

Emergency preparedness book to include warning on war

The chairman of the county board of Supervisors believes a manual on emergency preparedness should state there is no effective protection from the effects of nuclear war.

Chairman Robley Levy Tuesday suggested this statement be included in a manual the county is preparing for eventual distribution to county residents.

After reviewing a draft of the manual Tuesday, supervisors unanimously directed that Levy's suggestions and other additions be made in a draft to be returned to them for consideration on Nov. 2.

On that date, Supervisor E. Wayne Moore Jr. pledged, he will attempt to remove Levy's statement from the manual.

Moore said that while he hopes to God nuclear war never occurs, "we have to be ready when it does occur."

Levy's proposal states, "There is no effective protection for the citizens of Santa Cruz County from the effects of nuclear war. Crisis relocation and shelter strategies offer only an illusion, not protection."

"The only protection against the effects of nuclear war is its prevention — for nations with nuclear arms to agree to mutual verifiable nuclear disarmament."

She's suggesting this in place of a statement in the draft manual which says, in part, that the effects of radioactive fallout from nuclear war can be minimized by providing adequate shelter for the population.

The draft was prepared by

county Emergency Services Coordinator Bill Plageman with the help of the newly-formed Disaster Council, the county Emergency Medical Care Commission and the county Emergency Center Users Committee.

Referring to Levy's suggestions, Moore said he doesn't consider shelters "an illusion."

"I'd certainly like to have that sort of protection than none at all," he added, claiming that any nuclear crisis probably will come from weapons used by the Soviet Union.

"Until Mr. Patton can get control over it (the Soviet Union,) I won't support this," Moore added.

Patton quipped that while Hilda Lans, a local outspoken conservative, keeps offering him a ticket to the Soviet Union, "I haven't gotten it yet."

Patton made the successful motion to incorporate additional items into the second draft, including any useful items from an emergency services manual prepared by the Exploring Division of the Boy Scouts of America.

The Boy Scouts manual was brought to the board's attention by local resident Tom Chacon who called the county's draft manual "totally inadequate."

"It looks to me like someone trying to pass a college exam with a kindergarten textbook," Chacon said of the draft manual.

Supervisors also directed that the following information be included in the second draft: how to obtain gas for transportation, how to generate electrical power dur-

ing an power outage, where to find helpful information in the telephone book, how neighborhood organization can help and a designation of more than one radio station operating as an official emergency station.

Supervisors also want included maps indicating areas that are prone to earthquakes, landslides and floods, a section on toxic chemical spills, a section on public health hazards and comments from the county health officer on the medical consequences of nuclear war.