

Atomic Retaliation

(Continued from p. 293)

systems which must be redesigned and "hardened" in order to take care of the EMP and other nuclear explosion effects.

The electrical effects of atomic explosion which are now causing great concern are additional to the radiation, blast and extreme heat which would be produced by gigantic H-bomb explosions. These effects are better known and have been better publicized in connection with civilian defense than the electrical effects. But they are fundamentally no more serious from the standpoint of our counter measures and the defense of the country.

The electromagnetic effects which are now becoming realized are additional bomb dangers.

• Science News Letter, 84:293 Nov. 9, 1963

GENERAL SCIENCE

Momentous Problem: Finding A Place to Live

► A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER is taking place throughout American farms, country areas and cities.

This new shape is changing the American scene in dynamic ways that should be analyzed, developed and directed in aiding establishment of a deep-rooted U.S. dream for a clean, orderly, happy secure home.

The signs of change are everywhere, states Orville L. Freeman, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Communities are growing or declining; farms are being enlarged or are disappearing; cities are being built up and suburbs are growing; families are moving to new homes and jobs; and human relationships, institutions and aspirations are changing in rural and urban America alike.

Clear-sighted perspective on these dynamic changes in American life is given in the USDA's official yearbook, "A Place to Live," published Nov. 4.

In the book's foreword, Mr. Freeman states that the new economic order is a product of a technological-scientific revolution that began 200 years ago and has increased its pace tremendously in the last few years. This order has affected agricultural production "almost beyond belief," he says, but has also had sorrowful effects on farmers and communities that could not keep up with the fast pace.

Warning signals should be heeded in some of the changes which, he says, "like an automobile out of control, are so fast, so undirected or so unmindful of traffic signs and lights as to jeopardize the well-being of people."

Farmers whose farms are too small, poor or rugged for machines have suffered many disadvantages. Many have moved into the cities, where new problems confront them. With traditional distinctions between city and country lessening, new situations call for more land for industry, more education, more technical services in planning cities, suburbs, highways, recreation areas and farming.

The 608 page yearbook sets forth information about farm problems, social and

economic aspects of movements to and from farms, and the USDA's programs on factors that affect us all—the use of land, water, forests, open spaces, air, rivers and seashores.

• Science News Letter, 84:301 Nov. 9, 1963

GENERAL SCIENCE

President Signs Law Against Human Miseries

► THE "MISERIES of the human mind" were attacked in the bill President Kennedy signed in Washington, D. C., authorizing a program to help reduce the occurrence of mental retardation and improve the health of mothers and children.

Quoting Albert Einstein, the President told the National Association for Mental Retardation that man had "conquered the atom" but not yet these human miseries. He referred to the 126,000 children born each year with some retardation—almost 5,000 of them so severely retarded that they "cannot care for their own needs."

With money to pay for so many things, the President said, the United States should make a major effort to block, stop or cure mental retardation, a field in which legislation has lagged behind.

Dr. Stafford L. Warren, special assistant to the President on Mental Retardation, told the meeting that not only had The Maternal and Child Health and Mental Retardation Amendments of 1963 been signed, but that President Kennedy had also signed an act to increase opportunities for professional training (called H.R. 12), which is now ready for operation.

The Senate bill (S. 1576) creating mental retardation facilities, community mental health centers and special education programs was later signed by the President.

Of immediate importance, Dr. Warren said, is the fact that the bill "provides planning funds for the governors who must appoint an interdepartmental commission or designate an agency within the state government as sponsor for the mental retardation program."

• Science News Letter, 84:301 Nov. 9, 1963

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• Science News Letter, 84:301 Nov. 9, 1963

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