

CAPSTONE

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has initiated a new series of courses at their Emmitsburg, Maryland school entitled the "Capstone Series." The series includes opponents as well as proponents of civil defense.

One section of the course features a speaker from the "Physicians for Social Responsibility" vs. a speaker from the Doctors for Disaster Preparedness. Jennifer Leaning is the PSR speaker. In the first course DDP President Jane Orient opposed Leaning. On June 29, in the second course, I represented DDP and opposed Leaning.

Leaning distributes the usual hard-core appeasement propaganda complete with "nuclear winter" and radioactive wastelands in handouts to the participants. She recently participated in a letter-writing effort to convince state governors not to cooperate in FEMA exercises.

In her oral presentation, however, she poses as a friend of FEMA. She claims that PSR has similar goals as those of FEMA. The PSR, she says, would support a \$500 million or even a \$1 billion budget for FEMA if FEMA would just forget about "attack preparedness" and concentrate on earthquakes and floods. PSR really has little influence upon the FEMA budget, but Leaning wants FEMA to think they do.

The PSR ploy is clever. Bureaucrats always want more money, and they divide themselves into fiefdoms within their respective agencies. The PSR hopes to set the earthquake and flood people in FEMA against the attack-preparedness people in FEMA. "Just think how much money we could all have if your group would stop making trouble by promoting nuclear attack preparedness."

I do not think that this recent group of FEMA students bought the PSR "line". At least I did my best to point out the dishonesty in PSR propaganda and the high price Americans would pay for its purchase. I also outlined the relative blame that should be placed on various groups for our current lack of nationwide civil defenses. They are, in order of importance:

1. The Department of Defense. They have the money and the responsibility. They are not building homeland defenses, and they are not educating our politicians about the urgent need for those defenses.