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The 1988 Republican platform is the strongest homeland defense platform in recent American history. It calls for the deployment of strategic defense and a high priority for optimum civil defense. Both of the national Republican candidates have firmly endorsed these positions.

This defense platform did not happen by accident, nor is it a few unimportant words on a soon-to-be-discarded document. The political forces which are opposed to homeland defenses put forth their best effort in New Orleans. Any thoughts that the platform was unimportant were quickly dispelled when I saw the many highly-placed people who were working as hard as they could to influence every word. They were not socializing; they meant business.

About 20 people testified to the defense subcommittee. When I saw the program, I was surprised that a civil defense advocate was given a place on it. Defense is an enormous enterprise. Strategic defense is gradually gaining a proper place on the agenda. It is remarkable that civil defense was given attention and that a strong civil defense plank was adopted.

These positive steps were not accidental. They are part of a grass roots awakening in America to the importance of protecting human life. Actual homeland defense is a natural part of that process. In a room nearby, another platform subcommittee completely obliterated the pro-abortion delegates. They put an absolutely unequivocal pro-life plank into the platform. If their plank is implemented, legalized child-killing in America will be over. The drift toward adult-killing will also be halted.

I found myself thinking that God might have decided that, if this group clearly opposed the child killing, He would give them the wisdom to defend themselves. The defense issues may have been decided not in the subcommittee on defense, but in the subcommittee on the family.

This movement will not stop if Bush and Quayle fail to win the White House. If, however, they are able to clearly communicate the pro-life and pro-homeland defense parts of their platform to the American people, they will be elected. We will still need to work very hard to get improvements in civil defense from Washington. If they are elected, however, our efforts will be more likely to meet with success.