

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
INTER-DEPARTMENT COMMUNICATION

FROM W. T. Read

DATE April 9, 1942 193

TO Dean Warren C. Miller

My dear Dean Miller:

I enclose a sheet of instructions which you asked me to prepare and a copy of the statement made by Dr. Hildebrand.

Do you have any idea as to the date of the state school for instructors in civilian defense? We will need a little advance notice in order to get notes mimeographed and instruction material assembled.

Sincerely yours,

W. T. Read

Civilian Use of Gas Masks

The cry now going up for civilian gas masks, if heeded, will result in a crime of the first magnitude against our defense effort". Josi H. Hildebrand, chairman of the Department of Chemistry, University of California, and codesigner of the American Army gas mask of 1918, said in addressing the Commonwealth Club of California in San Francisco, March 6.

Continuing, Dr. Hildebrand said:

Unless you are some sort of warden, you have little excuse for being exposed to toxic gas. You should stay indoors, where you are better protected without a gas mask than you would be out-of-doors with one.

Close all doors and windows and shut off any furnace that draws air in from the outside. Seal the cracks, if you are very nervous, with tape or wet rags or paper. Go to the upper floors and wait for the gas to blow away or for the street squads to disinfest. Breathe through a wet towel, and, if this is not sufficient comfort, put your head under a pillow and pray.

You do not need a gas mask and you are disloyal to our fighters if you demand one when labor, rubber, and other materials are so vitally needed for fighting purposes.