

FIGHTING CHANCE

John 8: 31-32

Proverbs 22: 3

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"In recognition of our responsibility to provide optimum protection for the American people from terrorists, accidents, and war, should deterrence fail, we also believe that a high priority should be given to civil defense."

Civil Defense Plank
1988 Republican Party Platform

Civil defense should be a bipartisan issue. It has been a non-partisan issue — all American political parties have ignored it. The last significant effort to strengthen civil defense was a proposal by President Reagan in 1981. He was following a civil defense plank in the 1980 Republican platform.

During the past two years, civil defense has gradually been gaining a more visible place on the conservative agenda. The continuing rise of Soviet military superiority has contributed to this, as have the efforts of the American Civil Defense Association, Doctors for Disaster Preparedness, American Conservative Union, American Homeland Defense Alliance, and Fighting Chance.

On August 8 in New Orleans I spoke before the Republican platform defense subcommittee. I was the only speaker designated for civil defense. On August 9, that subcommittee voted 14-0 to include our proposed civil defense plank in the platform. The plank was adopted by the full 106 member platform committee on August 12.

I wrote this plank for insertion at an appropriate place in the draft platform which did not make mention of civil defense. The committee adopted our civil defense plank as written.