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Writer Takes a Look At Civil Defense Day

By RUTH VOGT

If education must be concerned in not teaching a person what to think, but how to reason, let's just for fun, apply this type of thinking to the Civil Defense Day observance being held all over the country December 7.

Without seeming unfair, haven't the Civil Defense organizations been attempting to tell the population what to think rather than why to think? Haven't they been trying to tell us that we will be able to accomplish a great deal of good for ourselves and families if we only train ourselves to recognize the whistles and radio distress signals and have some sort of shelter tucked under our basement or in our backyards?

IF THE MIND has not absorbed this theory of being told and accepting ideas without reasoning them through, that mind is going to experience friction.

On the one hand, if it happens to be the mind of a mother, her first instinct is to grab at the deductions that a shelter, first aid kit and plenty of canned food might save her loved ones.

But when that same mind is pushed on to consider other facts in the picture, facts she has followed for over a decade and facts given on excellent authority by men who really know, she will struggle and struggle in order to come up with a decision.

WHO BUT THE poets among us have been brave enough to ask: "And what if the majority of population on this earth might rise again after a few bombs were dropped, what kind of world will the surviving people face?" Only our most imaginative poets have allowed their thoughts to linger on the post-atomic existence.

They can barely visualize a mammoth crew of workers scurrying over the countryside with huge bull dozers and scrapers and big

trucks in order to get our land all neat and tidy again so that humans could use it.

The bombs and we have come a long, educated way since the first three were dropped back in '45. We and they have gotten bigger and greater in number.

BUT WHAT if the bull dozers and what not were capable of pushing the rubble to one side so it wouldn't be noticed? What about the shelter-saved folks' attitudes, mental out-look and reactions?

Would we be able to brush ourselves off, after crouching in a cellar hole for a week or so, and say to our offspring: "Upsey-daisy, children. It's all over. We can go back, now, to this business of living and loving and working atop our earth."

IF THEY insist on presenting Civil Defense day, we must insist on our right to challenge the worth of its facts.

Who knows? By doing so, if enough individuals are willing perhaps a better method will evolve.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

There Will Always Be Prejudice, Mrs. Jones

To the Editor:

I would like to reply to Mrs. Bill Jones who wrote in the Nov. 23 Eccentric about prejudice in Birmingham against Catholicism.

Unfortunately, Mrs. Jones, there will always be some prejudice wherever there are people. Your deep south is not the only section harboring hatred toward the Negro. Baltimore is not the only city

exercising discrimination toward the Jew. Nor is Shogyan alone in anti-union feelings.

SO, WOULDN'T one be naive to think that Birmingham would be without its prejudiced people? Obviously, you have rubbed elbows with a few. But don't blunder into that pitfall which is the basis of all prejudice—judging many by the few.

In my business I have been in conversational contact with Birmingham women of all faiths for many years. Words of judgment have been extremely rare.

Also, it is my good fortune to know personally a number of Protestant ministers in our city. I have never found in them this feeling toward the Catholics of which you write.

I AM a Catholic.

Look a little longer before you condemn Birmingham, Mrs. Jones. The Bible says we find that which we seek. And remember, there is no prejudice so blind as prejudice against the prejudiced.

BEULAH SUTTON REIHER

Area Mayors Call Meeting for Tonight

The mayors of southern Oakland county will meet for an informal discussion at 7 p.m. today at Red Run Golf Club, Royal Oak.

Mayor Florence Willett of Birmingham will attend.

Speaker will be George W. Romney, president of American Motors. He will discuss the election next April for calling a constitutional convention.

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