

DISHONESTY IN THE OREGON GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Most of the meager civil defense funds of the Federal Emergency Management Agency are distributed to state governments. FEMA then works with the states in developing a civil defense program.

Although the FEMA program is very small and inadequate, it is important that it do what it can to prepare attack-related civil defense which is its legally required and Congressionally directed purpose.

Recently the governors of Washington and Oregon have been refusing to participate in attack preparedness while still expecting to receive FEMA funds which Congress appropriated for this purpose. Oregon, for example, receives \$1.2 million in attack preparedness funds from FEMA.

The Governor of Washington State refused to sign the 1989 agreement with FEMA, so FEMA canceled the payment of the funds designated for Washington State. In effect the Washington Governor has refused to participate in a program mandated by the President and Congress which is intended to help provide for the common defense of the United States.

This action by that Governor and his retainers to foist their personal appeasement and surrender philosophy upon the people of Washington State by leaving those people as unprepared as possible for nuclear attack is disgraceful. Hopefully those people will remember this episode at the time of the next election.

In Oregon, however, this dispute has now descended to the level of outright dishonesty and fraud by the Governor, Neil Goldschmidt. During the previous negotiation with FEMA, Goldschmidt issued false press releases in order to mislead the public concerning his actions.

For example, at one point his office issued a press release stating that FEMA had capitulated and agreed to the Governor's demands. In fact, FEMA had not made any such agreement. Moreover, the Governor was refusing to answer or return telephone calls from General Becton, the Director of FEMA.

During the negotiations for 1989 and after Goldschmidt saw that FEMA had canceled funding in Washington State, Goldschmidt signed the agreement with FEMA in which he agreed to do attack preparedness in return for the \$1.2 million.

Then, however, Goldschmidt immediately wrote a letter to every Oregon State Legislator in which he stated that he signed the FEMA contract just to get the FEMA money, but that he was directing the Oregon Emergency Management Division not to perform any specifically attack-related tasks.