've been bothered or worried about things in this country--very much, quite a bit, some, just a little, or not much?)

I would say very much, or quite a bit.

(How do you feel about what's happening in the world these days?)

I feel that generally you find the same condition in the European or Westernized world. About the Eastern areas, we don't know very much. But the standard of living there has also been depressed. There is no freedom of speech and the trend is toward totalitarianism.

(Are there any things about what's happening in the world today that have upset or disturbed you?)

Yes.

(What things are you disturbed about?)

I think I could apply essentially the same analysis. The trend is toward a static condition rather than progress toward more liberty.

(How much would you say you've been bothered or worried about things in the world--very much, quite a bit, some, just a little, or not much?)

Very much.

(Which would you say has bothered you or been on your mind most: the way things are going in this country or the way things are going in the world generally?)

I think there is a complete interrelation, and I naturally couldn't separate them. But of course what happens here upsets me more, personally.

(Speaking of world affairs, how likely do you think it is that we're in for another world war--no question about it, very likely, probably, about a fifty-fifty chance, probably not, very unlikely, or absolutely not?)

There is a time element involved. To my mind I would say it appears to be fifty-fifty.

(Why do you feel that way?)

I say that because I feel war is not desirable for this country or the world in general, but there is always a possibility. That means, essentially, that one is thrust into war but doesn't desire it.

(If war does come, do you think it's likely to happen in the next six months, the next year or two, or when?)

I'd give it another two years. It's not an immediate possibility.

(If you were asked at the present time to work on a civil defense project, like learning to fight fires or taking care of people wounded in a bombing attack, and so on, how would you feel about it?)

I don't foresee a situation which would require it. Past wars have never been fought here, and I don't see it now.

(Why do you feel that way?)

Certainly if you saw people injured you wouldn't go off into a hermitage and stay there.

(How would you feel about giving a few hours a week for at least six months to learning this kind of work?)

Because I don't foresee the likelihood of a war here, I can't answer that.

(In case we have another world war, how well do you think the Army and Air Forces could do in preventing air attacks on our cities?)

I don't know how it's constituted at present, but I imagine the possibilities for defense are good.

(What makes you say that?)

I can't conceive of an air attack on us. European countries aren't equipped for it.

(All in all, would you say the Army and Air Forces could protect our cities completely, protect them from heavy damage, or wouldn't be able to prevent heavy damage?)

If one conceives of the possibility of an air attack on us, counter-attack is not very effective. I don't know what scientific advances have been made and I am therefore not equipped to answer that question.

(If the United States is attacked, do you think our cities are likely to be hit with atomic bombs?)

I don't think so.

(Why do you feel that way?)

Well, this is completely opinion and I don't know how much weight it carries: when you think of war, you think of war with Russia, and I don't think Russia is equipped. Whether or not the Eastern bloc has the A-bomb is merely conjecture.

(What about your city? Do you think it would be bombed?)

When we heard about the Korean war I still stayed in New York; I didn't run off to a hole somewhere in the Rockies. I guess this shows that I didn't think it likely.

(Do you think your city is more likely or less likely to be attacked than other big cities?)

There would be two answers: Perhaps if one conceives of an attack on New York it would have a bad psychological effect. But other cities, highly industrialized, would be more vulnerable.

(In case we have another world war, do you think your city will be in danger from any other kind of enemy activities or attacks?)

Yes.

(What kinds?)

Sabotage is a possibility.

(How about an enemy purposely spreading germs, or what they call biological warfare: do you think there would be any danger like that to your city?)

I don't think so. There could be immediate retaliation by our using the atom bomb, and that would be too dangerous for an enemy to play with.

(How about poison gas, or what they call chemical warfare?)

That's a possibility.

(Of all these--germs, atomic bombs, poison gas, sabotage--which do you think is most likely to be used?)

You seem to be constantly taking me away from my original argument that the war wouldn't be fought here. All kinds of warfare are terrible and I can't think of them in degrees. Whether you kill a hundred at a time or two is not the point.

(Suppose an atomic bomb were dropped in the center of your city. What do you think would be the results?)

The only evidence we have is Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I imagine something similar and more destructive, because of concentration of tall buildings and the general congestion. In a political sense, however, it might tend more than anything else to arouse the people against the enemy.

(Do you think it would be any different from an attack with ordinary bombs?)

Yes.

(In what ways would it be different?)

The A-bomb is more dangerous and naturally would cause much more destruction. I can't predict what would happen in the United States. Of course the psychological effect would also be much greater.

(What do you think would happen to the people?)

If there were any people left, you mean. Those not incapacitated immediately would certainly fight rather than give in as they did in Japan. But of course in Japan the atom bomb was preceded by a rather lengthy war.

(Anything else?)

Nothing else I can think of.

(Have you heard of radioactivity or atomic rays or something like that in connection with the bomb?)

Yes.

(What have you heard about it?)

Just what I've read in newspapers and a few articles in magazines. The impression I get is that it's quite devastating, and that the greater danger is in its lingering after-effects.

(What have you heard that these rays do to people?)

I've seen pictures of the victims in Japan--of the burns, of the devastation, of the destruction of agricultural growth. I've read the biological consequences--sterility and so on.

(About how far away from where the bomb falls do you think these rays would be dangerous?)

About five miles away.

(How long after a bomb explodes do you think these rays are dangerous to people?)

Several months. I got the impression that it was many months.

(Is there any way at all of finding out whether or not these rays are around?)

Yes.

(How do you mean?)

There are Geiger counters. (Laughs) I've read of a more efficient one advertised in a pocket size.

(Do you think anybody in this country really knows very much about what an atomic bomb would do to a city?)

I should imagine so.

(Who would really know?)

Atomic scientists who were on the mission to Bikini where the effects were observed, in the time limits allowed. From what the effects were in a rural area or an island it can be judged what would happen in a city.

(In the last year or so, have you read or heard anything about the effects of atomic bombs?)

Yes.

(What sort of things have you read or heard?)

I've read articles in newspapers. I've read Arms and the Man. I've seen something in the "Times" or the "Tribune" on the atomic explosion in Russia. I've read a book review--I think it was on Atomic Warfare by somebody. The review was a two-column letter by Louis Mumford, I think in the "New York Times," in which he took objection to the fact that the United States seemed to be mobilizing for all-out atomic warfare without taking other armaments into sufficient account.

(Do you think these things you've heard or read give you a good idea of what would happen if an atom bomb hit?)

A fairly good idea.

(Why do you say that?)

I get a total impression. I don't visualize details but I do get an idea of what can be expected.

(Is there anything on how an atomic bomb would affect your city or the people in it that you'd like to know more about?)

Yes.

(What would you like to know more about?)

About first-aid measures. I don't know if there really are any proper precautions which can be taken, but if there are any I would like to know about them.

(Anything else?)

Off-hand, no.

(What do you think your city would be like after an attack: do you think it could operate pretty much as usual for the first few days after an atomic bomb hit, or would the city be at a stand-still?)

It would not operate very effectively. This city depends on transportation. If the port were hit it would be at a complete stand-still.

(What do you think things would be like?)

Terrible.

(About how long do you think it would take the city to start rolling again--with lights and gas on, buses and street cars running, and stores open?)

I think it would take a long time. If you can imagine all the buildings reduced to rubble, and you have to start rebuilding.

(What about the people who are still living: what would things be like for them right after an attack?)

The enormity of the suffering is unimaginable. It would take greater imagination than I possess to describe it. The psychological impact on them is unpredictable. They would run about trying to do whatever little they could, which I believe would be quite ineffective.

(If an atomic bomb hit in the center of your city, how far away from where it fell do you think everybody would be killed?)

As I recall, in Nagasaki not everyone was killed within the one-mile radius. Complete destruction occurs within a small radius, but other concomitant causes, like falling buildings, would also make for many deaths.

(From what you've heard, what would cause most of the deaths?)

Destruction of the red corpuscles in the blood. The radioactivity shatters the individual.

(Is there anything else about the bomb that would kill or harm people?)

Fire and shock.

(Suppose you were standing out in the open: what do you think is the nearest you could be to an atomic explosion and still be safe?)

Do you mean from the immediate or from the after-effects? (Interviewer says "immediate") Within one mile, a huge percentage would be killed; for five miles there would be effects which would show up later.

(Have you heard or read anything about what a person ought to do for his own safety if there were an atom bomb attack?)

Yes.

(What were some of these things?)

I've heard of atomic shelters. And of using cellars. Curl up near a tree. I don't think any of these things are effective. Maybe a little prayer would be useful.

(Do you think you know as much as a person can know now about how to take care of yourself and your family in case of an atomic attack?)

No, of course not.

(Are there things you'd like to know more about?)

I wonder how much more other people do know? There are lots of things I'd like to know. Actually, although it's a thing that can't be answered, I'd like to know the extent to which the bomb has been developed in the world.

(Do you think anybody in this country really knows very much about what to do in case of an atomic bombing?)

If you take a fatalistic attitude, then the answer is yes. There is very little that can be done. Perhaps lying on the floor. But it's a mockery to say that anything will make you safe.

(Who would you say really knows about this?)

The scientists at least know what can be known.

(What do you think you'd do if you heard over the radio that your city was in immediate danger of an atomic bomb attack?)

Run to a cellar. We don't have a car so we can't run away. Though I don't have faith in the protection of a cellar, there is a compulsion to do something. I'd call several friends and see what they were doing, and I'd listen to the radio.

(What is the first thing you would try to do after the attack?)

I'd go out and see if I could help my neighbors.

(What do you think you would try to do after that?)

If all the people were taken care of, I'd try to make some arrangements whereby the city could survive and run--but it would be a long time before the wounded would all be cared for.

(Well, how about your neighbors or people generally--do you think they would help each other out, or do you think they'd be mainly concerned with their own safety?)

If there's a possibility of helping someone, they might. But the nature of people is to work in the biological sphere of their own families.

(What do you think would be the most important things that would have to be done in the city right after an attack?)

As much as possible should be done for the sick and wounded.

(Anything else?)

Round up the children and evacuate them.

(Those job would you say it is to get these things done?)

Whoever happens to be still standing on their feet.

(So far I've been asking you about what an atomic bomb would do to a city and what would happen to people. Now I'd like to talk to you about what might be done to prepare in advance for such an attack. First of all, what about the system of civil defense our cities had in the last war. What did you think of it?)

It was generally looked upon with amusement more than anything else.

(Why?)

Although people did what they were supposed to, I don't think it was done with any strong conviction of its utility.

(Was there any you felt was particularly good about it?)

I was disinterested because I couldn't take it seriously.

(Was there anything you felt was particularly bad about it?)

I don't know.

(Did you or any member of your family take any part in it?)

No.

(As far as you know, who is in charge of civil defense in your city now-- the state government, the federal government, the city government, or the Army?)

The city.

(How about the way your city is set up now? Do you think it'd be able to do a good job of taking care of people after an atomic attack if it were to happen right now?)

No, I don't think so.

(Why do you say that?)

As it is set up right now, I think that medical aid is quite inadequate. Then how could we cope with an emergency?

(What do you think ought to be done now to prepare for a possible atomic attack?)

First aid stations should be set up, and greater hospital facilities made possible. I understand they have already increased the fire department. Druggists should stay open on Sundays.

(How do you feel about the things they're doing now to prepare?)

I've heard talks about shelters and administrations set up for emergencies, but I haven't followed these things too closely and I don't know exactly what's being done.

(Do you think they should begin a campaign now to get people to work in civil defense?)

They've begun one, essentially, but I don't think it too necessary, except for the fact that it might teach us a little more about medicine in general--and that would always help.

(Do you think this preparation should be the job of the city government, or do you think getting your city ready to take care of an atomic attack should be the job of the Federal Government, the Army, or some other group?)

It should be the job of the city with the cooperation of the Federal Government.

(What about the American Legion, the Red Cross, and organizations like that--- do you think they should play a part in getting your city ready to meet an attack?)

The cooperation of the Red Cross is good. The Legion would bring it down to army control.

(What do you think they could do?)

They could work with and under local authority.

(Do you think most of the actual work in a civil defense program will have to be done by ordinary people who've had some training, or will most of the work be a job for regular firemen and policemen?)

If anything does happen, it will be too big for the officials to handle alone; therefore it will be the job of ordinary people.

(Do you think the ordinary people can do a good enough job?)

Yes, I do.

(Why do you feel that way?)

I don't think there is such a vast difference between people. Most people of ordinary intelligence, given the necessary training, could do the job. It depends on the individual.

(Here's a list of jobs that might have to be done in such a program:

1. fighting fires
2. watching for and reporting fires
3. spotting airplanes
4. getting children and old people out of danger areas
5. giving first aid to injured and burned people
6. rescuing people from wrecked buildings

Which do you think you could do or could be trained to do?)

With a little training I suppose I could do almost any of them. I would prefer to do any of the jobs from numbers two through five.

(Would there be anything that would worry you about doing these jobs?)

Responsibility is always a problem, but I have no particular worries.

(What if this work had to be done in places where there were a lot of dead and injured people and where there could be danger from fire and atomic rays-- under these conditions how would you feel about taking part in civil defense work?)

If we have total warfare one could either hide or do his bit, and I think very few would hide. You face it if you can and fail if you don't.

(Are there any things in your work or personal life that might make it hard for you to do work in civil defense or keep you from doing it?)

Nothing could keep me from cooperating.

(What about a set-up where certain people would take care of children and sick people so that everybody else could work on civil defense. Would you be willing to go along with a plan like this, or do you feel the best thing you could do would be to stick with your own family?)

Yes, I'd go along with such a plan.

(Why do you feel that way?)

In an emergency you must do whatever is best for all.

(All in all, do you think all this preparation for civil defense can really do any good if there's an atomic attack?)

If there is an atomic attack it could do some good: we might better aid the injured and get the city back in running shape.

(To close now, do you find this topic of atomic bombing interesting, or do you wish there weren't so much talk about it?)

The important thing is not whether we should talk about it or not, but what we say. One is constantly hounded by the imminence of an atom bomb attack. There is more to the problem: outlaw it, and then perhaps we could then talk about the more important thing--peace.