

SOARING

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CIVIL DEFENSE

by JON CARSEY

By unanimous decision the following resolution was passed by the Board of Directors of the Soaring Society of America at Memphis, Tennessee, on February 17th, 1951.

"Resolved that the Soaring Society of America is fully cognizant of the national emergency, caused by forces that would deprive us of our right to self government, and the necessity of contribution by every loyal American to the effort to insure our national security. Therefore the Soaring Society of America urges its members and the members of its affiliates to fully cooperate with all local and national organizations devoted to preparation for Civil Defense.

It has been pointed out that all categories of Civil Aviation are essential to national defense and that in case of enemy attack the light plane fleet may be the only mobile force for civilian aid in areas under the influence of hysteria brought about by such attack.

While the soaring pilot's motorless craft is not a suitable aircraft to be of value in such an emergency, the knowledge and the skill he has developed in intense study of meteorology, flying techniques and navigation and the experience he has gained in cool and calculated patience of flight that is entirely dependent on his almost supernatural skill, qualifies him for many of the natural skills, qualifies him for many of the tasks that will require capable hands and sound judgement, should the enemy attack.

Civil Defense is as vital to the security of this nation, in this age of trans-oceanic bombers, guided missiles and atomic weapons, as the armed forces. It is a misinformed person who thinks that there remains a division between the home front and the fighting front, and that training is not as essential for the army of the home front as for the fighting front.

No army in the field can exist without the full support of an efficient and productive industrial organization, and civil defense must make this organization secure.

Most soaring enthusiasts are regularly engaged in the industries producing essential items. Many are engaged in major scientific research projects involving use of soaring planes and the soaring pilot know-how, and all are in search of better methods and results in design, construction and performance of aircraft, increased safety of flight and greater knowledge and use of meteorological phenomena.

But this shall not be the full extent of our contribution. While we hope to continue to enjoy the development of motorless flight through sporting competition and scientific projects we shall not fail to respond to the urgent need for defense of our country and our liberty.

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