

Civil Defence Costs in 1959, "Only Cigarette Money", Says Morley

By a 25 to 13 vote, Ontario County Council last week instructed a committee to make a complete study of the problem of civil defense as related to the Joint Civil Defense Committee. Councillors refused however, to endorse a motion calling for rescinding a resolution of December 22, 1959, which authorized the withdrawal of the county from the joint committee.

As matters now stand, the county's notice of withdrawal is still in the hands of Oshawa authorities. The county is reconsidering its position.

The outcome of the study could convince councillors to change their minds about withdrawing before the March 31 deadline but unless they change their minds, the county will withdraw.

Following a notice of motion presented on Wednesday, Reeve Cyril Morley, of Pickering Village, introduced the motion that touched off an afternoon-long debate in the council chambers in Whitby on Thursday.

Would Rescind

His motion asked that the resolution of Dec. 22 (calling for the county's withdrawal from the joint CD committee) be res-

cinded and a committee make a study and full report to county council.

Speaking to his motion, Reeve Morley said, "we are perhaps dissatisfied with the operation of Civil Defense. I do not mean locally, the dissatisfaction commences at the senior levels of government and comes on down."

"But we must realize that they are dealing with a rapidly changing problem," he said. "When CD was first mentioned, the period of warning was weeks, later it became days and now it is only hours. The proper plan for today could be obsolete before the day is over. We are perhaps over-critical of those who are trying to devise some means of defense in the event of a nuclear attack."

The cost of civil defense to the county in 1959, he said, was \$2,500. This, he said, represents 3.27 cents on every \$1,000 of assessment, or an annual cost to the average ratepayer of less than the price of a pack of cigarettes.

He urged a complete investigation and study of civil defense in the county and a full report to the council.

Reeve James J. Gibson, of Port Perry, said that the motion

to withdraw, passed on December 22, "had come through so fast that most of us did not realize what it was about."

Life Insurance

"But to me," he said, "civil defense is like life insurance: you hate paying the premium but, in some circumstances it comes in handy."

Deputy-reve Mrs. Mary Reid of Ajax, who introduced the motion to withdraw at the December meeting, said that after serving two years on the county's civil defense committee "I still maintain there is no program. We have volumes on what we should have, but civil defense is not getting that sort of support."

"Our co-ordinator can't get other communities to organize. We are paying into an organization with a non-existent program."

Spent \$20,000—

Talking of insurance premiums and small amounts of money, she continued, "During the past two years we have budgeted a total of \$20,000 for civil defense. We have paid a man \$6,000 per year each of those years and paid out another \$3,500 for secretarial help. We are not paying it all here in the county, but it is wasted money."

"I don't think it is possible to organize an effective civil defense organization in this county. The co-ordinator cannot do it if he does not get the support and co-operation of the people in all the communities. If I felt we were accomplishing anything I would support the program," she said.

"Oshawa is a city with a concentrated population," she said, "and has a different problem and different solution."

"I think in local government if we hire a man for \$6,000 we expect him to do a job. In this county we have a man who gets \$6,000 and he does a lot more answering to this council than Col. Wotton. Until someone comes up with a program, we should forget civil defense."

60 Days' Notice

Explaining her motion of December 22, Mrs. Reid noted that the CD agreement with Oshawa stipulates that one party, if it wishes to withdraw, must give 60 days' notice. If that notice is not filed with Oshawa CD authorities in time, she said, the county would be in the joint CD committee for another year.

The money used for civil defense, she said, "comes from someone's pocket, even if it did



not all come out of the county levy. If we take the money, we should be conscientious in the way we spend it."

Not Getting Value—

"I would challenge anyone to show me what has been done. We are not getting value for our money," she said.

Reeve John McGillivray, of Scott Twp., told council he agreed entirely with Mrs. Reid's position.

Reeve Sherman Scott, of Pickering Twp., said that he agreed in part with both Mrs. Reid and Reeve Morley. The fault, he said, lies partly with the senior governments in that they had not given direction to the co-ordinator in order that he could establish a program.

If the provincial or federal government comes up with a program, he said, some consideration should be given by council. He introduced an amendment to Reeve Morley's motion that a special committee make a study of civil defense and report to council. His amendment also called for rescinding the December motion to withdraw.

Reeve Rae Ferguson, of the town of Uxbridge, observed, "When the time comes that we need civil defense, there will be no time to organize. I am in favor of continuing with civil defense."

"I heartily agree with the steps Mrs. Reid has taken," said Reeve Erwin Sovie, of Mara Twp. "I wonder where the money that makes up grants comes from?"

"In case of an emergency," he said, "we in the north would more or less be the dumping ground for the heavily populated areas. I don't think we should support it."

"We built a DEV line and now it is discarded. It is the same with civil defense. I can't see or support it," he said.

The council then went into a committee of the whole.

Would Dissolve

Deputy-reve Mrs. Reid introduced an amendment to the

amendment. It asked the county to authorize the special civil defense committee to work out the dissolution of the joint CD committee between Oshawa and the county.

Deputy-reve Fieber Down, of Whitby Twp., said that council had been talking about civil defense for nine years. "It is a touchy subject," he said. "They are not sure themselves that they are doing the right thing. If we haven't done anything, we have awakened them up."

Help in Storm—

Reeve Earl Dowsell, of Uxbridge Twp., urged more study of civil defense before abandoning it. He noted that in his township a recent ice storm had cut down hydro and telephone lines. Had it been covered with snow, he said, the area within a few miles of Metro Toronto, would have been completely isolated.

In a situation such as that, he said, it appeared that there was a place for civil defense.

Deputy-reve Mrs. Reid said that if there had been an effective civil defense program, something would have been done in that emergency.

Defeat Motions

Both amendments and the motion were then put to council and all were lost.

A revised motion by Reeve Morley, removing the portion about rescinding the earlier decision to withdraw was put to council and passed 25 for and 13 against.

It is anticipated that Warden Heron will today name a special committee to make the study and report back to the council. In the meantime, Ontario County's notice of withdrawal from the joint civil defense organization stands.

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