

program or indifference on the part of the uninformed. Perhaps some of this current lack of interest is due to the treaty that this nation has signed with the Soviet Union concerning the ban on nuclear testing. We must be certain that we do not misconstrue the true meaning of this pact. To be sure it may become a significant document on our road to lasting world peace, but it does not outlaw nuclear warfare nor does it provide for world disarmament. Until such disarmament is a reality, and we have guarantees or lasting world peace, our nation must remain strong to preserve the liberties we cherish.

It is ironic that at the same time that civil defense came under strong attack on the local level it was getting its biggest boost on the national scene. A national magazine called it "Revival of Survival". I am, of course, referring to the long series of hearings conducted by the House Armed Services subcommittee headed by Congressman Hebert of Louisiana. Let us review for a minute this action in the Congress. Eight weeks of hearing were held by Congressman Hebert and his colleagues. More than 100 witnesses were heard. They covered the total range of civil defense activities and included studies of the moral, sociological and philosophical questions involved. This blue-ribbon panel voted unanimously to back the civil defense program. A leading daily newspaper commented that never in Congressional history had such strong backing been given a civil defense program. The entire House Armed Services Committee under the direction of Congressman Vinson, voted 32-4 to support an expanded civil defense shelter program, and the favorable report of the Committee was quickly adopted by voice vote of the House of Representatives. We look hopefully to the Senate for similar action. Those of us interested in civil defense now see a real hope of realizing our fond dreams of protective shelter for all of our people.

I should like to quote a paragraph from the debate on the floor of the House concerning this bill. Congressman Pike of New York said:

"I believe that civil defense in this country is at the crossroads, and by our action, we will determine what route our civil defense program will take. The easy route — broad and smooth, and downhill all the way — will be to do nothing.

I agree with Mr. Pike, civil defense is at the crossroads; and we in Maryland do not want to take the easy road. We want to go uphill and provide the best possible system of civil defense for our people.