problems of civil defense

as six americans see them
Survey Research Center
University of Michigan

PROBLEMS OF CIVIL DEFENSE
As Six Americans See Them

Project No. 102
November, 1951
Introduction

The interviews reproduced here are from a study of public attitudes made in eleven major U.S. cities. The interviewing took place in August of 1951. The particular interviews chosen for reproduction are not necessarily "typical", but they represent different points of view on the topics covered in the study. The statistics for the entire survey appear in a separate report.

In the actual interviewing situation the questions were posed in the exact order shown in the first interview, which has been photostatically reproduced. The remaining five interviews have been edited slightly for clarity of presentation and ease of reading. This editing consisted simply of omitting some responses not directly pertinent to Civil Defense and re-arranging a few of the questions to form a logical sequence. The wording of the responses reported has not been changed.
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SURVEY RESEARCH CENTER
FACE SHEET
Project 102
Interviewer: Miller J. Frick
Date: July 25, 1957
Metropolitan area: New York
Town or City: Manhattan
Block No.: 6-L
Address (or description):

List all persons 21 and over in the dwelling unit:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relationship to head</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Adult Number</th>
<th>Respondent</th>
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<td>Head</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>V</td>
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<td>Wife</td>
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<td>47</td>
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If interview is taken, attach to interview, and return.
If no interview is taken, fill out Non-interview form and return.

NON-INTERVIEW FORM

Reason for non-interview:

- No one at home after required number of calls
- Someone at address, but respondent not at home
- House vacant
- Address not a dwelling
- Refusal (give detailed account on back of sheet)
- No interview for other reason (give reason on back of sheet)
This man is a well spoken disable war veteran - a sailor who had his legs shot into uselessness in the So Pacific. They live in a squalid tenement - but his talk was somewhat above what his environment led one to expect. In fact when we answered to the questions on the Pers Data Sheet he said he had only gone through 4 years at school. I remarked that he must have done more than that from the way he talked - to which he said "yes I did - but I was only taught - I've been all over the world at sea and that teaches you a lot - & I study even the college subjects."

It seemed to be very well informed and by very virtue of his informants he's taken the time that it gives him to interest himself in outside matters.

He liked the interview and was very co-operative.
CIVIL DEFENSE QUESTIONNAIRE

1. In general are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the United States has been acting towards other countries?

1a. In what way are you satisfied (dissatisfied)?

2. How about things here at home. What do you think will happen to prices of the things you buy? Do you think they'll go up, go down, or stay about where they are?

3. Now, how about autos, refrigerators, and other large household items — Do you think there'll be enough of those things for people who want to buy them or do you think some of them will be short in the next 12 months?

4. How likely do you think it is that we'll be in another World War in the next year or two?

4a. Why is that?
The Interview

1. I'm very much dissatisfied.

1a. The present policy of this administration—I mean really for the last few—the last 16 years—we've been tearing up opportunities for every country—been losing face all over. Before World War II, an American was an acknowledged leader in any country. Now Americans in foreign countries are pushed around and we don't do anything about it. We've lost face—we don't stand up to them any more—they do as they please with us and we let them toss us around as they please.

2. They're gone up.

3. There'll be enough—there's a sufficient quantity—in fact there's a buyer's market.

4. Very likely.

4a. World War III is here already—not as an acknowledged shooting war—but it's war just the same—there's trouble in the Near East and Far East and if we lose out in Korea that will be the match that will start the shooting war—(And we come out alright in Korea?)—well there are danger spots all over the world—where trouble might start and a shooting war begin.
5. Do you feel more hopeful or less hopeful for peace now than you did a few months ago?

5a. Why do you feel more (less) hopeful now?

5b. What do you think will be the results of the talks they've been having in Korea?

5c. Well, suppose the cease-fire in Korea does go through, how would you feel the chances are for world peace?

5d. How do you feel about the intentions of the Communists in regard to the peace talks? Do you think they're sincere or do you think they're trying to put something over on us or what?

6. During the Korean war the government said that in order to have enough material for war production, companies would have to make fewer cars, refrigerators, and things like that. Do you think we need to keep these restrictions with the situation as it is in Korea now?

6a. Suppose they are able to make peace in Korea. Do you think we'll need to keep the restrictions then or not?

6b. Why do you say that?
5. I feel less hopeful.
5a. Because of the way the whole situation is adding up (How do you mean?) — there's trouble now not only in the Far East, but in the Near East, too — Russia seems to be trying to spread herself all over — she's starting ships in the Arab countries in Europe.
5b. I don't think the Communists will back down — the talks will be unsuccessful —
5c. I would still doubt it — knowing the Chinese as I do, it's only a hunch to put them a chance for a build-up.
5d. Absolutely! They are trying to put something over on us.

6. No — they have been giving our natural resources away; if that stop that we would have enough — we don't need to have restrictions — Korea has no effect on that — what we give to Korea we can spare.
6a. Then, of course not — we don't need the restrictions now even with the Korean war going on — we certainly won't need them if there peace in Korea — what we sent to Korea is just a drop in the bucket and would effect either way
6b. [See 6a]
7. Now along with these national problems, there are many special problems that some of our cities are working on these days. Which one of the problems listed on this card do you think is most important?

7a. Which one do you think is the next most important?

8. In case we have another World War, how well do you think the Army, Navy and Air Forces could do in preventing air attacks on our cities?

8a. All in all, would you say the Army, Navy and Air Forces could give our cities complete protection, protect them from heavy damage, or wouldn't be able to prevent heavy damage?

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

9a. What about your city? Do you think it would be bombed?

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

10a. What sort of things have you read or heard?
7. "Breaking up dope rings"
   (which do you think is most important)
   "Breaking up dope rings"

7a. Cleaning up sleums

8. Very poorly—we have no radar screens to protect our cities—our little war bombers got through at the rate of 80 to 90%.

8a. I'd say they could not protect them from heavy damage.

9. yes.

9a. yes, it would be the first very first (why do you say that?) because it is the pulse of the nation.

10. yes.

10a. That it causes complete destruction in a radius of 5 miles; with a des- torisher area of 2 miles, and that the heat of the blast can be felt for 15 miles.
11. If an atomic bomb hit in the center of a large city, how far from where it fell do you think almost everybody would be killed?

11a. From what you've heard, what would cause most of the deaths?

11b. How far from where the bomb hit do you think most people will be injured?

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

12a. What have you heard about it?

12b. Some people say that radioactivity (rays, dust, mist, etc.) would cause about as many deaths as things like the explosion, the heat or the fire. Do you think this is true or not?

13. Have you heard or read anything about what a person ought to do for his own safety and his family's safety if there were an atom bomb attack?

13a. What were some of these things?

13b. Where have you read or heard about these things?
11. Within a radius of 5 miles

11a. The heat from the blast.

11b. Within 10 miles.

12. Yes

12a. What it does, so that it turns and leaves pores—dries up the blood stream.

12b. No, the red action disappears in a few hours—on good land—longer on water.

13. Yes.

13a. They should carry out the Air Defence directions—they've got a poster in the hall of this house here—tell people what to do—like getting under a table and covering the body and to get into a building for shelter—but I don't agree with that, I say they should stay out of cellars—out of building, keep away from building.

13b. I'm an ex-Seaman and I've experienced bombings in the war—I know what to do
13c. Is there anything in particular you have done or plan to do soon for your own or your family's safety if there were an atom bomb attack?

14. There's a lot of talk about Civil Defense these days. As you understand it, what does the term "Civil Defense" mean?

14a. Well, what do you think the purpose of Civil Defense is?

15. As far as you know, is there any civil defense program in your city - that is, any set up to protect the city in case of an enemy attack?

17. Have you heard or read anything asking people to volunteer?

17a. Where did you hear (read) it?

18. What kinds of things do you think volunteer workers in civil defense would be asked to do at the present time if they joined up?
13c. Yes - leave the building get out into open space - like in the Park - lie flat - cover up with blankets - and take water along for use when thirsty.

14. It means the education of the public and the participation of the public in case of an emergency.

14a. map.

15. Yes there is.

16. omitted

17. Yes.

17a. Newspapers, radio and the Veterans group to which I belong.

18. Mostly in the field of work in which they are best fitted - like for instance Construction men for clearing streets of rubble & demolishing wrecked buildings
    Mechanics for repairing water, gas lines
    Clerks for tabulating and recording each one where ever he fits in best
19. How about the way your city is set up now? Do you think it would be able to do a good job of taking care of people after an atomic attack if it were to happen right now?

19a. Why do you say that?

20. What do you think ought to be done now to prepare for a possible atomic attack on (name of city)?

20a. How do you feel about the progress that's being made now?

20b. Why do you feel that way?

21. (For suburbs) What do you think (suburb) could do to help out in case (city) were bombed?

22. Do you think this preparation should be the job of the city government, or do you think getting (city) ready to take care of an atomic attack should be the job of the Federal Government, the Army, the State, or some other group?
19. No— not too good
19a. Facilities are lacking— there’s not enough
provision made as yet for the care of the
wounded—or for fighting fires—and most
there are no evacuation facilities.

20. That would take 99 pages to answer that—
but the most important thing would be to
prepare for evacuation— set aside areas
outside the city—and have everything
charted so to the facilities to get the
people there— the areas should be set up
with tents and cooking facilities and
medical attendance.

20 a. Its very poor
20 b.Fed, state, municipal preparation is
very poor— far short of what it should
be— (How so) Because politicians are
drawing down money for the office
and that’s all—they don’t bother to
work at the job

21— Snap.

22. New York City itself should be responsible
but it should get State and Federal
aid— in a material way— such
as tents, stores, etc.
22a. Which one?

22b. Well, which one do you think should take the lead?

23. Do you think that children ought to be taught in school what to do in case of an atomic bomb attack?

23a. Do you think children ought to be taught about these things even though it might scare them?

23b. Do you think teaching children about these things would scare them?

24. If you were asked at the present time to work on a civil defense project, like learning to fight fires, like learning to be a block or air raid warden, or taking care of people wounded in a bombing attack, and so on, would you do it?

24a. Why not?

24b. How would you feel about giving a few hours a week for at least six months to learn this kind of work?

24c. Here is a list of jobs that people working for civil defense will be asked to do. Which one of these would you be most likely to sign up for if you were asked to volunteer?

- Firefighting
- Being an air raid or block warden
- Police work
- First aid and care of the injured
- Getting housing for people, feeding people, and taking care of children
- Rebuilding and cleaning up
- Transportation work
- Clerical, records, office work
- Messenger service and other communication work
22 a. map
22 b. map

23. Yes, if they are taught the right thing, what they are not. [See 22 a]

23 a. Yes, they should be told what to do—you tell a child that a stove will burn him and that he should not put his fingers in it.

23 b. No, I don't think so—you tell them not to get up and jump off places or they'll get hurt—and that doesn't scare them—it's the same thing—you warn them.

24. Yes—in fact I have already signed up through my veterans group and have taken a course in civil defense.

24 a. map
24 b. I wouldn't mind it—I've done it already
24 c. Of this list it would have to be "black civil defense warden"—I would have to do something in a supervisory capacity only as I am physically handicapped—My legs have gone dead on me from the time down—I was smashed up in the War in the South Pacific—they wanted to amputate but I objected—and now I can get around with one—I'm still though from the worst up.
26. Have you ever thought about volunteering for Civil Defense?

26a. Have you volunteered?

26b. Why not?

26c. What was the reason that you volunteered?

26d. What do you do in Civil Defense?

27. Do you know anyone who has volunteered for work in Civil Defense?

27a. What is (are) he (she, they) doing?

28. Here's a card with four statements on it. Which one of the statements would you say comes closest to the way you feel about what ought to be done now in Civil Defense?

- Experts ought to be working on it, but the average person isn't needed yet.
- People generally should be drafted now for Civil Defense work.
- There's no need for Civil Defense yet.
- People who have any spare time at all should volunteer for work in Civil Defense.

29. If we have a cease-fire in Korea, do you think we should go ahead to build up a strong Civil Defense set-up in this city or won't it be necessary?
26. [See no 24]
26 a. [See no 24]
26 b. map
26 c. I belong to the Vet. for War - and our group all went in for it.
26 d. I act as Supervisor in the Construction Work - to boost after cleaning up area - removing rubble & debris.

(How's the C.D. work going?) In our group of 15 but in general very poorly - there's no public interest - Everybody wants to let the other fellows do it.

(How much time does it take of you?) Eh, about two to three hours a week.

27. Yes -
27 a. My son has signed up of it - and is taking a Red Cross course in C.D. - he wants to be a Street Warden - and my whole Vet. group signed up for various jobs for which they were fitted.

28. People - spare time - volunteer - Air Def.

29. I believe it is necessary as a permanent setup - Pearl Harbor showed us why - Our industrial cities can be wiped out overnight by one sneak attack.
30. The Civil Defense program here in (city) isn’t going ahead as well as some experts think it should. Why do you think it isn’t going ahead faster?

30a. Why do you think more people haven’t volunteered for civil defense work?

31. So far, I’ve been asking you about atomic bombing and Civil Defense. Now I’d like to ask you about other kinds of enemy attacks.

Have you read or heard anything in the last few months about biological or germ warfare?

31a. What have you heard or read?

31b. What about poison gas – chemical warfare, that is. Have you read or heard anything about this in the last few months?

31c. What have you read or heard about it?

31d. In case there’s a war, do you think people in this country will be in real danger from either of these?

31e. Which one?
30. Lack of public interest
30a. They just figure to let the other fellow do. They don't have to bother themselves.

31. Yes.
31a. That it is a possibility that they have some kind of a metal-foil that they can drop which is a terrible disease spreader.
31b. It is supposed to be outlawed - but it could be used against us - you never can tell.
31c. Nothing in particular more than I just said.
31d. Yes.
31e. They use the germ warfare, not the chemical. (Why ) It's too costly to use the chemical gases they don't do enough for the effort but one plane could drop enough germs to spread disease over a great area and it would keep on spreading.
July, 1951

PERSONAL DATA

1. Sex of R: [Male] [Female]
2. Race: [White] [Negro] [Other]
3. Age: [21-29] [30-44] [45-64] [60 or over]
4. Marital Status: [Married] [Divorced] [Widowed] [Single]
5. How many people in your family are in the following age group:
   [0-6 yrs.] [7-16] [17-65] [over 65]
   6a. (If "housewife") What kind of work does the head of your household do? [Formerly was a construction iron worker and a stenographer]
   6b. In what kind of business or industry do you (does he) work?

7. Do you or your family own this house, or do you rent?
   [Owns] [Rents]
8. Do you read any newspaper regularly? [Yes] [No]
   8a. (If yes) What one(s) [News, Mirror, Journal, Herald-Trib]
9. How many grades of school did you finish?
   (Circle) None, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, (6), 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, more?
   9a (If 12 or more) Did you get a high school diploma? [Yes] [No]
10. Have you had any other schooling? [Yes] [No] [Map]
   10a. (If yes) What other schooling have you had? [Map]
   Name of school
   Name of school
10b. (If other schooling) Do you have a college degree? [Yes] [No]
11. Would you say you go to church: [Regularly] [Often] [Seldom] [Never]
12. About what will the total income be this year for yourself and your immediate family:
   [Under $2000] [2000 - 4999] [5000 and over]
Personal Data - Cont'd

13. Did you vote in the last local election (for mayor, city council, etc.)

[ ] YES  [ ] NO

13a. How about the one before that?  [ ] YES  [ ] NO

14. Would you say your health is [ ] Excellent  [ ] Good  [ ] Fair  [ ] Poor

(If poor) What kind of illness are you troubled with?

[ ] But I am disabled in the legs—otherwise physically fit

15. Do you belong to any of the following kinds of groups?

Veterans' organizations: like the American Legion, VFW, etc.

[ ] YES  [ ] NO  [ ] Active

National organizations: like Masons, Knights of Columbus, Elks, Eastern Star, etc.

[ ] YES  [ ] NO  [ ] Active

Informal clubs like bridge clubs, poker clubs, sewing circles, etc.

[ ] YES  [ ] NO  [ ] Active

Business or civic groups like Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, etc.

[ ] YES  [ ] NO  [ ] Active

Professional groups like American Medical Association, Amer. Asso. of Social Workers, etc.

[ ] YES  [ ] NO  [ ] Active

Sport teams like bowling, baseball

[ ] YES  [ ] NO  [ ] Active

Unions

[ ] YES  [ ] NO  [ ] Active

Political Groups like League of Women Voters, Amer's for Dem. Action, Women's League for Peace

[ ] YES  [ ] NO  [ ] Active

Other groups: specify

[ ] Local Dem Club

[ ] YES  [ ] NO  [ ] Active

16. Besides being a member and attending meetings, do you play an active part in any of these groups? Which ones? (Check in boxes of Col 3 above.)
A. How worried did the respondent seem during the interview when he was talking about war and atom-bombings?

☐ 1. Very worried
☐ 2. Quite worried
☒ 3. Some
☐ 4. Not much
☐ 5. Not at all

B. What would you say was the respondent's general feeling about Civil Defense?

☒ 1. Took problems of Civil Defense seriously. Was much involved in discussing the topic.

☐ 2. Was somewhat concerned with the problem of Civil Defense, but showed no great feeling of it being an immediate and serious matter.

☐ 3. Was really not very serious about the topic. Treated the topic and the interview lightly without evidence of being concerned.
Respondent #2 is a Negro housewife who lives in Boston. She is in her twenties, has four children, and has had a grade-school education. In general are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the United States has been acting towards other countries?

Well, to be perfectly frank with you, I don't think they have been absolutely fair...as far as India's concerned, as far as that goes, I don't think they've been very fair. (how is that?) In general, I think...the people there are starving to death. I think the United States should release more food to them. I think that that would strike out a lot of Communism if we would do something to help them. Otherwise the Communists will do it first. If someone's gonna feed them they won't care who its comin' from. (Well, in general, would you say you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the United States has been acting towards other countries?) Well, I'm not too dissatisfied in general with the government. I think we could step up our defense program. Right after war we shut down our defense plants and Russia went ahead. I mean, no good lockin' the barn door after the horse is stolen. I mean, well, I'm not very good puttin' it in words, but you know what I mean.

Do you feel more hopeful or less hopeful for peace now than you did a few months ago?

Well, I feel more hopeful. Well, because I think people are becoming more conscious of God - than they were...an' I feel that was one of our troubles. It doesn't matter how many weapons we have, the people in general have to be closer to God, I feel.

What do you think will be the results of the talks they're having in Korea?

Well, I feel that...that probably we'll get a peace...but I don't feel we will get too much of a compromise outta those people because they don't seem to be a very compromising race of people.
Well, suppose the cease-fire in Korea goes through, how would you feel the chances are for world peace?

Well, I haven't given that too much thought...
I think it's jus' gonna quash there an' start someplace else...Like I said...although I doubt it's gonna be a full scale war, I do think it's gonna be constant tension.

How do you feel about the intentions of the Communists in regard to the peace talks? Do you think they're sincere or do you think they're trying to put something over on us or what?

Oh, I wouldn't trus' them as far as I could throw 'em, and that's not very far! If they were really sincere they wouldn't keep stallin' and they would let the correspondents talk to the civilians and so on.

How likely do you think it is that we'll be in another World War in the next year or two?

Oh, God forbid that we get any war! But I think things will go on like they are with the tension...but a world war I don't think. I think there'll be a lot of fighting in the East...because whether we want to own up to it or not, Communism is spreading there! There's no point in lettin' them take all the small countries like Hitler did, and then have to win them back so costly afterwards. I think it's very doubtful there be a world war.

In case we have another World War, how well do you think the Army, Navy, and Air Forces could do in preventing air attacks on our cities?

Gosh, I think even this country isn't prepared as good as it should...I know we could rely on our Armed Forces to do their best protecting the people, but...

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

Protect from heavy damage, I think...
If the United States is attacked, do you think our cities are likely to be hit with atomic bombs?

I don't see where it's impossible.

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

Yes.

Have you read or heard anything in the last few months about biological or germ warfare?

No, I don't think I have. I haven't paid too much attention to it.

What about poison gas - chemical warfare, that is. Have you read or heard anything about this in the last few months?

I know during the last war, I think it was more or less an agreement there wouldn't be any gases used. But reading in the last few months, I don't think I have noticed anything about it.

In case there's a war, do you think people in this country will be in real danger from either of these?

Oh - I don't think so, but I would still say I don't think anything is impossible.

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

And how! You haf to keep really thinkin', watchin' pictures on television and reading the papers.
What sort of things have you read or heard?

The effect it have on the...well, they sent pamphlets aroun' from the schools not to drink contaminated water...wash exposed parts of the body right away...and don't try to use the telephone right away. (Well, what about the effects of the bomb?) Well, I was readin' about what happened to the people after Nagasaki...(Was that in the last year or so?) Yes. They ran an article in the Globe, I think it was...(mm-huh, well what were some of the things they said?) Well, I do remember the story this Pries' told...about the blinding flash of light and he's know he's gonna die from it...there's no cure...everything jus' falls apart...the condition it lef' him, knowing he can't be cured.

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

Within a radius of five miles.

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

The radioactive exposure in the air, I mean, I don't remember the words they used.

How far from where the bomb hit do you think most people would be injured?

That's an awful thing to even think of...Well, I'm jus' guessin'...well, I'd say 2 to 3 miles they'd be injured.

What have you heard about radioactivity or atomic rays or something like that in connection with the bomb?

Oh dear...I don't know...they say bein' expose to the radioactive whaddycallit in the air is worse than the bombin'...it causes some kind of reaction in the blood.
Some people say that radioactivity (rays, dust, mist, etc.) would cause about as many deaths as things like the explosion, the heat or the fire. Do you think this is true or not?

Well, from what I've read it seems to be true.

What have you heard or read about what a person ought to do for his own safety and his family's safety if there were an atom bomb attack?

If it happen there was an attack, lay down on the ground flat, cover your head and face, and leave nothin' expose...In a car, pull over to the curb and cover yourself up, and try to stay way from the windows.

Where have you read or heard about these things?

They sent some otticles from school. Then they had a little program on television showing these things, and then the newspaper.

Is there anything in particular you have done or plan to do soon for your own or your family's safety in case of an atom bomb attack?

No. I haven't. I haven't do e anything excep' to tell my son to listen to what the teacher says about it. I don't want to drum it in too much because it might frighten him.

Do you think that children ought to be taught in school what to do in case of an atomic bomb attack?

Yes, I really think so. I don't think it should be drummed into them all the while. I don't think it should be hopped on, but the average child I don't think would be too frightened if once in a while his mind was refreshed by a few drills.

There's a lot of talk about Civil Defense these days. As you understand it, what does the term "Civil Defense" mean?

Well, now let me think...well, in other words, prepare the people in general how to defend themselves...be prepared in case of war.
As far as you know, is there any Civil Defense program in your city - that is, any set-up to protect the city in case of an enemy attack?

    Well, I don't know of any in particular, but I don't know...but here in the project office they do send us pamphlets like tellin' us to use the basement as a shelter.

Have you heard or read anything asking people to volunteer?

    Well, now let's see...I do think I remember readin' in one of the booklets (that are distributed by the central office of the housing project) it said they were recruiting men for wardens more or less, like to take care of people...more or less teaching them first aid. We get pamphlets every month.

What kinds of things do you think volunteer workers in civil defense would be asked to do at the present time if they joined up?

    (Any other things?) I don't think so. I don't remember.

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

    Well, I really haven't given it too much thought, personally. I haven't given it too much thought because people don't seem to take it very seriously. (Repeat question) No. If it were to happen right now I don't think it would.

What do you think ought to be done now to prepare for a possible atomic attack on your city?

    Well, it would be a good idea...well, something like the garage being constructed (under the Common) would be good for a shelter...they certainly do need something because an attack is not an impossibility. It think it would be nice to have classes to teach people to take care of their own...if help weren't available it would be nice if someone in the home knew what to do.
How do you feel about the progress that's being made now?

On what? (Civil Defense) I don't see where the city's goin' all out for Civil Defense. I feel it is wonderful they're distributing pamphlets but still and all...(still and all, what?) You're jus' like my husband...still and all they should be brought to the attention of the people more by forming these classes to be prepared.

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, the State or some other group?

Well, I think the city.

If you were asked at the present time to work on a civil defense project like learning to fight fires, like learning to be a block or air raid warden, or taking care of people wounded in a bombing attack, and so on, would you do it?

Sure.

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

I don't think it would be bad at all. I think it would be very interesting.

Here is a list of jobs that people working for civil defense will be asked to do. Which of these would you be most likely to sign up for if you were asked to volunteer?

- Firefighting
- Being an air raid or block warden
- Police work
- First aid and care of the injured
- Getting housing for people, feeding people and taking care of children
- Rebuilding and cleaning up
- Transportation work
- Clerical, records, or office work
- Messenger service and other communication work

First aid and care of the injured
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?

Four boys! Well, I mean, to devote a lot of time, but naturally I would have a few hours one evening, or an hour an evening to devote. Naturally I couldn't volunteer to devote full time to it.

Have you ever thought of volunteering for Civil Defense?

No, I haven't to be perfectly truthful.

Why not?

Jus' like the average person, I know the importance of being prepared, but I just never bothered.

Do you know anyone who has volunteered for work in Civil Defense?

No. I don't.

The Civil Defense program here in Boston isn't going ahead as well as some experts think it should. Why do you think it isn't going ahead faster?

Well, I don't know. My personal opinion, there isn't enough emphasis on it...showing people about it. Like I said before. Then, too, like myself, I don't really know of any classes where I could go.

Why do you think more people haven't volunteered for civil defense work?

(see answer to previous question)

If we have a cease-fire in Korea, do you think we should go ahead to build up a strong civil defense set-up in this city or won't it be necessary?

By all means, that's right!

* * * * * * * * *
Respondent #3 is a middle aged man living in Cleveland, Ohio. He is a sheet-metal worker with an eighth-grade education.

In general are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the United States has been acting towards other countries?

That's a hard question to answer. I think I'm satisfied with things in general. There's not much a little fellow can do about it anyway - just do as he's told. (Repeat question) I have to be satisfied. We have to help other countries - that's what the U.S. is doing. They're in this thing now and we have to stay in.

In what way are you satisfied?

The U.S. is trying to keep peace I think. They're trying to do the right thing for all.

Do you feel more hopeful or less hopeful for peace now than you did a few months ago?

I feel more hopeful - much more. (What makes you feel more hopeful?) Everyone I talk to feels better about it. (That's interesting - any other reasons?) Because they are trying to prevent it. Look at the money spent sending our leaders over the world trying to keep peace. We pay for all that.

What do you think will be the results of the talks they've been having in Korea?

I think they will come to a successful conclusion. There is no other way to think. (Why do you feel this way?) They just can't keep killing each other and getting nowhere. It's just back and forth. We can't keep killing and be killed for nothing. I think they'll do something this time. (Smiles for the first time).

Well, suppose the cease-fire in Korea does go through, how would you feel the chances are for world peace?

Good.
How do you feel about the intentions of the Communists in regard to the peace talks? Do you think they're sincere or do you think they're trying to put something over on us or what?

I kind of doubt them. It's natural, I guess, but I hope they change their minds. I don't think they know what they want. I'm pretty sure they don't want to fight, but they're told to and many don't know why. When this is settled, we'll all have peace. I believe we'll be okay. (Very serious)

How likely do you think it is that we'll be in another World War in the next year or two?

I hope not. I doubt it. No, no, there can't be one yet for a long spell. I sure hope not anyway. I had a son in the last one. It is just too much. (Shakes his head) No - I can't see it.

Why is that?

There'd be nothing left - country'd be broke - nothing for nobody. Nobody wants war.

In case we have another World War, how well do you think the Army, Navy, and Air Forces could do in preventing air attacks on our cities?

Well, that's a hard thing to say. I don't think we'll have another World War for a long time. (If there should be let's say - repeat question) I think they have enough equipment. I think the Air Force could prevent attacks on cities. (How well would you say) I think they'd keep us from any attacks.

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

Complete. We have a good Air Force. I don't know as much what the Navy and Army could do for our cities.
If the United States is attacked, do you think our cities are likely to be hit with atomic bombs?

Well, I don't know. They claim it is possible but I don't think it is likely.

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

Yes, around the Terminal Tower Cleveland would be a target.

Have you read or heard anything lately in the last few months about biological or germ warfare?

No.

What about poison gas - chemical warfare, that is. Have you read or heard anything about this in the last few months?

No.

In case there's a war, do you think people in this country will be in real danger from either of these?

They could be.

Which one?

Chemical. I've heard it has bad effects but I don't know what.

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

No.

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

I don't know that.
From what you've heard what would cause most of the deaths?

   Burning.

How far from where the bomb hit do you think most people would be injured?

   Miles away (guess how many?) I have no idea. It's quite a ways I know.

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

   No.

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

   Yes. Both read and heard. You're supposed to go down to the basement, toward the corner wall and bury your head between hands - roll up in a sort of ball (anything else?) That's all I remember.

Where have you read or heard about these things?

   In the Cleveland Press. (Anyplace else?) Well, ah, I hear a lot at the plant but I don't pay much attention.

Is there anything in particular you have done or plan to do soon for your own or your family's safety in case of an atom bomb attack?

   Nothing yet. We'll be told when to get ready.

Do you think that children ought to be taught in school what to do in case of an atomic attack?

   Yes, definitely.
Do you think children ought to be taught about these things even though it might scare them?

Oh, yes, children should be prepared regardless. They would get over their fear when they know they are ready for whatever comes.

Do you think teaching children about these things would scare them?

Probably at first, but it would be a good lesson to 'em. We shouldn't make things easy for them cuz it won't be good when they are older. To be scared doesn't hurt them near as much as not knowing how to take care of himself. I have a grandson and I want him to learn everything. People want to make things too easy for children these days.

There's a lot of talk about Civil Defense these days. As you understand it, what does the term "Civil Defense" mean?

Civil Defense? I think it means safety toward other people.

Well, what do you think the purpose of Civil Defense is?

Same thing - taking care of people. (How?) Watch for fires, get help if necessary, get first aid to those who need it - anything needed for the care and safety - that's all I know.

As far as you know, is there any Civil Defense program in your city - that is, any set-up to protect the city in case of an enemy attack?

There is supposed to be, but I don't know anything about it.

Have you heard or read anything asking people to volunteer?

Yes, both. I read about a request in the Press and I believe it was on the air too. I don't recall the station. I paid no attention to it.
What kinds of things do you think volunteer workers in Civil Defense would be asked to do at the present time if they joined up?

I imagine night raids, first aid and things of that sort. I mean - read the question again will you? (repeat question) I suppose training people to do all the jobs necessary in an emergency, like I mentioned before - so people would know how to do everything to help the people. (You mentioned some things, can you think of some more?) I said first aid didn't I? Oh, block wardens I guess. That's all.

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

Yes, I'm pretty sure.

Why do you say that?

I don't know, but people always come through when needed. People help each other.

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

Cleveland ought to be prepared in a good way. I think we're ready.

How do you feel about the progress that's being made now?

I don't know about the progress. I'm sure the city is ready.

Why do you feel that way?

You don't hear they're not, so they must be. That's all I go by.
Do you think this preparation should be the job of the city government or do you think getting Cleveland ready to take care of an atomic attack should be the job of the Federal government, the Army, the State, or some other group?

The city government.

If you were asked at the present time to work on a civil defense project, like learning to fight fires, learning to be a block or air raid warden, or taking care of people wounded in a bombing attack, and so on, would you do it?

No - I couldn't.

Why not?

I work odd hours, so I couldn't promise regular time and my wife is sickly, so I just couldn't. Oh, (pause) if there was an emergency we'd all pitch in. I would too, whenever I could, but not now.

Here is a list of jobs that people working for civil defense will be asked to do. Which one of these would you be most likely to sign up for if you were asked to volunteer?

- Firefighting
- Being an air raid or block warden
- Police work
- First aid and care of injured
- Getting housing for people, feeding people and taking care of children
- Rebuilding and cleaning up
- Transportation work
- Clerical, records, office work
- Messenger service and other communication work

I wouldn't sign up. (Just pretend, It would be interesting to know which you'd enjoy doing to help others) Oh, 6 or 7. Both, I guess. Maybe 7 first. (Rebuilding and/or transportation work)
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?

Yes, my odd hours, different shifts and my wife has been in ill health for a couple of years. She's reached that age now, you know, so I don't like to leave her very much when I'm not working.

Have you ever thought about volunteering for civil defense?

No.

Do you know anyone who has volunteered for work in civil defense?

No. No one.

The civil defense program here in Cleveland isn't going ahead as well as some experts think it should. Why do you think it isn't going ahead faster?

I don't know. I thought it was.

Why do you think more people haven't volunteered for civil defense work?

I don't know.

If we have a cease-fire in Korea, do you think we should go ahead to build up a strong Civil Defense set-up in this city or won't it be necessary?

No. It won't be necessary. There won't be a war for a long time again. It's a waste of time and money. (Would you tell me why you feel this way?) Why do something not needed? The city would have to spend money it doesn't have to train people. That's the only reason I have.
The fourth respondent is a 48-year-old man who lives in Chicago. He owns an auto parts company and has an income over $5,000 a year.

In general are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the United States has been acting towards other countries?

    That's very difficult to answer with a yes or no. (In general are you satisfied or dissatisfied?) No, I'm dissatisfied.

In what way are you dissatisfied?

    Well, I don't think we have formulated a definite policy or stuck to the policy we tried to follow. I don't think that our own government knows what they're doing because the different departments within the government often work at cross purposes when they should work in harmony. (Are there any specific things you are dissatisfied with?) For me to enumerate or evaluate the things that are wrong with government would be too long and too complicated.

Do you feel more hopeful or less hopeful for peace now than you did a few months ago?

    Less.

Why do you feel less hopeful now?

    Because I don't believe the Korean situation at the present time is true.

What do you think will be the results of the talks they've been having in Korea?

    Russia will pull a sneak attack on us. That will be the end of the Korean almost-armistice.
Well, suppose the cease-fire in Korea does go through, how would you feel about the chances for world peace?

I still don't trust Russia.

How do you feel about the intentions of the Communists in regard to the peace talks? Do you think they're sincere or do you think they're trying to put something over on us or what?

I'm sure they are trying to put something over on us. I don't believe a word any Communist ever said. They want world domination. They are no better than Hitler or any dynasty that ever tried to rule the world.

How likely do you think it is that we'll be in another World War in the next year or two?

Very likely.

Why is that?

Because I think Russia is preparing for it and when she's ready she will commit the overt act.

In case we have another World War, how well do you think the Army, Navy and Air Forces could do in preventing air attacks on our cities?

They could do a pretty good job.

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

They could protect from heavy damage.

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

No, I don't think that Russia has enough big bombers to fly away from any of her large bases in Asia to bomb more than a few cities in Alaska.
What about your city? Do you think it would be bombed?

No. They could never get through.

Have you read or heard anything in the last few months about biological or germ warfare?

Yes, I've read something.

What about poison gas - chemical warfare, that is. Have you read or heard anything about this in the last few months?

Not recently.

In case there's a war, do you think people in this country will be in real danger from either of these?

No.

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 of the devastation that could occur. The destruction that could be visited you any place that was bombed. Also, I've read how to protect ourselves as individuals.

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

Radius of about 2 miles.

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

The radioactivity of the effects of the bomb.
How far from where the bomb hit do you think most people would be injured?

From 5 miles away to 15 or 18. It would also depend on the direction and strength of the wind. With very little wind it wouldn't reach more than 8 or 9 miles.

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

Yes.

What have you heard about it?

Sears, burns, destroys life in any form depending on where person is when explosion takes place. The results are not always apparent immediately. In Japan, people walked around for weeks before they knew they had been harmed.

Some people say that radioactivity (rays, dust, mist, etc.) would cause about as many deaths as things like the explosion, the heat or the fire. Do you think this is true or not?

Yes, I think the rays would cause more deaths than the fire would. (Why?) I've read many, many articles on this.

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

I've read some on it.

What were some of these things?

To get as close to earth as possible. Go to cellar or subterranean passage like subway station. Cover over head as much as possible and don't inhale air which carries radioactive waves. Keep cool under all circumstances and don't lose your head.
Where have you read or heard about these things?

In newspapers and most of it in magazine articles.

Is there anything in particular you have done or plan to do for your own or your family's safety in case of an atom bomb attack?

No.

Do you think that children ought to be taught in school what to do in case of an atomic bomb attack?

Yes.

Do you think children ought to be taught about these things even though it might scare them?

Yes.

Do you think teaching children about these things would scare them?

No - not if properly explained. Children have to be taught bad things in life too and this is one of them.

There's a lot of talk about Civil Defense these days. As you understand it, what does the term "Civil Defense" mean?

To me, the term Civil Defense is a mockery because it's never been approached properly. My definition would be a "comprehensive campaign to teach people to protect themselves against war and bombings".

As far as you know, is there any Civil Defense program in your city - that is, any set-up to protect the city in case of an enemy attack?

Outside of the siren I heard in the loop the other day, and a few signs I've seen downtown about air raid shelters, I don't know of anything they've done. Nothing to my knowledge in out-lying sections.
Have you heard or read anything asking people to volunteer?

No.

What kinds of things do you think volunteer workers in Civil Defense would be asked to do at the present time if they joined up?

They would be asked to learn how to protect general public against bombings.

How about the way your city is set up now? Do you think it would 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?

Chicago is not prepared in any way, shape, or form!

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

Teach the people how to act and what to do - where to go and what to do when they get there.

How do you feel about the progress that's being made now?

There's no progress at all.

Why do you feel that way?

Because there's nothing positive or constructive being done.
Do you think this preparation should be the job of the city government, or do you think getting Chicago ready to take care of an atomic attack should be the job of the Federal Government, the Army, the State, or some other group?

War is conducted by the Federal government and the government should be the proper agency to protect the public against all exigencies.

If you were asked at the present time to work on a Civil Defense project, like learning to fight fires, like learning to be a block or aid raid warden, or taking care of people wounded in a bombing attack, would you do it?

Yes.

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

I would.

Here is a list of jobs that people working for Civil Defense will be asked to do. Which of these would you be most likely to sign up for if you were asked to volunteer?

- Firefighting
- Being an air raid or block warden
- Police work
- First aid and care of injured
- Getting housing for people, feeding people, and taking care of children
- Rebuilding and cleaning up
- Transportation work
- Clerical, records, office work
- Messenger service and other communication work

First aid and care of injured

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.
Have you ever thought about volunteering for Civil Defense?

No. I haven't heard of any - how could I volunteer?

Do you know anyone who has volunteered for work in Civil Defense?

No.

The Civil Defense program here in Chicago isn't going ahead as fast as some experts think it should. Why do you think it isn't going ahead faster?

The public has not been educated to it. The public knows very little about it. The local government hasn't made any effort to get the proper type people interested in it. They have a few prominent men and women enlisted for publicity purposes and that's all.

If we have a cease-fire in Korea, do you think we should go ahead to build up a strong Civil Defense set-up in this city or won't it be necessary?

I think it's necessary. (Why?) Because I don't trust Russia.
Respondent #5 is a young veteran with a tenth-grade education. He is a gauge inspector in a laboratory in Philadelphia.

In general are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the United States has been acting towards other countries?

Oh, I could go on for hours about that. I certainly can't say satisfied. I am dissatisfied.

In what way are you dissatisfied?

I would say a little less talk and a little more action. I don't mean to drop the bomb, but lay the law down as to who is who. The Russians want us to take all troops out of Korea and I just read where Marshall said eventually we will. What kind of a trick is that? That is all the Russians want so they can go ahead and take over like they did when we left before. I can't understand why we have to appease Russia. Who won the war anyway, and who got the boys killed? I don't know why they are spending time with these peace talks when we will pay through the nose anyway. I would like to know the answer. I am a veteran and I know what those boys are going through. Do they think if they pay the parents of the boys ten thousand dollars that that pays them off for a son? Well, I can tell you it never will. I think the people ought to get together and demand a showdown. I know I am fed up on it. I think they are all Communists down there and it is only a racket - a way to keep people working with this so-called war. No, it is not supposed to be a war, but our boys are getting killed all right.

Do you feel more hopeful or less hopeful for peace now than you did a few months ago?

Less hopeful.
Why do you feel less hopeful now?

Because it has started out in several places already, but a cold war. In Iran, Germany, in Korea, plenty of wars; if they stop in Korea they will start some other place. That is the reason for the talks, to get some time out to get ready in another spot, but us, we are too dumb to see that; we like to appease.

What do you think will be the result of the talks they've been having in Korea?

I would say in time it will eventually come to a peace...and in peace in time. I figure peace when we give in to them. They talk about stopping at the 38th parallel...not me...drive them all the way back to the border and seal it up and forget about it. At the 38th parallel is where all the trouble began...cost all the good American lives and now we give it to them. Rotten to me!

Well, suppose the cease-fire in Korea does go through, how would you feel the chances are for world peace?

Still no chance. As the Bible says, there will always be war and rumors of war. Never stop those Reds until we kill 'em all.

How do you feel about the intentions of the Communists in regard to the peace talks? Do you think they're sincere or do you think they're trying to put something over on us or what?

No good. Not sincere. They are not putting anything over on us. They don't think like we do. They think we are out to get them and that is what they tell their people to hold them together. Russia has over nine million men under arm and we have three million. Why such a big army if you don't think they will use it?
How likely do you think it is that we'll be in another World War in the next year or two?

All depends on Korea, all depends on that. I couldn't say. You might ask some higher ups. They should know if they want a war or not. Me, I wouldn't know.

Why is that?

Well, I really don't know (what do you think?) Could be, but I can't say for sure. Can't tell what this country will do. I don't know.

In case we have another World War, how well do you think the Army, Navy and Air Forces could do in preventing air attacks on our cities?

Expressed by better men than myself. This is an important city. If they ever come over to bomb, one or two might come in. Nobody is set up defense enough, but I would say they wouldn't fly back.

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

I think protect from heavy damage, as there is always chance of one getting in.

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

I don't know for sure. I don't know if Russia has the atomic bomb. It has never been proven to me they have, but if they have it they could drop it just as we could drop it on them. I would say yes.

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

Yes. It is an important city... arsenals, refineries, Navy yards... plenty to get.
Have you heard or read anything in the last few months about biological or germ warfare?

Seems to me I have, but I can't say what it is.

What about poison gas - chemical warfare, that is. Have you read or heard anything about this in the last few months?

No, I have not read about that.

In case there's a war, do you think people in this country will be in real danger from either of these?

No, I don't think they would have that much time to drop the germs. I think they would be much more effective to drop a bomb. It would do more damage. I don't think they could afford to get all those germs together and bring them over here. I would say no to both of them.

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

I read and heard about it, radioactive effect, blinding effect from the bomb. People suffer from burns and it just knocks buildings down like they were paper within a certain radius. I would say complete destruction.

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

Two miles, I believe.

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

I think the heat, explosions and the radioactivity would kill most of the people.
How far from where the bomb hit do you think most people will be injured?

Up to eleven miles. (Respondent told his wife to get the book on atomic bombing)

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

Yes, I have.

What have you heard about it?

That comes from the bomb, and lands on everything, and if you touch anything that is radioactive you must wash it and yourself very well because it can settle in your skin and be harmful, kill you I think.

Some people say that radioactivity (rays, dust, mist, etc.) would cause about as many deaths as things like the explosion, the heat or the fire. Do you think this is true or not?

I think so. I would say true.

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

Yes, build myself a hole in the ground. That's where I'm going. No. They say the cellar is supposed to be the best place (Wife says "oh, no, the first floor"). So then the first floor. I still think under the ground. It doesn't penetrate under the ground. Then you must have a radio to hear instructions. Have canned food and drinking water in a closed container...something that won't break.

Where have you read or heard about these things?

Pamphlets put out by the government and the Frankfort arsenal.
Is there anything in particular you have done or plan to do soon for your own or your family's safety in case of an atom bomb attack?

Haven't done a thing; we just know what to do that's all.

Do you think that children ought to be taught in school what to do in case of an atomic bomb attack?

Yes, I think so, so they will understand what to do and be able to take care of themselves.

Do you think children ought to be taught about these things even though it might scare them?

Sure, they tell kids a lot of other things that scare them. Better to be prepared and scared than not to be prepared and sorry.

There's a lot of talk about Civil Defense these days. As you understand it, what does the term "Civil Defense" mean?

Protection against the A bomb, protection against the enemy by an organized group of people.

Well, what do you think the purpose of Civil Defense is?

Protect people and property.

As far as you know, is there any civil defense program in your city—that is, any set-up to protect the city in case of an enemy attack?

Yes, they have a skeleton air force and a skeleton civil defense.

Have you heard or read anything asking people to volunteer?

Yes, I have read and heard where they want people to learn to be air-raid wardens and learn first aid and teach other people.
What kinds of things do you think volunteer workers in Civil Defense would be asked to do at the present time if they joined up?

Air raid wardens to have special tours of duty during black outs. Learn first aid and know how to do it. I think each family should have a book and learn what to do for themselves. I think they would have to know how to put fires out and get people out from under a house and the like.

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

That I don't know. I heard they have a civilian defense. We had a few sirens for air raid signals and they didn't work - they weren't loud enough. I would say not set up. There would be just a lot of confusion. I'll bet you couldn't find a person that would know what to do. The people are not taught about it.

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

Well, put the program in action.

How do you feel about the progress that's being made now?

The program is behind times. They just had one test and it was not very effective. They should have a working program. They have the plans but go ahead with it, instruct the people, get them in it, make them interested. Should have more publicity, get people conscious of the chance of a bomb.

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

City government. Every city should take care of their own program.
If you were asked at the present time to work on a civil defense project like learning to fight fires, like learning to be a block or air raid warden, or taking care of people wounded in a bombing attack, and so on, would you do it?

Yes, I guess I would.

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

All right with me (wife frowned on this and said she didn't see how he could with his bad legs, and he didn't like this so he said he could help).

Here is a list of jobs that people working for civil defense will be asked to do. Which one of these would you be most likely to sign up for if you were asked to volunteer?

- Firefighting
- Being an air raid or block warden
- Police work
- First aid and care of the injured
- Getting housing for people, feeding people and taking care of children
- Rebuilding and cleaning up
- Transportation work
- Clerical, records, office work
- Messenger service and other communication work

I think I would like to be an air raid warden.

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, nothing.

Have you ever thought about volunteering for civil defense?

No, I have not.

Do you know anyone who has volunteered for work in civil defense?

No, I don't.
The Civil Defense program here in Philadelphia isn't going ahead as well as some experts think it should. Why do you think it isn't going ahead faster?

Don't have the right people running it. People are not interested. It has not been advertised enough, people know there is an A bomb but they just take it for granted if it does hit it will be enough time to get ready. They don't have enough tests, no interest in the city officials to get it running right.

Why do you think more people haven't volunteered for civil defense work?

Civil Defense is in the planning stage, not as a program, no definite plan in effect; they only had one pilot test months ago. They should be more efficient on it. They should get the planning stage into the organized stage; it is the fault of the people at the top. They get a few people interested but not enough, because the people don't think it can happen here.

If we have a cease-fire in Korea, do you think we should go ahead to build up a strong Civil Defense set-up in this city or won't it be necessary?

Should keep right on and be prepared for it if it comes, not get ready after it happens.
Respondent #6 is a forty year old housewife. She has a college education and lives in Philadelphia.

In general are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the United States has been acting towards other countries?

In general dissatisfied.

In what ways are you dissatisfied?

I would tell them all to go jump in a lake. All this Korean business is just plain ridiculous. All the talks and we are just back to where we started last year, plus all the good American boys killed and wounded. We treat Russia like we are the one that lost the war; I don't know why we are so easy with them. We should tell them off and be done with it instead of trying to make peace with people that we can never trust. We give so much to all the other countries, let them work for themselves. How much longer do we have to keep them?

Do you feel more hopeful or less hopeful now than you did a few months ago?

I don't feel either way. That is a question hanging in mid-air and I don't know what will happen. You can't trust the communists, so to tell the truth I don't know.
What do you think will be the result of the talks they've been having in Korea?

I think as I said before, we are right back where we started from last year. We have gained nothing and lost plenty of good men. If they stop in Korea it will start elsewhere. There is plenty of trouble in Iran so maybe that will be the next spot.

Well, suppose the cease-fire in Korea does go through, how would you feel the chances are for world peace?

Me, why I think we will never have world peace as long as Russia is trying to conquer the world. If not in Korea it will be someplace else. We must kill them first.

How do you feel about the intentions of the communists in regard to the peace talks? Do you think they're sincere or do you think they're trying to put something over on us or what?

Why that is easy - putting something over on us. They didn't accomplish their purpose in Korea so they will try something else on us. I hope we don't trust them very far.

How likely do you think it is that we'll be in another World War in the next year or two?

I don't think so. I don't think Russia is ready for a world war. This Korean war was just just to see how strong we were and we showed them, so now they want another breather.
In case we have another World War, how well do you think the Army, Navy and Air Forces could do in preventing air attacks on our cities?

That is hard for me to answer as no one knows that but Truman and he is keeping it a secret. I think we are prepared somewhat. Hard to know just how much, but I think they could do a pretty good job.

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

Protect from heavy damage.

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

Yes, I think we would be hit.

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

It is easy to get here. All the big cities are on the one line. New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Washington — all easy to hit. We have important industries here and Navy bases, so I think it would hit us.

Have you heard or read anything in the last few months about biological or germ warfare?

Yes, I have.

What about poison gas — chemical warfare, that is. Have you read or heard anything about that in the last few months?

No, I haven't. I thought that was out of date. They always agree not to use it, so I didn't read anything about that.
In case there's a war, do you think people in this country will be in real danger from either of these?

No, I don't think so, because if they use it they know we would have something worse. I don't think they will try that.

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

Oh, yes.

What sort of things have you read or heard?

Have a pamphlet telling you what to do and not to do, how it effects people and the damage it does to property. The Sunday Inquirer had a lot about it one Sunday. You are not to go outside until a long time afterwards because of the rays from it - they might still be alive. It makes the water bad and any kind of food that is not canned is not safe to eat. It kills animals and I think it is harmful for years on people's system...it gets under your skin as you might say. Always fire and explosion too.

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

Radius of half mile.

How far from where the bomb hit do you think most people will be injured?

I would say a mile.
From what you've heard, what would cause most of the deaths?

Cosmic rays I think is the word.

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

Yes, I have.

What have you heard about it?

That is what kills the people; it just burns you up alive. That is why it is so deadly.

Some people say that radioactivity (rays, dust, mist, etc.) would cause about as many deaths as things like the explosion, the heat or the fire. Do you think this is true or not?

I think that is just as bad as the others. Yes. According to the first bomb that dropped, that was the worst thing, people just burning alive.

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

Well, if you are in the house, get under something heavy, stay away from the windows, have the shades down, and be sure you have your body covered. If you are outside you must get to a doorway or a curb, lay down and cover your face and legs. Let's see what else...yes, don't drink any water because it might be radioactive, it might kill you.

Where have you read or heard about these things?

Children brought the pamphlets home from school and the Sunday papers had a special issue on it and I've heard it over the radio and seen it on television.
Is there anything in particular you have done or plan to do soon for your own or your family's safety in case of an atom bomb attack?

No, can't say that there is, because I don't think it is that close yet.

Do you think that children ought to be taught in school what to do in case of an atomic bomb attack?

Yes I do. (Respondent's children are in the room and they are showing us how Sister in school taught them to get under the desk and sit like a tailor used to sit, but with the head down in the lap. They are very bomb conscious.)

Do you think that children ought to be taught about these things even though it might scare them?

Yes. If taught properly it won't scare them. (The children said "Won't scare me".) They have the training for fire drills and it is much the same. I mean they teach them to be calm and not to get excited.

Do you think teaching children about these things would scare them?

No. It is something we must all face and if told the right way won't scare.

There's a lot of talk about Civil Defense these days. As you understand it, what does the term "Civil Defense" mean?

Means preparedness in your own particular city or town from the atomic bomb.

Well, what do you think the purpose of Civil Defense is?

To protect citizens, preserve as many lives as possible and to care for property.
As far as you know, is there any Civil Defense program in your city - that is, any set-up to protect the city in case of an enemy attack?

I think I did read some place where they want people to volunteer for Civil Defense. I really don't know if they have any set plan as yet, but I would like to know in case they did get bombed where we could go.

Have you heard or read anything asking people to volunteer?

Yes.

What kinds of things do you think volunteer workers in civil defense would be asked to do at the present time if they joined up?

At present teaching people what to do in case of bombing and first aid classes showing the people what to do for the injured. I think that would be the main thing now.

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

No. I don't think they are ready. I know I am not, and I have not heard of any other plans.

Why do you say that?

Because they have not had adequate protection, are not organized enough as far as I know. I see no shelters or signs as to where to go or anything. I think it would be a great panic if it happened right now.

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

I think they should have more people interested, spend more money preparing places for people to go, instead of paying off grafters.
How do you feel about the progress that's being made now?

I don't really know how much progress has been made and I have not heard.

Why do you feel that way?

Well, I don't think people like myself feel that there is any great need for that. I suppose when they need it they will get it ready. Seems a shame to spend the money when you might not need it.

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

City government. Every city protect themselves; it is their city.

If you were asked at the present time to work on a Civil Defense project, like learning to fight fires, like learning to be a block or air raid warden, or taking care of people wounded in a bombing attack, and so on, would you do it?

I couldn't very well with four children to care for, but my husband would do it again.

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

If I was available I would be glad to, but my children need my time.
Here is a list of jobs that people working for civil defense will be asked to do. Which of these would you be most likely to sign up for if you were asked to volunteer?

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- Rebuilding and cleaning up
- Transportation work
- Clerical, records, office work
- Messenger service and other communication work

Feeding people and taking care of children.

Have you ever thought about volunteering for Civil Defense?

No, I have not because I don't have the spare time.

Do you know anyone who has volunteered for work in Civil Defense?

No, I don't.

The Civil Defense program here in Philadelphia isn't going ahead as well as some experts think it should. Why do you think it isn't going ahead faster?

I guess because enough people are not interested, people don't think it can happen here.

Why do you think more people haven't volunteered for civil defense work?

Because it is not talked up enough or advertised. People should be sent around to see who would be willing to help, and the training in first aid should be known in each section so the people would go.

If we have a cease-fire in Korea, do you think we should go ahead to build up a strong Civil Defense set-up in this city or won't it be necessary?

I would say it is necessary and have it ready in case we do need it. Better to be ready in time than too late.