

FIGHTING CHANCE

John 8: 31-32

Proverbs 22: 3

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EMERGENCY DISASTER HOSPITALS

When we wrote Sense of the Senate Resolution 314 (now SR 22), we also proposed the reestablishment of the Emergency Disaster Hospital program. In cooperation with several physicians from Doctors for Disaster Preparedness, we developed a plan which would restore this critically needed program.

Americans once had disaster hospitals in the form of 200 bed "MASH" units stored in various locations in the United States. These consisted of erectable facilities including an operating room and x-ray unit. Each hospital was equipped with its own self-contained medicines and other supplies.

Kept in readiness in dispersed and relatively safe locations, these units were transportable by road, rail, or air to any disaster region. Medical personnel could just open the container, assemble the unit, and "presto" they had their own 200 bed hospital.

Although the remnants of several of these hospitals are still stored by a few dedicated civil defense professionals, most of the units have been used up in various disasters. Many of them were shipped to other countries to help with natural disasters. As they were used up, they were not replaced.

Incredibly, the Physicians for Social Responsibility, PSR, (who are currently spending their money for touring roadshows of Soviet KGB propagandists and hired lobbyists to promote anti-American propaganda in various state school curriculums) has opposed the reestablishment of emergency disaster hospitals.

They claim that these hospitals are "civil defense in disguise." The hospitals are a warlike provocation which may make Americans more likely to start a nuclear war, because they have hospitals in which to treat the injured. In order to promote world peace, the PSR says, Americans must not have any of these provocative tools of war.