

MORE MOBILE SHELTER DISPLAYS

We have set a goal of one mobile civil defense display circulating in each of the 50 states. (At present there are four such displays.) This would assure that most Americans would see proper civil defense technology on display in their communities. Judging by the enthusiastic response to these exhibits, one in each state might well stimulate sufficient grass-roots demand to result in a civil defense system for the American people.

There is no doubt that these displays are the most effective civil defense program that we have initiated and possibly the only one with a realistic potential to stimulate national action. Unfortunately, the cost of supplying a shelter to every state is about one million dollars. We have no present prospect of obtaining this amount of money.

Therefore, we plan to accumulate resources for these displays gradually, one-by-one. This slow effort may prove to be too little and too late, but we shall do our very best.

During the past few months, as a result of donations sent in response to our newsletter appeal for mobile display support, we have accumulated the funds for one more display. We have also been paying costs associated with the fair tours of the Pennsylvania display in the Northeast. In addition, we have worked to stimulate the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to implement their earlier promises of matching funds.

FEMA has now agreed to provide 75% of the funds required to build more mobile displays for the states. Each state must provide 25% of the cost.

While a display owned by a state has the disadvantage that civil defense groups must contend with state bureaucracy in borrowing it for use, experience so far indicates that this is not a major difficulty. Certainly four displays in four states are superior to the one display which we now have the funds to build.

Therefore, we have offered to supply the 25% matching funds to build four more displays during the next few months. Arizona and Missouri are the first states which have completed the FEMA application to receive these displays.

It is obviously wrong that a small, volunteer, non-profit effort must give money to the government in order to get it to do its job.

It is also wrong, however, that the United States government has entirely failed in its responsibility to provide for the homeland defense of the American people. Our job is to do our best to correct that error by whatever means we find available.