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# Don't Conscript Firemen, Asks Chief Porter

Fire Chief Stephen T. Porter yesterday advocated exemption of his men from conscription in case of war as word reached local circles that methods of combating incendiary bombings are being carefully studied by fire-protection experts in this country.

"I am not an alarmist, and I fervently pray this country will not become involved in any war, but I can vividly recall the last war when some of our best men were called to the colors only to create vacancies which had to be replaced by inexperienced men," Porter said.

The fire department of any community is vital in the national defense program, Porter said, and pointed to lessons being taught now in Europe where fires have continued to burn and spread because engines and trucks were caught in their houses when raiders bombed a city.

Porter warned that any "fifth column" activities would be vigorously fought by his department.

"Even in peacetime we have firebugs, but during a war crisis we must ever be on the alert for the fifth columnists," he said.

It was learned the International Association of Fire Chiefs is making a careful study of effects of incendiary bombings and will make a report to the War Department in the near future.

Porter said fire caused by the bombs are "next to impossible" to extinguish. "We can prevent the fire from spreading," he said, indicating the local fire department has been busy studying this situation.