

FEDERAL CIVIL DEFENSE ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20540

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OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

The President
The White House
Washington 25, D. C.

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Dear Mr. President:

This is with reference to the attached report on "Federal Personnel Problems Relating to Civil Defense," which was forwarded to this Administration by Mr. Paul T. Carroll of your staff for recommendations and appropriate action concerning proposals for Presidential action.

In general, the report recommends steps to be taken to permit and encourage participation of Federal employees in civil defense, and to provide injury and death benefits and employment security for such employees. Also included are recommendations relative to protection of vital employee records, the development of procedures for maintaining salary payments to Federal workers in a civil defense emergency, and the development of plans for the temporary transfer or assignment of employees to essential Federal activities. Some of the recommendations will require legislation; others may be implemented under existing authority; one will require the issuance of an Executive Order.

One of the specific recommendations (No. 4) was for the issuance of an Executive Order authorizing excused absence for Federal employees who participate in planned State and local civil defense work. This Administration has prepared, and will shortly submit to the Bureau of the Budget, a proposed Executive Order to accomplish this purpose. At the same time we shall submit for your approval a memorandum to be issued with the Executive Order requesting all Department and agency heads to encourage those employees who will not be immediately required for essential agency functions during an emergency to join State and local civil defense organizations.

Several of the recommendations relate to the provision of Federal injury and death benefits to State and local civil defense workers. While we agree that such coverage should be provided, we feel that it is primarily a matter of State responsibility and that the Federal participation should be limited to contributions under the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950, as amended, to States which provide such coverage for their civil defense workers. In this connection, our legislative program in each of the last two sessions of Congress has included proposed legislation which would authorize reimbursement to the States for a part of

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the cost of compensation actually paid to civil defense workers injured or killed in civil defense training or operations. It is our intention to include a similar proposal as a part of our 1954 program.

With the exception noted above, we are in accord with the recommendations made, and will continue to work with the agencies primarily concerned with the subject matter of the recommendations with a view to their implementation to the extent consistent with the civil defense program. As required, appropriate recommendations for Presidential action will be submitted.

The report and Mr. Carroll's transmittal sheet are returned herewith.

Respectfully,

Val Peterson

Enclosures