

DOCTORS FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Fighting Chance does not have an annual conference. Although we are the largest civil defense organization in the United States in terms of volunteers and participants (we do not have official members), we have a very small budget.

In recent years our most ambitious and effective undertaking has been the mobile shelter display program. These displays are, however, costly, and our contribution in work and funds to each one has required a significant sacrifice. Keeping our books and video tapes in print is also a significant effort.

Moreover, in the propaganda-filled, anti-defense atmosphere that is now emanating from Washington, Fighting Chance, like virtually all other defense efforts, will have fewer resources than before. Since, however, we operate on a debt-free, very-low-overhead basis, we will continue to do our work.

Doctors for Disaster Preparedness is also a small organization. They are committed to civil defense, and they have had a small annual meeting each year for several years.

This year the DDP conference was upgraded to become the most outstanding conference on civil defense that has been held in the United States for many years. At least one such meeting is needed each year, and, if this year is taken as an example, this job can well be left to DDP.

Full one-hour presentations by Ed York (he opened with a photo of the world's first atomic explosion - that he took himself) - one of America's finest civil defense engineers; Conrad Chester - the director of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory civil defense effort (the Bush administration has ended their funding, but he continues to work privately); Cresson Kearny - the world's foremost expert in expedient civil defense; and Major General Yacoov Lapidot - head of civil defense for the country of Israel highlighted the civil defense program. Strategic defense was represented by Lowell Wood - head of development of the Brilliant Pebble and perhaps America's foremost strategic defense pioneer.

The program also included the trio of Dixie Lee Ray - former governor of the State of Washington and Head of the Atomic Energy Commission, Patrick Michaels, and Howard Maccabee speaking on the dangers of pseudoenvironmentalism or, as Dr. Ray calls it in her new book, "Trashing the Planet". In addition, Brian Bex spoke on the subject of bureaucracy and Gary Thompson described pseudoenvironmentalist efforts to close the Rocky Flats nuclear facility. Several members of DDP, including myself, also spoke.

The work of DDP in this annual conference and in its advocacy of civil defense is complementary to that of Fighting Chance. Together we are able to accomplish much more than either of us could accomplish separately. Perhaps other organizations may want to join in this cooperative joint effort in the future.