

Scientist Says Human Race Could Survive Atomic War

SALT LAKE CITY, May 25.— (AP)—A California scientist said last night he does not believe an atomic war would wipe out the human race. But he said he believed the destruction would be so great that civilization would "have to start again from scratch."

Dr. Curt Stern, professor of zoology at University of California, spoke at the annual meeting of the University of Utah College of Medicine Alumni Association.

He said he believed the effects of radioactivity on human beings would be only one of the catastrophic results of an atomic war. He refused to say, however, whether he thought atomic tests in Nevada should be continued, saying that is a political decision.

"Up to now," he said, "the

fallout from atomic explosions has produced per year among 4,000,000 newborn children something between 70 and 7,000 mutations. Out of these probably not more than 1 per cent will have afflicted the first generation.

"If we take the higher figure, this means that seventy children are unfavorably affected immediately, while other unfavorable mutations will be manifested over hundreds or even thousands of years."

Doctor Stern said mutations might have effects ranging from obvious physical malformation to weaknesses merely reducing the life span of an individual by a year or two.

Radioactive contamination during an atomic war, he said, would be so much greater than during the recent Nevada tests that the result would be hard to estimate. He added:

"I personally would not like to be one of the survivors of an atomic war."