

We have the technological ability, scientific knowledge, and economic strength to install homeland defenses which will protect our families and most other Americans from the nuclear, biological, and chemical threats which are posed to them by accidents, terrorists, and war. We are morally required to install those defenses regardless of all other considerations.

We must install those defenses regardless of Soviet actions or perceived intentions. In fact, as a matter of morality, we should be supportive of the Swiss, Scandinavian, Soviet and Chinese systems of civil defense. Human life is precious.

The protection of human lives by means of civil defense from technological risks is both a humanitarian and a national defense objective which is morally required of any civilized people.

In all of our efforts to enhance American civil defense by any means at our disposal, we must not lose sight of this underlying moral principle. We also must never compromise or even pretend to compromise this principle regardless of apparent short-term opportunities.

PUBLIC OPINION

Repeatedly, over the last three decades, polls have shown that Americans want the protection of a good civil defense system. They correctly believe that it is the responsibility of the federal government to provide this system under the common defense stipulation of our Constitution.

American support for civil defense has been correctly reflected in the efforts by Presidents Truman, Kennedy, and Reagan to initiate a good nationwide system. Unfortunately this has always been a passive support. It has not been competently galvanized into an active political issue. That is the job of Fighting Chance, the American Homeland Defense Alliance, the American Civil Defense Association, the Doctors for Disaster Preparedness and other similar efforts.

It is important for grass roots activists to know that they are working with the general inclination of American opinion rather than against it. In our efforts, we have been able to make activists out of only a small percentage of the people in each community. In each instance, however, we have found that the overwhelming majority of the people, press, and other groups in the community are passively favorable to our work.