

TELEPHONE TREE

We have received some interesting information about the way in which the Physicians for Social Responsibility, PSR, keeps the Oregon governor on his anti-civil defense bandwagon. The procedure is relatively simple.

First he is a victim of his own ignorance. Like most politicians, he just has no personal knowledge of the relevant facts about civil defense. Preoccupied with politics, he probably has very little chance of correcting this.

Second, as civil defense matters arise, someone in the governors office tells the PSR about the issue and decision which must be made. Usually the important items aren't really secret. It would be simple enough for civil defense supporters to get this sort of information, too.

Third, the PSR does not respond by just a nod of their heads, a few letters, and hope. They immediately activate a telephone tree. Each person called, calls certain designated other people, so, at little cost to each, the real activists are immediately notified as to a specific action to take.

This mechanism permits the PSR to put about one thousand telephone calls, letters, and telegrams into the Governor's office on short notice. These speak with one voice on any issue. It is only the voice of a thousand people (probably even less, since we are told that the governor's office does little to authenticate that these are independent messages), but it certainly outweighs the handful of letters from pro-civil defense citizens which the Governor usually receives in opposition.

This is a very effective technique by which a small number of activists can have a very large impact. Even in Washington, the ability to put 1,000 messages on a given day into the right office at the right time would make a tremendous difference.

We have suggested that the American Civil Defense Association, TACDA, the Doctors for Disaster Preparedness, DDP, and American Homeland Defense Alliance (that's us) poll their members as to their willingness to participate in a national telephone tree. This can be a very important program if together we can find enough participants.

Each participant will need to supply a telephone number at which he or she can usually be reached. Each will need occasionally to be willing to make several long distance telephone calls to pass a message on and to follow the instructions in the message. This instruction will usually ask that the participant send one letter, telephone call, or telegram immediately to a specific person stating support for some pending pro-civil defense action which that person has the power to implement.

Laurelee and I have made a substantial effort during these past three years to effect a change in our current national policy on homeland defense. Although we have had some minor successes, I am certain that our efforts would have been much more successful had such a telephone tree been available.

For example, Senate Resolution 314 (now Senate Resolution 22) would surely have been brought to a vote and probably would have passed. In all likelihood, we would be working