

FIGHTING CHANCE

John 8: 31-32

Proverbs 22: 3

Newsletter Vol. II, No. 11

April 1990

THE UNAFFORDABLE MISTAKE

Each of us makes mistakes in life. We do our best to avoid mistakes and to reduce the loss from those we do make.

Mistakes can be classified in various ways. A most important classification is into those we can *afford* to make and those we *cannot afford* to make. Since we cannot always avoid error and are often affected by the errors of other people, we sometimes purchase insurance against unaffordable mistakes or misfortunes.

For example, I purchase life insurance, because our six children must be protected from mistakes which might cost them their remaining parent. From the point of view of their wellbeing, mistakes which cost my life are *unaffordable*.

In the case of that life insurance, the duration of the policy must be long enough to protect them until they are all adults.

Civil defense is also insurance against unaffordable mistakes or misfortunes. It should protect our families, our country, and our civilization against annihilation by natural disaster or accidents, terrorism, or war which involve the chemical, biological, and nuclear technology of our time. These annihilations are certainly unaffordable to us.

Moreover, history teaches us that these are highly probable disasters. We cannot be sure to avoid them, but we can avoid their worst effects by means of civil defense insurance. Failure to buy that insurance is a mistake we cannot afford to make.

How long will we and our fellow Americans need civil defense insurance? We will need it permanently - forever - in terms of our personal and national lives. It is impossible to erase nuclear, chemical, and biological technology from human knowledge and affairs. We must learn to live with it, enjoy its benefits, and insure ourselves against its inherent risks.

Eventually we may need to add insurance against further technology which may be invented, but the need for protection from the technology we already have will never disappear.

We must also make certain that our insurance works. Today, as far as our country and civilization are concerned, it definitely does not. Our government has purchased a cheap, \$150 million per year, policy from bureaucrats at the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA. These bureaucrats are spending all of our insurance money for bureaucratic planning and virtually none of it for actual protection for Americans.

The FEMA bureaucrats like to plan evacuations. In case of disaster, they say, they will tell us when to run. In case of disaster, the American people will undoubtedly know enough to run and some will know enough to hide. These human reactions, however, will not save most of them.

FEMA probably realizes this, too. The only civil defense shelters they are installing anywhere in the United States are so-called, "emergency operating centers" which are planned for the safety of - you guessed it - the FEMA bureaucrats. They explain that they need safe places from which to give us advice.

How about safe places for the American people?

MOBILE SHELTER DISPLAYS

There are now four mobile shelter displays in the United States. One is at the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, Maryland; one is near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; one is in Salt Lake City, Utah; and one is in Medford, Oregon.

If you wish to tour one of these shelter displays, call the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Robert Morris at (202) 646-2500; the Pennsylvania Director of Civil Defense, Joe LaFleur, at (717) 783-8150; the Utah Director of Civil Defense, Loranne Frank, at (801) 584-8370; or the Jackson County Civil Defense Council, through Tom Klinefelter, at (503) 776-2032.

These displays are completely authentic. They are smaller than optimum size for public shelters and do not have entryway tunnels (there are bolt flanges where these would attach), so that they can be road-mobile.



Jackson County Civil Defense Mobile Shelter Display
During the Annual Parade in Medford Oregon

The shelter rooms of the Oregon and Maryland models are 8 feet in diameter and 22 feet long, while the Pennsylvania and Utah model rooms are 9 feet in diameter and 24 feet long. The overall displays are 8 and 1/2 feet wide and 30 feet long and 9 and 1/2 feet wide and 32 feet long. They are equipped with blast door displays, LUWA ventilation systems and other habitability items. These shelters would be fully functional if properly installed underground.

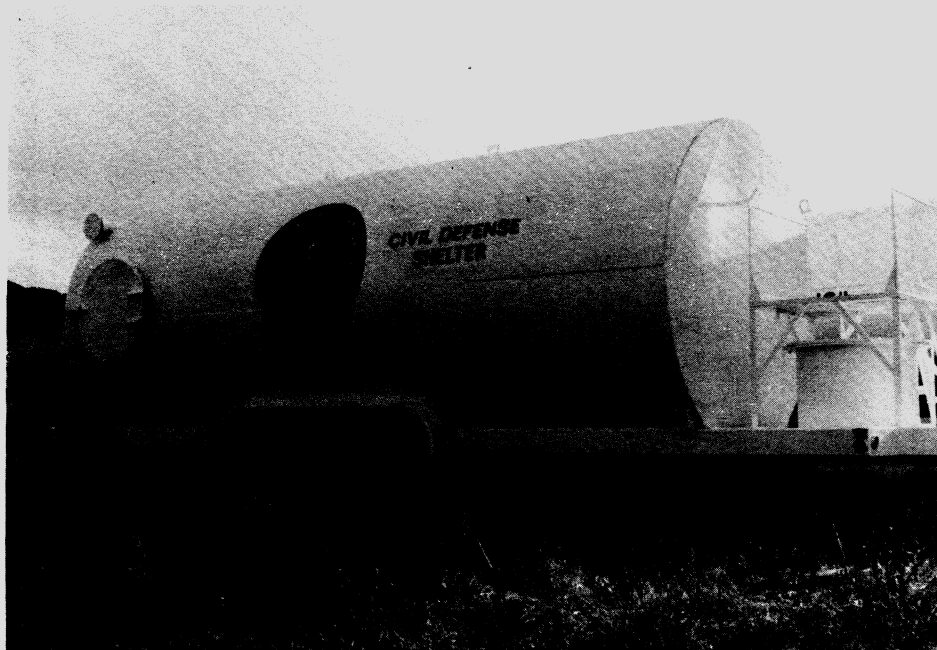
The three government displays were built and delivered by **Fighting Chance** at substantial political and personal cost. Those displays remain in existence through vigorous and continuous opposition to anti-civil defense people within the government. By using them, you will help us prevent losing them. Go tour them and ask permission to borrow them for public and private showings. They are road-mobile for even a pick-up truck or van with a ball hitch over short distances. They weigh 8 to 10 tons, but are balanced for easy hauling (except over steep hills).

Several other states including Idaho, Arizona, and Georgia have requested similar displays and additional states will request them. FEMA, however, after earlier promising to provide funds is now delaying this program, because it is opposed by anti-civil-defense bureaucrats at FEMA. Each display costs about \$25,000.

These displays are the most effective tool for public education about civil defense that has been used anywhere in the United States. Pamphlets are fine; books are better; pictures are "worth a thousand words"; but the real thing which any individual or family can tour at a fair, school, parade, or other public place or event is worth more than all the pamphlets, books, and pictures combined. Approximately 30,000 people took the time to tour one at the Utah State Fair this past summer. Their reaction to the display was very positive. Even the cautious instructors at NETC arrange to get their curious classes into that display, although they are continually opposed by some of their superiors.



FEMA Mobile Display Shelter at
The National Emergency Training Center
(With the seal of the Federal Emergency Management Agency)



Utah State Mobile Display Shelter
(With the seal of the State of Utah)

Fighting Chance has distributed more civil defense educational materials in the form of books, video tapes, shelter plans, and newsletters than any other private American civil defense organization in American history. That distribution even surpasses all public institutions, unless one includes government brochures in the Kennedy era. (**Fighting Chance** does not supply civil defense equipment. As an exception to this policy, we do supply these mobile displays. We supply them, however, a little below our cost.)

We were allowed to do all of this without any real opposition. Preaching one's cause to the faithful is the American way. Everyone does it - usually without real long-term effect. The opposition understands this. They also understand that America has no credible civil defense whatever and, without effective educational action, no prospect of getting a civil defense system.

Now, we have opposition! These mobile shelter displays are just too effective. Some of this opposition is even coming from so-called pro-defense and pro-civil-defense people who prefer paper-shuffling and rhetoric and the financial income which those activities bring as opposed to real trouble-making and action.

In October, the children and I drove two 30-foot long, 10 ton civil defense displays - one with the Pennsylvania coat of arms and one with a 4-foot high United States official seal into metropolitan Washington and put them on display for several days. No one has done anything like that before. The anti-civil defense and let's-pretend we are pro-civil-defense people want to make very sure that no one ever does it again!

You can help! Please ask to see and use the three government mobile shelter displays. Ask in writing. Document the replies. You may be given excuses. "The shelter is out of service." "It isn't my responsibility." "We are still working out guidelines." Please send us copies of the replies you receive and keep asking.



Pennsylvania Mobile Display Shelter
(With the coat-of-arms of Pennsylvania)

Each of those three shelters is sitting in perfect condition on public property. All three have recently been on public display and are ready to be toured at any time. You own two of them as citizens. **Fighting Chance** and **Doctors for Disaster Preparedness** still own the Pennsylvania display, since FEMA has not yet paid for it. Insist on permission to see your property and to show it to your fellow citizens.

Refusals are important, too. We are carrying on an effective campaign against the opposition. Documented refusals to cooperate concerning these shelters are valuable to us. They help combat bureaucrats who pretend to be on both sides.

LAURELEE ROBINSON HONORED

At the recent annual meeting of Doctors for Disaster Preparedness and The American Civil Defense Association a memorial award was given in honor of Laurelee. The award consisted of a plaque and \$400 which had been donated by DDP members specifically for this purpose. Laurelee's plaque reads:

IN MEMORIAM

Laurelee Robinson
May 5, 1945 - November 12, 1988

Laurelee Robinson Chose To Live By This Scripture:
*"In All Thy Ways Acknowledge Him And He
Shall Direct Thy Paths." Proverbs 3:6*
Because She Believed This Precept We Can Echo
The Words Of Apostle Paul By Saying Of Her:
*"She Fought A Good Fight. She Finished Her
Course And Henceforth There Is Laid Up For
Her A Crown Of Righteousness" II Tim. 4:7-8*
We Miss Her. We Need Her. We Love Her.
Yet We Know That For Her *"To Depart, And To Be
With Christ... Is Far Better." Phil. 1:23*

Doctors For Disaster Preparedness
And
The American Civil Defense Association

This award was presented by Dr. William Nesbitt, President of Doctors for Disaster Preparedness at the conference banquet. On behalf of Laurelee we thank the members of DDP and TACDA for this honor.

CARBON DIOXIDE IN YOUR SHELTER

In most emergencies a civil defense shelter is ventilated with outside air. This air exchange removes the moisture and metabolic heat given off by the shelter occupants, supplies oxygen to the occupants, and removes exhaled carbon dioxide. The most common mistake in shelter ventilation is provision of plenty of air for oxygen supply and carbon dioxide removal - but not enough air for cooling and moisture removal.

Your tolerance for heat is related to both temperature and humidity. If the combination of these two factors rises above the tolerable limit, you will be forced to vacate the shelter even though plenty of air for breathing may be available.

There are, however, certain instances in which the ventilation system of a shelter must be temporarily turned off. The most common of these is in the event of fire near the air inlets. A fire usually gives off large amounts of carbon monoxide which binds chemically to the hemoglobin (oxygen-carrying protein) in the blood and to the heme groups in other essential metabolic and respiratory proteins. Too much carbon monoxide inhalation is immediately fatal. Many people have been killed by fire-generated carbon monoxide leakage into shelters during war. (This often happens when buildings burn over or near the shelter.)

As soon as the ventilation system is turned off, temperature, moisture, and carbon dioxide begin to increase and oxygen begins to decrease in an occupied shelter. If the shelter is not too densely occupied and if the temperature and humidity begin at reasonable levels, then the first of these four changes which becomes life threatening is the rise in carbon dioxide. Oxygen depletion is the next serious threat.

At the Swiss standard of 88 cubic feet per person occupancy and with shelter occupants who remain inactive, carbon dioxide reaches the comfortably tolerable limit of 2.5% in about 3 hours. At 5 hours, the level is 4%. At 4% candles go out and nausea, disorientation, lethargy, panic and other negative symptoms become so severe that shelter occupants must either reactivate the ventilation system or leave the shelter. For a shelter with three times that occupancy rate (as in overcrowded American shelters, since so few are in existence), the times are 1 and 2 hours respectively.

Fires, however, usually emit dangerous levels of carbon monoxide for 5 to 10 hours (sometimes much more in the case of long-smoldering rubble).

A shelter volume of 150 cubic feet or more per occupant provides a margin of 6 to 10 hours and also more comfort during normal occupancy. However, any American shelter within reach of many people is likely to be overcrowded regardless of its size and planned occupancy, since so few shelters are available.

An alternative to more space may be installed in the form of a carbon dioxide absorber and oxygen supply for the shelter.

For example, the LUWA 180 ventilation system provides breathing air for 120 people without the gas filter installed and for 60 people with the chemical and biological gas filter installed. In cold weather this is sufficient. In warm or hot weather much of this air must be used for cooling, so the number of people is markedly decreased.

LUWA also manufactures a CD 180 carbon dioxide removal unit which is identical in appearance to the LUWA 180 chemical and biological gas filter. This unit attaches to the hose on the LUWA 180 ventilating system and costs approximately \$2,000. Each unit removes the exhaled carbon dioxide from 30 resting people for 6 hours. For 120 people and 6 hours the unit would need to be recharged three times. Recharges cost about one-third of the original unit. Therefore the cost of LUWA carbon dioxide removal for 120 people for 6 hours is about \$4,000. This requires one original unit and three recharges for it.

If you have installed a \$4,000 LUWA 180 ventilating system and you wish to add a sealed shelter capability of 6 hours for 30 people, the equipment would cost an additional \$2,000 and would plug into your existing system.

Although for 6 hours you could exist with the oxygen in your original air, it is far preferable to add an oxygen supply. This is relatively low cost. One common 150 cubic foot bottle (available at most welding supply outlets which usually also supply breathing grade oxygen to hospitals) will make up the oxygen loss for 30 resting people for 7 hours. Cost of the filled bottle and a regulator should be about \$250.

In this description, I have simplified the facts by ignoring shelter temperature and moisture rise during the sealed period. This simplification is reliable for a period of a few hours, which will provide for most threats from fire or other short term hazards. Do not, however, extrapolate these numbers to carbon dioxide and oxygen requirements for sealed shelter stays of several days. Under conditions of more than a few hours, temperature and humidity are likely to be the dominant factors. In any case, the problem becomes much more complicated.

The Swiss require by law that the equivalent of the LUWA 180 for ventilation, fallout, chemical, and biological protection be inside blast shelters for all of their citizens. They do not require oxygen supply or carbon dioxide removal except as automatically given with their spacious 88 cubic-foot-per-person standard occupancy rate. This provides a 3 to 5 hour sealed shelter capability.

In large public shelters, however, the Swiss often do install oxygen and carbon dioxide systems. These are of the type described above. Although there is no legal standard, a 5 hour breathing supply is provided in many of these installations. Switzerland is a cool country and these sealed shelter capabilities are designed primarily to meet short term threats of several hours.

THE CONQUEST OF EUROPE ?

Political commentary and analysis is a difficult subject. Events often catch even the most skilled analysts by surprise. It is very clear, however, that Americans urgently need a civil defense system regardless of the course of events. We shall be at risk from natural hazards and man-made technology as long as they and we exist. So many people have asked my opinion of recent events in Europe, that I feel obligated to write an analysis. Remember, however, that I could be very wrong.

During the past few months our world, in my opinion, has become a considerably more dangerous place.

If we accept the notion that the Soviet Empire is falling apart, then the United States government policy of deterrence through "Mutual Assured Destruction" has been weakened substantially. "A rational and stable Soviet Union would not risk retaliation" - so goes the argument. As the Soviet strategic defense and civil defense have grown, this argument has gradually weakened. Now the Soviets are suddenly represented as no longer internally stable.

The Soviets still have more than 10,000 nuclear weapons aimed at the United States. The number of weapons and the effectiveness of their delivery vehicles steadily increases (even today under the "new thinking"). A tyranny armed with the largest military force the world has ever known is dangerous enough. When that tyranny becomes internally unstable, the danger markedly increases.

Are they really unstable and disintegrating? In my opinion, the Soviet Empire is deliberately projecting an illusion of weakness - but that illusion could become reality. There is no doubt that freedom is at war with totalitarianism on a uniquely large scale in the world today. The Soviet war machine is the primary asset of totalitarianism in that war. As the strength of that war machine reaches its technological peak, its use becomes increasingly probable.

A very effective technique of warfare is the pretense of weakness - especially at points of maximum strength. The ancient Chinese military expert Sun Tzu is often quoted in this regard. 'When you are strong, pretend weakness. When you are weak, pretend strength.' Great military commanders often use this technique.

George Washington, for example, with the help of the American spy, John Honeyman, convinced the British general at Trenton that Washington's army was too weak for an attack. The result was British unpreparedness and a victory for Washington.

Julius Caesar repeatedly made use of this technique. His army would, for example, pretend to retreat in disarray during the night. They then turned unexpectedly upon an overconfident enemy. The price of falling for Caesar's tricks was high. Standard treatment

for a defeated enemy in Caesar's time was slaughter of every man, woman, and child in the enemy force, although Julius Caesar sometimes exercised unusual compassion in this.

During the past few months we have seen the beginnings of phase two in the conquest of Europe by a world-wide political elite supported by overwhelming military power.

Phase one was the INF treaty which removed the essence of American nuclear weapons from Europe. Although badly outnumbered, these weapons were a threat to the Soviets in that they could be used at any time to resist Soviet hegemony in Europe. The threat to use their vast military forces to implement political objectives is the only source of Soviet power. That threat is weakened if they must use nuclear weapons in a surprise first strike on Europe to avoid a nuclear counterattack upon their own forces.

Europe is the prize. The Soviets surely do not want to devastate it by war. With American nuclear weapons removed under the INF treaty, Soviet conventional forces backed by chemical and, perhaps, biological weapons and by the remote threat of nuclear weapons are sufficient to enforce their will.

Phase two is "openness." The barriers between Eastern and Western Europe are being withdrawn. Simultaneously a few bureaucrats and elitists are being purged. Purges are not new. They happen periodically behind the "Iron Curtain." What is new is the lifting of the Iron Curtain, itself. It will descend again - with its new boundaries including the entirety of what is now "Western Europe." (Ultimately its boundaries might be the entire earth with the Red Army serving as an international police force.)

Already it is becoming politically unfashionable to speak against the new, peace-loving Soviets who are discovering "democracy" and are to be pitied for the shortages of soap and other consumer goods in their country. Unfashionable to speak - unwise to speak - unrealistic to speak - and ultimately, with tens of thousands of Soviet agents and military commandos all over Europe, - fatal to speak against the "Sovietization" of the European Continent.

Within the Soviet Union itself, power is held by the nomenklatura who are primarily Russians. An internal problem has been created by the many countries and ethnic groups which have been absorbed by the Soviets in an attempt to combine them with the Russian nation. These "outsiders" within the Soviet Union are now as numerous as Russians.

If Soviet military power is consolidated within the boundaries of "Mother Russia" by Russians, then it is most sensible to allow these other groups to "break away." They are then no longer an internal problem (most are economically weak as well as politically troublesome), and they are easily controlled externally by the hegemony of Soviet military power.

Rome controlled most of the known world - not by making everyone in the world a Roman citizen, but by a great concentration of military power in a relatively small state. Britain dominated much of the world through military power - but her foreign subjects surely were not absorbed within England. Soviet Russians can hope to dominate the world

from a homogeneous, heavily-armed state. All of their moves during the past few months are consistent with that objective.

Will they succeed? This is not known. World domination has been attempted repeatedly throughout history. Most people have lived during a time when such an attempt was being made. Sometimes these efforts lead to success - for a while. All have ultimately ended in failure.

Most cases of efforts at world domination have one thing in common. The military power on which the effort depends is ultimately used. Most tyrants fail, but during their failure great suffering is experienced by many people.

It is quite possible for Soviet plans to fail. Most Russians, for example, are also slaves of the nomenklatura. Suppose they, too, catch the disease of freedom. Revolution within the Soviet Union might well lead to the use of nuclear weapons inside Russia itself and a desperate attack on the United States.

All we know for certain is that the chemical, biological, and nuclear risks of our age are high and probably increasing. The risks of natural disasters have not diminished. In this environment it is unconscionable for a nation to be without civil defenses. Nevertheless, America has no credible civil defenses, and there are numerous corrupt and dishonorable individuals who for various reasons work to keep American families undefended.

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

This is the first **Fighting Chance** newsletter in several months. During the past months, we have chosen to spend our limited time and resources for actions rather than words. In particular, we devoted most of our energy to the mobile shelter display program.

The three cross-country trips which the children and I made to deliver mobile shelter displays and lecture and work for civil defense required several months of full-time effort. This left us far behind with our civil defense work here in Oregon and with our personal affairs such as school work and farm work. We do everything together. This is best for the children and is also a necessity, since there is no one to care for them other than me.

Your subscription is for 12 issues. I would prefer that those issues could be monthly. We will, however, continue to place actual productive work first and to keep you informed periodically about that work and about practical civil defense ideas.

TELEPHONE TREE

During early February 1990 the Telephone Tree had its first real test. The results were successful.

Ever since the mobile shelter first arrived at the National Emergency Training Center (NETC) 15 months ago certain anti-civil-defense bureaucrats have been trying to suppress the FEMA mobile shelter display. We have had a continual running battle with these people to keep the shelter on display.

First, the NETC bureaucrats asked the FEMA director for permission to paint over the four-foot-in-diameter Federal seals on each side of the shelter, so that visitors would not know that it was a FEMA display. Permission was denied.

When we put the shelter on display near Washington in October 1989 someone did paint over both seals during one night. However, Jane Orient and I worked through the following night with solvent and toothbrushes. We managed to lift off the new paint and restore the seals. One highly placed FEMA official told me that he would guess that the vandalizing was arranged by the display's enemies within FEMA.

Second, numerous bureaucratic roadblocks were put in the way of display of the shelter to students at NETC. Gradually these were overcome, and the display is now a regular part of courses there.

However, in one additional shot at the shelter, these bureaucrats diverted money that was earmarked to pay for additional mobile shelter displays into a "shelter park" project. The park is to be underground in an obscure place. Its first and only currently-planned occupant is designated to be the mobile shelter.

Their plans call for the mobile shelter to be half-buried in the side of a gully on an obscure part of the campus. Dirt is to be thrown entirely over the back entryway and no entry tubes are to be provided. This will prevent public display of the shelter at prominent Washington, D.C. locations, move it to a location in which it will rarely be seen by visitors to NETC, and install it as a dim, poorly-ventilated, one-entryway death-trap.

We thwarted this scheme in October when we discovered that an amazing \$40,000 contract had been awarded to bury the mobile shelter (that amount would properly install 10 such shelters) and that there were substantial irregularities in the award of the contract. An investigation was started by the Inspector General's office and the burial project was halted.

Moreover, Mr. Robert Morris, Acting Director of FEMA (who has been favorably publicized in Washington with his picture along side photos of the mobile display and who has been strongly complimentary of the display) gave his personal word that the display would not be buried.

Never-the-less, **Fighting Chance** learned in early February that the shelter was slated for burial on February 16, 1990. Apparently the bureaucrats believed that they could get the job done quickly and make it an accomplished fact.

The Telephone Tree was therefore activated with each member making a call to Mr. Robert Morris. Mr. Morris, who has been under internal pressure to let the burial proceed, responded with an order that it not be buried unless another mobile display is available to take its place. (The opposition has been claiming that they have to bury it for their "shelter park" project because - and this is the astonishing but true statement by an official with a \$150 million annual budget for civil defense and responsibility for the entire United States: "We have to bury it, it's the only shelter we've got.")

Robert Morris has now stated that the shelter will continue as a mobile display for as long as he is Acting Director of FEMA. (President Bush has not appointed a replacement for General Becton. We do not know how long Mr. Morris will be Acting Director.)

Another highly placed FEMA official has told **Fighting Chance** that the telephone calls stopped the burial. Although officials at FEMA now have conflicting stories, he says that the shelter display was definitely going to disappear on February 16 and that the telephone calls alone stopped this plan.

In the 15 months that the mobile display has been at NETC it has been seen and toured by thousands of local and state civil defense officials. Ultimately it will probably be destroyed. However, it has already done a very large amount of educational damage to the enemies of American civil defense.

The Telephone Tree, in its first test, has extended the life of this display and assured that many more civil defense professionals will be educated by it in the coming months. We have been told that the display is now a regular part of several courses of study at NETC.

When and if the display is destroyed, we will publish a full account of this continuing affair with the names and detailed actions of those responsible. For now, it is in the best interests of the shelter display that some of this information remain unpublished.

THE TRUCE OF THE BEAR

In 1898 the poet Rudyard Kipling wrote "The Truce Of The Bear" to warn the British people against overtures from Russia which were similar to those of the Soviets today. It was sent to us by a **Fighting Chance** supporter who notes that this poem was so unpopular with British authorities that they denied Kipling his rightful position as Poet Laureate of England.

We reproduce here Kipling's poem in its entirety. The last twelve lines should be etched on the rose-colored glasses of every American politician and bureaucrat in Washington.

THE TRUCE OF THE BEAR *Rudyard Kipling*

Yearly, with tent and rifle, our careless white men go
By the Pass called Muttianee, to shoot in the vale below.
Yearly by Muttianee he follows our white men in -
Matun, the old blind beggar, bandaged from brow to chin.

Eyeless, noseless, and lipless - toothless, broken of speech,
Seeking a dole at the doorway he mumbles his tale to each;
Over and over the story, ending as he began:
"Make ye no truce with Adam-zad - the Bear that walks like a Man!

"There was a flint in my musket - pricked and primed was the pan,
When I went hunting Adam-zad - the Bear that stands like a Man.
I looked my last on the timber, I looked my last on the snow,
When I went hunting Adam-zad fifty summers ago!

"I knew his times and his seasons, as he knew mine, that fed
By night in the ripened maizefield and robbed my house of bread.
I knew his strength and cunning, as he knew mine, that crept
At dawn to the crowded goat-pens and plundered while I slept.

"Up from his stony playground - down from his well-dugged lair -
Out on the naked ridges ran Adam-zad the Bear -
Groaning, grunting, and roaring, heavy with stolen meals,
Two long marches to northward, and I was at his heels!

"Two long marches to northward, at the fall of the second night,
I came on mine enemy Adam-zad all panting from his flight.
There was a charge in the musket - pricked and primed was the pan -
My finger crooked on the trigger - when he reared up like a man.

"Horrible, hairy, human, with paws like hands in prayer,
Making his supplication rose Adam-zad the Bear!
I looked at the swaying shoulders, at the paunch's swag and swing,
And my heart was touched with pity for the monstrous, pleading thing.

"Touched with pity and wonder, I did not fire then . . .
I have looked no more on women - I have walked no more with men.
Nearer he tottered and nearer, with paws like hands that pray -
From brow to jaw that steel-shod paw, it ripped my face away!

"Sudden, silent, and savage, searing as flame the blow -
Faceless I fell before his feet, fifty summers ago.
I heard him grunt and chuckle - I heard him pass to his den.
He left me blind to the darkened years and the little mercy of men.

"Now ye go down in the morning with guns of the newer style,
That load (I have felt) in the middle and range (I have heard) a mile?
Luck to the white man's rifle, that shoots so fast and true,
But - pay, and I lift my bandage and show what the Bear can do!"

(Flesh like slag in the furnace, knobbed and withered and grey -
Matun, the old blind beggar, he gives good worth for his pay.)
"Rouse him at noon in the bushes, follow and press him hard -
Not for his ragings and roarings flinch ye from Adam-zad.

"But (pay, and I put back the bandage) *this* is the time to fear,
When he stands up like a tired man, tottering near and near;
When he stands up as pleading, in wavering, man-brute guise,
When he veils the hate and cunning of his little, swinish eyes;

"When he shows as seeking quarter, with paws like hands in prayer,
That is the time of peril - the time of the Truce of the Bear!"

Eyeless, noseless, and lipless, asking a dole at the door,
Matun, the old blind beggar, he tells it o'er and o'er;
Fumbling and feeling the rifles, warming his hands at the flame,
Hearing our careless white men talk of the morrow's game;

Over and over the story, ending as he began: -
"There is no truce with Adam-zad, the Bear that looks like a Man!"