

FIGHTING CHANCE

John 8: 31-32

Proverbs 22: 3

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TERRORISTS

In the introduction to *Fighting Chance* we say "Insurance against accidents and natural and terrorist threats justifies a civilian shelter system. The Soviet military threat, however, justifies it 1,000 times over."

There are those who say that they hope to convince the nations of the world to dismantle their nuclear weapons. They say that we should base our hopes of survival in the nuclear age entirely upon their wish to change human nature and to transform government officials throughout the world into humane, trustworthy souls.

These people should be given every opportunity to change human nature, so long as our families and fellow Americans have a first rate civil defense system and a first rate strategic defense system to protect us in case they fail. Let us paint a peace sign on every shelter, *while we are lowering it into the ground.*

We have not found, however, people who rationally argue that all knowledge about nuclear weapons can be successfully forgotten by mankind. The nuclear age is here to stay. Mankind's knowledge about nuclear science will inexorably advance.

Also, although some argue that all governments might be made rational, few, if any, will argue that all individuals can be made rational. Various people for various reasons will pursue their goals by means of force or violence.

All of which brings us to the **terrorist**. It is very likely that someday a terrorist group will succeed in installing a small nuclear weapon in an American city. What happens then?

If that city is not equipped with a proper civil defense system which includes in-place blast shelters, a million people or more may die. If the city is properly equipped, death and suffering would be reduced by a factor of 10 or more.

Suppose that the terrorists give warning by means of a demand of some sort. Within a few minutes the entire population could be inside the shelters. Only those very close to the bomb itself would then be at risk. The city would lose many of its buildings, but most of the people would survive.

Suppose, on the other hand, that no warning is given. The weapon is just detonated without warning. In that case many more people would die. However, those who survived the initial effects could then enter the shelters and thereby avoid death from fallout, fire, and other secondary weapons effects.

Also, the medical facilities in the civil defense system could save many of those who had been injured but not killed by the initial explosion. Again casualties could be reduced by a large factor.

How about terrorist use of biological or chemical weapons? In this case the button-up capabilities of the shelter system could save most of the people.

These same arguments can be made for accidents, the difference being that it is reasonable to assume that significant nuclear, chemical, or biological accidents might be avoided indefinitely. Few people would argue that terrorists can be thusly avoided. Contrary information appears almost daily in world news.

The saving of the lives of the people in just one American city from the disaster of one terrorist attack with a weapon of mass slaughter justifies, by itself, the construction of the national civil defense system advocated in *Fighting Chance*.

I have found that many people who are not able to face the problem of nuclear war are able to face the terrorist threat. On many occasions I have been able to convince scientists and others of the need for a shelter system by using this discussion of the terrorist threat. This argument is sound and correct, but don't use it *instead* of the nuclear war argument. After all, the Soviets are the world's most accomplished terrorists and they have 20,000 nuclear weapons.

The Soviet threat, however, is so enormous that some people just will not face it.

The next time you meet one of these people, try one small bomb, one small terrorist, and one "small" explosion. This is a horror that most people are able to face.

GRASS ROOTS CIVIL DEFENSE

On June 16, the first public meeting was held following our mailing of *Fighting Chance* to postal patrons in the Medford, Oregon area. There were 175 people in attendance. Good coverage was given by the three Medford television stations, two radio stations, and the Medford Tribune.

We expect that subsequent meetings of this group will lead to an active civil defense group in Jackson County. We have already demonstrated in Josephine County that saturation mailing to a community will start a good civil defense effort. In that county, the vigorous Rogue Valley Civil Defense Council was formed.

These Southern Oregon mailings have been an experiment by **Fighting Chance**. The test has been successful. Four mailings have been made. Each has had essentially the same result.

Saturation mailing of the book (along with an invitation to a public meeting) brings together many of the members of the community who are interested in actively working to get a civil defense system for the community, and in getting home and family shelters for themselves.

In small communities with 5,000 or fewer mailboxes, this initial group of individuals may be small. If the group includes two or three people who are willing to take a leadership role, it can be viable and effective.

In larger communities, (Grants Pass has 22,000 mailboxes and the Medford area 38,000), the groups are large enough to be self-organizing. The Grants Pass group formed itself, divided itself into eleven functioning committees, and incorporated. The group, as a result of its size, includes many individuals with leadership qualities and many others who are willing to work.

If you are interested in doing this project in your community, please let us know. For each mailing we would charge only the actual costs of the book production and the mailing. Someone would need to pay these costs for each project.

We are preparing an edited video tape of the meeting which followed the Medford mailing. This tape along with our step-by-step procedures will be available to help with each such project.

It is not easy to motivate people to make meaningful preparations for civil defense on a community-wide basis. In summary we have found in these four mailings:

- The mailing brings together those individuals who are interested and motivated enough to get something done. If the community is large enough, these groups are viable, self-starting, and effective.
- The majority of the members of the community become passively supportive of these efforts, but take no active part. This is consistent with public opinion polls which show general American passive support for homeland defense. An active civil defense organization can function in a typical American community, therefore, with generally positive community support.
- The press has been generally fair and responsive in our experimental efforts. Three television stations, three newspapers, and two radio stations (which include most of the principal Southern Oregon media) have covered these mailings and meetings. Of these, all but one have been accurate, fair, and responsive in their news and human interest coverage. The one newspaper that has demonstrated repeated hostility to our program has suffered strong public reaction against its anti-civil defense position.

Will our national politicians give us a homeland defense if we turn up the "heat"? Many civil defense supporters are justifiably skeptical about this possibility.

We must explore all of the possible options. In America, grass-roots action on a community basis is an important resource. These mailings have shown a way to mobilize grassroots action. We suggest that you consider trying this in your community.

If your community is much larger than Grants Pass or Medford, you may want to mail to every second or tenth household in the community. After a group with 50 to 100 members is functioning, publicity about its activities will bring in other participants. In this way the organization can grow to include those who did not initially receive a book.

Our results indicate that a mailing of 5000 books is a minimum and that 20,000 or more is required to immediately produce a strong effective organization.

IN FROM THE COLD: "NUCLEAR WINTER" MELTS DOWN

This is the title of an article by Russell Seitz, *The National Interest*, No.5, Fall 1986, pp.3-17. It has been reprinted by the United States Department of Defense as their publication Number 1564, Current News, Special Edition, 2 April 1987.

Dr. Seitz's article is an excellent up-to-date description of the entire nuclear winter fraud from its inception through its ignominious demise. If you have friends who are still clinging to any fear of "nuclear winter", write for a copy of this article.

Aside, of course, from the outright deliberate falsehoods in their nuclear winter articles, Carl Sagan and his associates also assumed that the earth is a billiard ball with no oceans, no wind, no rain, and no realistic temperature gradients.

In short, they assumed that the earth was already in a nuclear winter (in fact even more bleak conditions than that) before their assumed nuclear war. Surprise: a frozen lifeless planet remained so after the war. Actually even that may be wrong. The war might have warmed it up and started a little weather.

As Dr. Seitz says: Robert J. Lifton of the Physicians for Social Responsibility originally characterized the "Nuclear Winter" hypothesis as "*an imaginative resource.*"

More to the point, he quotes Ralph K. White: "*Horror is needed. The peace movement cannot do without it.*"

They cannot, of course, have nearly so much horror when Americans are protected by life-saving, freedom-preserving civil defense systems.

The validity of the horror scenarios will exist only so long as America has no homeland defense - no strategic defense and no civil defense. The apostles of appeasement are determined that she will have none, even if they must perpetrate imaginative, resourceful frauds like nuclear winter to politically prevent the installation of defenses.

DR. PETR BECKMANN

Dr. Petr Beckmann, Professor Emeritus of Electrical Engineering, University of Colorado, is an outstanding scientist. A Czechoslovakian refugee, he combined a distinguished academic career with an effective personal campaign for American technology and the preservation of American freedom.

These personal efforts grew into his widely read and respected newsletter, *Access to Energy*, which is available for \$22 per year for 12 monthly issues (overseas \$30) from Box 2298, Boulder CO 80306.

The central theme of his writing concerns the safety, cost-effectiveness, and benefits of nuclear power. About half is technical and half political.

Dr. Beckmann's writing is excellent. We suggest that you send a self-addressed and stamped envelope for a list of his books and other publications. Reprinted below are two condensed examples of his political commentary: one from his essay about nuclear war and one, "Why", from the last chapter of his book, *The Health Hazards of Not Going Nuclear*.

Sober Facts About Nuclear War

Petr Beckmann

Yes, nuclear war would be terrible, and the facts below are in no way intended to belittle its horror. They are, however, intended to refute the myth that nuclear war means the end of civilization, making defense of the Free World pointless.

CAN A SINGLE BOMB WIPE OUT A WHOLE CITY? No, it can't. You would need 438 one-megaton bombs (the power of 22,000 Hiroshima-sized bombs) to destroy Los Angeles, and none of them could be "wasted on pulverizing the rubble."

THEN HOW COME HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI WERE EACH DESTROYED BY A SINGLE BOMB? They weren't. Earth-covered backyard shelters were undamaged at 100 yards from ground zero; and a woodframe house at exactly 1 mile from ground zero was badly damaged but remained standing. The day after the blast, the bridges were open to traffic; the second day, trains were operating; and the third day some streetcars resumed service. The people in those two cities had neither warning nor basements; yet in Dresden where they had both, about as many were killed in the non-nuclear air raid of Feb. 13, 1945 as were killed in Nagasaki.

BUT TODAY'S H-BOMBS ARE 1000 TIMES MORE POWERFUL THAN THE HIROSHIMA BOMB. The distance of equal destruction varies as the third root of the released energy; 1000 times more powerful means the same destruction at 10 times the distance. An earth covered shelter would be undamaged at 1000 yards from ground zero; a wooden house would be severely damaged but remain standing at 10 miles rather than 1 mile. Grim - but not the end of the world.

BUT THE RADIATION FROM NUCLEAR BOMBS WOULD LEAVE THE EARTH A RADIOACTIVE INFERNO FOR DECADES, AND THE SURVIVORS WOULD DIE OF CANCER, LEAVING GENETICALLY DAMAGED OFFSPRING. The fact is that only a few hundred of Hiroshima's 70,000 dead were victims of radioac-

tivity; and no genetic damage could be detected against the normal background among the survivors, though they (and even their chromosomes) have been examined with extraordinary thoroughness for decades. This is not surprising, since ordinarily only those who suffer unprotected exposure to the initial radiation will receive a dose high enough to be lethal.

BUT THE FALL-OUT WILL EVENTUALLY KILL EVERYBODY. No, it won't. In essence, the highly radioactive isotopes will soon spend themselves, while the long-lived isotopes do not radiate intensely (though some can be dangerous if they get into the body.) Shelters can protect from early fall-out and filtration can prevent ingestion of radionuclides such as strontium and iodine.

BUT THAT WOULD MEAN SPENDING YEARS IN SHELTERS. No, it wouldn't. Use the rule of seven: For every sevenfold increase in time the radioactive level due to fall-out decreased by an order of 10. The level measured 1 day after detonation will decline to 1/10 in a week, to 1/100 in 7 weeks, and to 1/1000 in 343 days.

AND HOW DOES ONE LIVE WITHOUT FOOD OR WATER? One does not have to. Food and water are not contaminated by fall-out radiation, only by the fall-out particles themselves. Dust proof packaging protects the food, and radioactive particles can be filtered from contaminated water.

BUT THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A WAR AS TERRIBLE AS NUCLEAR WAR. There has never ever been a war as terrible as the next one. Yet there have always been men and women who stood up to evil and risked their lives for their liberty.

BUT THE LOSSES IN NUCLEAR WAR WOULD BE SO TERRIBLE THAT DEFENSE FOR WHATEVER REASON BECOMES IMMORAL. The morality of war does not depend on the weapons with which it is fought. You have exactly one life to risk in the defense of everything that makes it worth living, and it matters little whether you lose it to a spear, a bullet, or nuclear radiation. Your forefathers risked, and often gave, that one life for your life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. You have no right to squander that heritage, to invite war by weakness, and to leave your children to the demeaning cancer of serfdom.

Why?

Petr Beckmann

And so we are still left with the question: Why?

The thousands who rail against nuclear power, against the utilities, the corporations, the capitalist system and the profit motive have not been hurt personally by any of these; on the contrary, they have been the beneficiaries of the system they profess to despise....

The hundreds of thousands in the radicalized sections of the American upper middle class may very well kid themselves that their opposition to nuclear power is based solely on safety and environmental considerations, and such high-minded rationalization makes it easy for this belief to become "sincere;" but objectively, this rationalization is pure nonsense, since nuclear power is demonstrably safer and environmentally sounder than any of its alternatives. Their convictions would soon be shattered if they were willing to look at the facts. But their convictions are para-religious, and they are willing to look at the "facts" only if supplied by the priests of the People's Lobby or the Friends of the Earth. There must be a strong motivation behind such irrationality, and it does not at all follow that the motivation is known to its victims.

But when it comes to motivation, look for the Number One motive of human action: self-interest.

What possible self-interest could there be in opposing the cleanest, safest and cheapest kind of electric power? What possible self-interest could there be in opposing economic growth in general?

Plenty. Perhaps the clearest indication is given by the population controllers, who as often as not are part of the radicalized, environmentalist, elitist, anti-capitalist, "America stinks" syndrome. Their beliefs are no less irrational than those of the nuclear foes. The Zero Population Growth movement emerged strongly in the late sixties, when the US birth rate had long been in an unprecedented rapid decline; their activity continued unabated when that decline took the fertility rate below the natural replacement level in 1973; and still it continues today when it is falling toward the point where not even immigration will make up for the eventual decline of the population (unless the 18-year-old trend reverses). Concern about the population explosion in the Third World is but a red herring. Paul Ehrlich, the guru of the population controllers, may rave and rant about India, Bangladesh and South America; but when it comes to the punchline, he calls on the

United States government to introduce incentives, if not coercive measures, to promote sterilization, abortion, and birth control *in the United States*.

The credo of the population controllers is simple: "There are too many of you others." And the issue at stake is common with the seemingly wide range of other issues raised by the Penthouse Proletariat: They do not want to share their privileges with others. They are a class whose privileges are about to be lost if they have not been lost already.

What privileges?

The privilege of driving on roads with only a bearable number of other cars, driven by equally affluent and "cultured" people; a privilege already lost, for the roads are now crowded with the cars of the vulgar riff-raff that does not read the *New York Review of Books* and behaves as though they had an equal right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The privilege of driving to the beach and finding it uncrowded. The privilege of driving rather than walking, and flying rather than driving. The privilege of flying without having to line up and rub elbows with the riff-raff. The privilege of getting away from the riff-raff by flying first class, for coach has already been invaded by it.

The privilege of being fawned over as the people who set the tone. The privilege of esteem accorded to those who drivel rather than produce. The privilege of living the good life of being sensitive, aware, concerned, involved and relevant, without being tainted by "materialistic" subjects such as physics, chemistry, engineering, business or dentistry, let alone by making the vulgar living of a plumber, electrician, printer, radar operator or (horror of horrors!) a wildcatter.

The privilege of being counted something better than "the others." It used to come with money. It doesn't any more, at least not without an awful lot of it. It used to come with education. It doesn't any more. The man who made \$25,000 a year used to be somebody. So did the man who had written a dissertation on medieval Turkish literature. Not any more. Thirty-five percent of American youth, an unparalleled proportion anywhere or at any time, go to college. They worked just as hard as their parents (they mistakenly believe) to get a degree or to make it to the \$25,000 level. But it does not give them the exclusive privileges that it bestowed on their parents. They can still fly to Florida in the winter, but they have to rub elbows with the riff-raff who do not go to analysts, who have not read the latest "in" novel on Lesbian incestuous rape, and who do not subscribe to the *New Yorker*, or even the *Saturday Review*. They have been cheated of their right to be somebodies; they have - almost - become nobodies like everybody else. For the nobodies now go to Florida, too. They even go to London, Paris and Rome.

No wonder the Penthouse Proletariat is frustrated. What caused this unnatural state of affairs? Who filled the jetliners with plumbers and printers? Who crowded the beaches with beer-drinking steel workers? Who made cars and gasoline so cheap that an entire nation was put on wheels? What gave people electricity at the laughable price of a nickel a kilowatt-hour? What let them make calls from California to New York for a silly dollar? What let a third of all American school children eventually pass through the gates of higher education?

Capitalism; science; technology. Stop it! Stop the world, I want it all to myself.

Here you have the self-interest of a class whose privileges are about to be cashiered. Not by legislation, not by oppression, but by the relentless advance of "the others," who want a better life, too. A privilege shared with everybody is no longer a *privilegium* (or *priva lex* private law); it becomes a *lex publica*.....Nor am I claiming, to repeat this important point, that the self-interest of a group whose privileges are threatened is the *only* explanation of environmental, and particularly anti-nuclear, irrationality. Obviously, the mix of deeper motives varies from case to case, and no single explanation can cover all the cases, nor even, perhaps, any single case.

But it does explain quite a few things. The fear of The Unknown explains some of the opposition, but not very much. It is true that people are less frightened of a dam break or an oil fire, even though both of these are more dangerous and more probable than a core melt, because they have a good idea of what floods and fires are like, but they usually have little knowledge of radioactivity. But how come, then, that the microwave oven is catching on fast, when people usually know less about microwaves than they know about radioactivity (and often think it is the same thing)? How come that they are swallowing tranquilizers, depressants, soporifics, pain relievers and hundreds of other drugs without accusing physicians of being a professional elite that puts profits over health, yet without an inkling of what exactly these chemicals do to their bodies?

The association of nuclear power with the first use of nuclear energy, the two bombs dropped on Japan, does not get us very far, either. Would people give up fire and the wheel because both were, at times, used as instruments of torture? Could Ralph Nader make them give up electricity by waging a psychological campaign that associates "electric" with "chair," just as he does with "nuclear" and "bomb"? Yet he has succeeded in turning thousands against nuclear power on the grounds that, paradoxically, constitute the very reasons for its superiority: safety, economy, availability, ease of waste disposal, and low environmental impact. What theory will explain the paradox?

The theory of the endangered class will. *Of course* they kid each other, and above all themselves, that they are motivated exclusively by legitimate humane concerns. Who

didn't find wonderful and high-minded rationalizations to defend his privileges when they were threatened? To curb the power of ancient monarchies was to question the Divine Right of Kings and to go against God Himself, claimed those with a stake in the monarchy, and they probably believed it. To resist the New Order of the German Reich was to jeopardize the security of Europe, claimed the Nazis, and they probably believed it. To question the party line as decreed by the Politbureau is to be an enemy of the people, claims the Soviets, and probably they believe it. "There is only one politically, biologically and ethically acceptable solution," crows Lorna Salzman, "total and permanent abandonment of nuclear power." Conceivably, she believes it, too.

But once you discard what is claimed, assured and alleged, and instead watch the thrust of the action and its effects, the seeming self-destructiveness makes sense and the technophobia, the corporation baiting, the let-me-be-on-the-planning-board socialism, the fight against economic growth, the maligning of the profit motive, the professed hatred of "materialistic" values, the totalitarian trends, the systematic, destruction-bent harassment of private enterprise - they all fall into place. They are the actions of the somebodies who dread becoming nobodies.

Mass affluence is, by its very existence, destroying affluence as a distinctive sign of a favored social stratum. Economic growth, free enterprise and technology are the culprits who have committed this sin, and they must be stopped dead in their tracks. And they *can* be stopped by denying them their lifeblood, energy.

Energy generation can be drastically curbed by the legal roadblocks which this group so masterfully puts up via the allegedly environmental organizations, and people can be duped into cooperating by scaring them with horror fiction about safety, environment, corporate greed, even civil liberties (of all things!). And energy conversion does have drawbacks: It does have environmental impact, it does engender safety and health hazards, it does cost money, and much of it does have to be imported from unreliable sources.

Only nuclear power, while not perfect either, has less of these disadvantages than any other, and it has earned the hysterical hatred of the threatened class because it does not fit the campaign plan; they wage war on it not *in spite* of its superior qualities, but *because* of its safety, its availability, and its economy.

FOURTH PRINTING OF FIGHTING CHANCE

In April 1987 *Fighting Chance* went into its fourth printing. That makes over 500,000 copies in the nine months after the book was first printed. Nominally, 480,000 are in print, but the overruns on each printing bring the total to over 500,000.

That is a lot of books. Having personally mailed or worked beside the volunteers who have mailed most of these, I have a first-hand appreciation of the number.

These books have been sold to our supporters at low cost. Still we make a profit. That profit and part of the donations we receive are used to mail more books where we think that they will do the most good.

We expect a fifth printing of *Fighting Chance* before the end of 1987. The book offers the truth about the survivability of nuclear war. Also, it provides a radiation protection factor of about 100 per six feet of books. If **Fighting Chance** supporters keep sending them to Washington, then at least Congress will have that protection. Maybe they'll even learn to read.

Seriously, the book offers immunization against false propaganda about nuclear war. Don't be discouraged if many of the people to whom you give it do not immediately become fanatical supporters of civil defense.

The next time they hear the other side (the false side) of this story, they will be less susceptible to it. The truth is like that. It doesn't turn everyone around overnight, but it seeps into their consciousness.

It is very hard to start a PSR chapter in a community in which all of the physicians have been provided with a copy of *Fighting Chance*. Not all physicians immediately believe the facts presented in the book. However, it causes them to ask questions; the kind of questions that the PSR does not want to answer.

MOTIVATION

We have a supporter who keeps sending us anti-Soviet video and audio tapes with the suggestion that our volunteers use them as motivational accompaniment while they are wrapping books for mailing. We appreciate his thoughtfulness, but lately we have found a better way.

We have experimentally demonstrated that a typical, patriotic American wraps *Fighting Chance* books much more rapidly while viewing the Colonel North "hearings."

The sight of that gaggle of hypocrites who have left our homes and families defenseless while they pompously conduct these ridiculous hearings is excellent motivation. We thank Congress for at least this small, expensive contribution to civil defense.

BUMPER STICKERS

We have had some requests for civil defense bumper stickers. We would appreciate ideas for one-liners for use on these stickers.

If you or your group has specific ideas about this, we would appreciate hearing from you. In a later issue, we shall publish a list of the slogans available.

If your local civil defense group wants stickers with your name as a part of the text, please let us know the quantity and we will determine a price.

For example:

**GIVE THE KIDS OF GRANTS PASS A FIGHTING CHANCE
ROGUE VALLEY CIVIL DEFENSE COUNCIL - PHONE 474-2354**

or:

**APPEASEMENT KILLS - AMERICANS MUST HAVE
CIVIL DEFENSE AND STRATEGIC DEFENSE**

SHOULD THE SCHOOL BOARD BE RECALLED?

A reporter for a Grants Pass newspaper recently asked me the following question. If the Josephine County School board rejects the offer of a free blast shelter for a public grade school which has been made by the Rogue Valley Civil Defense Council, should the school board members be recalled and thereby removed from office?

Only one of the seven members has voiced public opposition to the proposal, so the question is premature as it affects Josephine County. In general, however, the question is worth considering.

There are many paths to a suitable civil defense system. Initial rejection of one particular proposal does not in itself prove irresponsibility. If the school board members immediately take action to educate themselves about this matter and then install, without delay, a suitable civil defense system for the children of Josephine County, then they are to be commended and certainly not recalled.

If, however, they reject the donated shelter and do nothing to provide alternative protection, then they should definitely be recalled.

Suppose that the school board were to vote to remove all fire extinguishers and other fire protection from the schools and to suspend all fire drills. This would leave the kids without protection from fire which is a survivable threat. Certainly in this instance the board members who voted for such an irresponsible action should be recalled.

Nuclear explosions are also a survivable threat. These officials have taken legal custody of the kids. They demand that custody by law and demand huge bills of taxation to pay for their activities. These officials are, therefore, responsible for the physical safety of the children in their custody.

Not providing civil defense protection in the schools is like not providing fire protection in the schools. There is one difference. A much larger number of children are likely to be killed by even a single nuclear explosion than are at risk from school fires.

Protect the kids now! Either that or give back to the American people their kids and their tax money, so that they can protect the kids at home.

POGO

In a famous comic strip scene Pogo Possum proclaimed, "We have seen the enemy, and they are us."

I think of this often when I observe active or passive squabbling between pro-strategic defense and/or pro-civil defense groups.

Our nation is entirely without any credible homeland defense against Soviet tyranny. Moreover, no credible national or community program to correct this terrible condition is even close to funding or implementation.

Therefore, anyone who is actively, honestly, and credibly trying to correct this situation deserves encouragement and support. Fortunately many of the people who are working for American homeland defense share this view. **Fighting Chance** could not have grown so quickly without the generous, unselfish support of these people.

Envy, jealousy, and some of the other less desirable human emotions are, however, always with us. If you see one "pro-homeland defense" group carping at another, remember Pogo and consider the source.

SHELTER TANKS

Many **Fighting Chance** supporters are starting to build steel tank shelters. For the most part, these people are utilizing surplus tanks. There are a large number of tanks available now, because the "environmentalists" have scared the government into mandating replacement of most of the nation's service station fuel storage tanks.

This wasteful effort is alone costing a substantial part of the resources which could be providing a good civil defense system. However, we can at least use some of the excellent salvaged tanks as shelters.

The record "buy" so far belongs to a **Fighting Chance** supporter who writes that he purchased a purged fuel tank 10.5 feet in diameter and 41 feet long with one-half inch thick steel walls for \$600 plus \$200 delivery to his site in the suburbs 15 miles away.

We almost bested this in May when we purchased a similar tank from a salvage company for \$1000 plus \$850 in freight. The tank was purchased "as is" including some fuel remaining in it. However, the company reneged on the salesman's deal with us when others there learned of the agreement. The tank contained 4,400 gallons of diesel oil which made the tank itself including shipping essentially free. This was an above ground tank which had never been buried.

The asking price for salvage fuel tanks in excellent condition is currently about 10 cents per gallon of capacity. This compares with about 35 cents per gallon for a new tank. Therefore, an 8 foot diameter used tank 20 feet long with 1/4 inch steel walls costs about \$800.

We recently purchased six such tanks ranging from 8,000 to 20,000 gallons in Medford, Oregon for a price of 6 cents per gallon. The 8 foot by 20 foot tanks were, therefore, \$480. The asking price of 10 cents was reduced to 6 cents when we agreed to buy all six tanks for use by several people here.

Each of these tanks was examined without charge by our local steel fabricating shop owner whose company will clean and paint them and make the entryways and other steel items. It is prudent to have such an examination made before purchase, because experienced steel workers can spot inadequacies in the tanks which may not be apparent to those without experience.

One such problem was avoided here when we were warned against some old riveted rail car tanks. Apparently, if a rivet loosens, it can become necessary to reweld all of the rivets in the entire tank to assure that it is waterproof. Welding one rivet loosens the next and so on. Additionally, some tanks can be deteriorated on the inside or filled with large amounts of sludge which increases the cost of cleaning.

The primary problem with the tank shelters is the lack of a definitive, single-source book which gives detail on every aspect of fabricating and installing the tank shelters.

We have our local fabricator trained, but that is of little value outside of southern Oregon. We have promised that our book on this subject will be published by **Fighting Chance** during 1987. In the meantime, this newsletter provides some of the needed information.

We are a volunteer organization. Some of us have terminated all work other than civil defense and are living on our savings while we work continuously on civil defense. Even with this, we are often too slow in getting things accomplished. Just the daily needs of this fast growing and largest civil defense organization in the United States absorbs all of our efforts.

So far, we have hired no employees, so that every dollar can go into paper, ink, postage and the unavoidable costs of getting the homeland defense message to the American people.

If you are trying to construct a steel shelter and need help, please telephone or have your steel fabricator telephone. The Oregon Institute of Science and Medicine telephone number is (503) 592-4142. We'll get that book out as soon as our work permits.