

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: