



Tribune Photo by George Quinn

Fire Marshal George Schuller, Chicago's acting coordinator of civil defense, checks canisters of water and decontamination kits in the basement of City Hall. They have been there since the early '60s.

found to include supplies, although neither had the 32-pound cans of hard candy which parents often told their fretful children to expect.

THERE WERE OTHER FLAWS. Although Schuller said tin drums for water were standard equipment at shelters, there were none at the Illinois Bell site. And neither the Bell building nor City Hall had a shelter sign displayed outside, although pedestrians should be able to find shelters easily in the event of attack.

The basement City Hall room — with 50,000 crackers-in-boxes piled next to medical supplies and a new geiger counter on a wooden desk — might just be where Mayor Daley would go in the event of a nuclear attack.

He might also go to any of a number of nearby sites, Schuller said.

Under an all clear, Daley and Commissioner Quinn, who is the titular

head of the civil defense program, would direct emergency operations from the City Hall Emergency Operations Center on the seventh floor.

FINAL NOTES about those crackers.

Fascia said his office received a cautionary note recently from the federal Civil Defense Preparedness Agency that some survival cracker had been randomly tested and some tasters got upset stomachs.

In some parts of the country suggestions that survival crackers be given to poverty programs were rejected on the grounds they didn't taste good.

Fascia said survival crackers were sent to other countries in disaster situations, "and they were well received." Admitting that some had a slightly stale taste, he said, "We were told that made them regarded as a delicacy when they were sent to India."