

of a vending machine company and a long time "fire fan." Johnson thought there must be other fans who would like to contribute something of merit to their hobby of following fire engines. He was right.

Quinn turned over the idle trucks to Johnson who then began the arduous task of recruiting volunteer, nonpaid personnel for the C. D. Fire and Rescue service. The task was arduous because Johnson and one of his first aids, Robert Benker, now his administrative assistant, used standards as rigid as those of the fire department proper.

Those standards still apply today to the 80-man corps and to the recruits who seek to enlist. New members are given two months on the job training as a probationary period and all members are required to attend continuing training sessions twice a week in the five locations they occupy in fire stations thruout the city.

Before a new man "earns his hat"—he is furnished with a fireman's helmet and a canvas coat with C. D. emblems, but must purchase all other necessary apparel at his own expense—he must learn to handle expertly all of the 384 pieces of equipment carried by each of the six rescue trucks.

**T**HIS equipment is the reason for the outstanding success of the C. D. unit and its acceptance by regular firemen as an auxiliary without which it would now be difficult to handle large fires and major disasters.

The crash of the giant cargo plane at Midway airport late in 1959 presented one of the most recent occasions for the employment of most of the equipment on the trucks. There were three of them at the scene within minutes after the plane plowed into the homes adjacent to the airport.

By coincidence, Leo A. Hoegh, national director of civil defense, was in Chicago at the time.

He was an intensely interested spectator as the Chicago unit used the trucks' winches to pull down crumbling walls and haul debris and smashed autos clear of the workers. He looked on approvingly as the shovels, ropes, metal cutting saws, wire cutters, generators, lights and electrically operated hammers went to work.

Hoegh had high praise for the work of Fire and Rescue service. He told Johnson the Chicago unit was the only C. D. organization in the nation

that operated 24 hours a day.

Hoegh's praise sounded good to the men of the local C. D.

One C. D. worker said the most rewarding aspect for the volunteers came at the end of the several hours' struggle in the ruins when a red-eyed, smoke stained fireman turned to the red-eyed, smoke stained fire and rescue workers who had labored alongside of him and said:

"Thanks again, fellows."

**VOLUNTEER** rescue service worker lends a hand helping firemen with hose at Midway airport crash. The Chicago rescue service unit is the only Civil Defense unit in the country that operates on a 24 hour a day basis.

