

However, we never loan or rent our mailing list to anyone. We believe that many *Fighting Chance* supporters prefer this.

Also, we do not financially involve ourselves with the sale of civil defense products or other commercial activities, because we believe that the credibility of our public efforts to support civil defense would be diminished by that involvement. This is not necessarily as it should be, but we must function in the real political world of today.

WEAPONS AND HOPE

Intellectual Freeman Dyson is author of a book entitled *Weapons and Hope*, (Harper & Row, New York). He is a brilliant physicist who has worked on some of America's military research. He is also an inhabitant of American "academia." In his chapter on shelters, he provides some interesting insights about shelter technology based on his observations of Swiss shelters and American academics:

"After I came back from Switzerland to the United States, I began to talk to some of my friends about my impressions of the Swiss shelter program. I quickly learned that this is not an acceptable topic of conversation in polite society. Almost nobody in the United States wants to hear about shelters. If you persist in talking about shelters, people excuse themselves and move away. According to the majority opinion in American academic circles, anybody who takes shelters seriously must be either an idiot or a lunatic."

The key word here is "academic." In the real world, where most Americans live, polls repeatedly indicate a majority favorable to shelter protection. The 106 members of the Republican platform committee who voted without dissent to include our civil defense plank in the platform were neither idiots nor lunatics. They also were not academics.

Dyson discusses the twin claims that shelters will not work and that they are "destabilizing." It is remarkable that the same people who deride shelters as useless simultaneously argue that they would dangerously shift the so-called balance of power. What they really mean is that shelters would upset the balance of terror. Terrified people are easier to control. People with shelters are considerably less terrified.