Shelter Use of Main Building Contemplated



Present fallout protection plans for the Highacres Campus contemplate utilization of the Main Building for fallout shelter housing, according to an announcement by Mr. George Nelson, chairman of the faculty committee on Civil Defense problems.

Nelson informed The Collegian yesterday that the committee, which also includes Mr. Ward of the Physics Department and Mr. Foster of the Engineering Department, is investigating the use of the Main Building's basement floor for fallout shelter purposes.

The Main Building, shown above, contains a lower level running the full extent of the edifice. Basement rooms currently include drafting laboratories, library stacks, service areas, and The Collegian office.

Heavy construction of re-enforced concrete used in walls of 1½ to 2-foot thickness, together with stone masonry veneer, gives the building efficient protection against the entrance of deadly gamma rays. It was this consideration, Nelson pointed out, that led the committee to give the Main Building the most favorable evaluation when examining possible shelter areas.

In addition to its structural advantages, the Main Building also contains two separate toilet areas in the basement. Moreover, protected water facilities farther up the hill from the building insure a safe supply for any possible shelter-utilization practices.

Because of the construction and other advantages of the building, it is thought that conversion of the

basement into a shelter area can be made with a minimum of expense and construction. According to some theories of fallout protection, it could be possible to provide sufficient protection by blocking openings with sandbags. Whether such a method might be feasible in this instance is still under investigation.

Regardless of the final method decided upon for conversion of the Main Building area for shelter purposes, Nelson cautioned, it should be remembered that such a shelter is effective only for fallout protection. No shelter can be really effective against direct blast effects of a nuclear bomb itself, he warned.

MEET YOUR PROFESSORS

MR. ROBERT EPLER

A recent addition to the Highacres history faculty is Mr. Robert Epler, who taught at University Park last year. Before teaching at college level, Mr. Epler taught for five years in the Public Schools in Lancaster, Penna.

Mr. Epler received his B.S. degree from Millersville State Teacher's College, Pennsylvania, in 1955. He then went on to receive his M.A. from the University of Delaware in 1960. Mr. Epler is currently working on his Ph.D. at Penn State.

Mr. Epler has been married for four years, is the father of a four month old daughter, and says, "I highly recommend it (marriage)." The Epler family resides in Conyngham Valley, and likes living there very much.

When asked how he likes High-

When asked how he likes Highacres, Mr. Epler replied, "I have a very favorable impression of Highacres. Its small size permits closer personal contact between the faculty and the students." His activities here include sponsoring the World Affairs Club and cosponsoring the I.C.G.

Mr. Epler's hobbies include sports, preferably basketball and football, reading, and photogra-