

## \$35 per person per year

Therefore, a one-year civil defense food ration for every citizen of the United States would cost the amount of money that the United States government spends *every 3 days*. Actually, the cost is much less on a nationwide basis, since the government would only need to pay the increased costs of storing a part of the normal agricultural supplies near population centers instead of in the locations where they are currently stored as a normal part of farm commerce.

This is the reason that several of the Senators with whom I discussed nationwide civil defense in Washington told me that the food supply part of civil defense would be easy to pass through Congress. It would, if proper political work were done, be almost impossible to vote against.

Unfortunately, **Fighting Chance** does not have the financial resources to undertake this political effort which would need to be carried out full time in Washington, D.C.

Even Senator Proxmire, who was not a friend of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) budget requests, demanded that FEMA deliver to Congress a sensible recommendation along these lines, but FEMA never responded.

In any case, food is the greatest bargain in America today. Buy and store the right food in as large a quantity as you can afford. You and your country may need that food at a future time, when it might not be available at any price.

## CHEMICAL WARFARE

Recently the United States has been carrying out a program to dispose of all of its chemical weapons, even though the threat of retaliation with such weapons has probably been the primary means for preventing their use on most (but not all) battlefields in this century.

The Soviets have also declared their intention of disposing of their chemical weapons (which they did not admit to having until 1987). However, they state that there is a small problem due to a lack of a suitable disposal facility. Estimates of the Soviet inventory, which is by far the largest in the world, vary between *three hundred and five hundred thousand tons* of chemical warfare agents. ( They admit to possessing 50,000 tons.) Some disposal problem!

Actually, the Soviets under the direction of Mr. Gorbachev have disposed of some of their chemical arsenal recently - on Soviet citizens in Georgia and on Afghan villages.

Meanwhile, the United States military is scrambling to acquire equipment to protect our troops from Iraqi chemical weapons. They apparently stockpiled rubber suits and gas masks, but neglected to obtain a suitable supply of decontamination rooms and protective shelters. Perhaps they would like to borrow the **Fighting Chance** mobile shelter displays. They are fully functional. Buried in the sand, they would protect against Iraqi artillery, too.