

Bomb Shelter Dilemma: Would It Do Any Good?

By GENE BROOKS

"There are so many pros and cons about whether a bomb shelter would do Tucsonians any good that now we don't know what to do," Robert Scott, Sunnyside shelter proponent, said today.

Scott, 31, of 4968 S. Jeanette Ave., who two weeks ago proposed a three-story, 50-foot deep community bomb shelter for Sunnyside residents, said the "problems get more complex as the idea develops."

Because of these problems, Scott said that tomorrow night's meeting of Sunnyside residents to discuss their shelter will be postponed "about a week."

"Some authorities, who are in a position to know about such things as nuclear fallout and radiation, say that Tucson is such a prime target that we might have to stay underground for as long as six months," Scott said.

"But Civil Defense people say that bomb shelters are essential and that we can survive."

"Dr. James McDonald, senior physicist of the department of atmospheric physics at the university here, says that the Titan missiles and Davis-Monthan will be such prime targets that fallout and radiation might last for months. We don't know if it's possible to build a shelter where we can hold out for that long."

Scott said that because there are so many differences of opinion by the experts about the use of building shelters here that "I'm going to have to look into it further to try to find out what to do."

Scott said that he and his committee also want to find out if federal loans are available to help finance their proposed shelter for 879 people.

"If the government can loan money to businesses, certainly it

can loan money to ordinary people so they can protect themselves in case of atomic war," Scott added.

"It appears that so many authorities differ about the seriousness and consequences of radiation and fallout that I guess I'll have to get to be some kind of expert to figure it all out."

"But I don't really think we should be so pessimistic about Tucsonians' chances of surviving an atomic war that we just forget all about shelters," he said.

Scott said he will talk with Davis-Monthan officials, other experts at the university and additional Civil Defense people to find out what kind of shelter might withstand a nuclear explosion and fallout.

The Sunnyside group said earlier that with volunteer help it could build the community shelter for about \$100 per person.

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