THE CIVIL DEFENSE SHELTER PROGRAM

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THE KRAISSL COMPANY, INC.

Most of us who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States and probably an overwhelming majority of other informed citizens both men and women, realize that military defenses must be supported by a strong economy to be effective. Consequently, a major consideration of any would-be conqueror would certainly include the disruption or the destruction of the production capacity of the country under attack.

Machines, facilities and installations are replaceable even though this may entail staggering problems, but human beings with special skills are not. Disregarding entirely humanitarian considerations the word replacement as related to people is inaccurate, particularly in fields or activities that cannot be dealt with by regimentation. The know-how, techniques and special skills are usually a part of any production job which entail considerable training even with jobs that do not command a high rating.

Human beings are also more fragile than machines and many items of production equipment. Tests made in areas subjected to nuclear explosions indicate that many such items could be salvaged under conditions where people would be destroyed. Consequently the principle of greater calculated risk could be applied to many types of equipment with more justification than to the operators.

Having considered these facts, let us admit that the basic objective of any defense is to preserve our people, our liberty and our way of life which is all included in our devotion to our form of government and from time immemorial we have given this the name of patriotism. Experience has shown that the only deterrent given any consideration by a potential aggressor, is sufficient strength to oppose the attack. For a period of time in the immediate past, it appears that we may have been relying completely on our power of retaliation, as a deterrent. This thinking needs revision in view of the greater range and effectiveness of current weapons.

There is a precedent with which I have had some experience. As a veteran of both World War I and II and as a former commissioned officer in the Chemical Warfare Service, it can be stated that both we and the British thought our opponents, had complete chemical arsenals and means of delivering against chemical attack. The past and current efficiency of chemical weapons has generally been conceded. But gas was not used in any major operations in World War II. Why? Many of us have our opinions and mine is that our opponents felt that we held superiority, so it would be to their disadvantage to initiate chemical warfare.

It will be noted that defense against chemical agents was included in our training program. This situation could have changed if we had neglected defensive measures. No two situations have the same factors and we all appreciate that nuclear weapons have changed all time and space considerations but let us accept the fact that defense against a weapon is a deterrent to its use.

Consequently, a defense against nuclear weapons can be regarded as an effort toward making nuclear attack less likely when combined with an adequate retaliatory capability. This is the justification for the shelter program. It tells a potential aggressor by deeds rather than words that we have the will and ability to survive.

Such a program requires leadership. It is futile for small industry to survive if large industry does not take the initiative. Small industry is largely supported by large industry which usually has research and engineering facilities that cannot be afforded by smaller units. Personnel shelters could conceivably be constructed on the basis of calculated risk as related to proximity to probable targets. Underground shelters where considered necessary could be constructed under parking areas without limiting the above ground usefulness of this space. Some foreign plants are completely underground and this might be essential for our industries of high priority but if provision is made for saving the personnel of others this might be an acceptable calculated risk. Everything must be paid for. The insurance industry should be able to report the number of dollars spent in premiums for policies that have expired each year without compensation for a loss. Business does not regard this as waste but as necessary protection. A shelter program that provides survival protection can be regarded in the same light and should permit our diplomats to deal with the problems of international peace with the calmness and serenity that comes from full knowledge that our leadership is supported by strength and that our humanitarian motives cannot be cynically discounted by others as being due to our vulnerability.

EXPERIENCE

ALICE L. KRAISSL, Vice-President

There seems to be much emphasis placed on experience in all phases of endeavor. We want our doctors, dentists, lawyers, and other professional people to be "experienced" before we trust them with our problems, and in a lighter vein we note in "Help Wanted" columns that there are openings for "experienced sales persons" in haberdasheries and dress shops, and "experienced car-hops" in drive-in restaurants.

Experience at anything, even living, comes from constant repetition with the additional requisite of striving continually for improvement. Constant repetition without the goal of improvement would result in nothing more than maintaining status quo at best, and at worst could result in retrogression if errors were to go uncorrected. This then would seem to indicate that initiative is an important factor in the gaining of desirable experience, since initiative is the human quality that can transmute repetition into profitable experience, lifting it above the level of automation. The person endowed with
initiative will gain this experience from
every endeavor in contrast to one satis-
ified to do the same thing in the same
way year after year.
Admitting that experience in any
field is not gained overnight, but is the
accumulation of years of effort, the
question becomes "is experience capital-
tized to the greatest degree, or is it
shamefully wasted?". It is the conten-
tion of the writer that accepted business
procedure in our country results in a
flagrant waste of valuable experience.
This statement refers, of course, to the
forced retirement programs so widely
in effect.
One who has worked until the age of
65 and who has enjoyed his activities
is the possessor of much valuable ex-
perience which, on retirement, is lost
to his industry. Of course there should
be a choice available, and if one
chooses retirement, there should be no
criticism since at this age one is cer-
tainly entitled to the opportunity to
pursue hobbies if desired. On the other
hand, if mental and physical health are
retained, and activity in business is a
person’s chief interest in life, his indus-
trial connection should welcome with
open arms the continuing opportunity
to avail itself of his experience.
The concern seems to center on the
fact that there will be no opportunity
for advancement of young people un-
less the older ones bow out. This is
hard to believe, since if workers are
truly inspired, young or old, their con-
tributions would result in expanded
business with room for all. It some-
times seems that young people fear
their older associates. They fear, per-
haps, that they will not “measure up”
in comparison, or that their new ideas
may be summarily dismissed when pre-

cented and a continuing frustration
will be the result. We admit there are
“old fogies” who will always resist
“new fangled” ideas, but believe these
are the exception. Those of wide ex-
perience are usually ones who entertain
with interest new ideas and suggestions,
drawing on their years of contact to
separate workable plans from those
that could result in costly failures, and
making it a principle at all times to
maintain an open mind. One of truly
wide experience may be old in years but
is always young in outlook and eager
for the application of fresh and better
methods.
At a time when our country is find-
ing it necessary to put forth every
effort to maintain position as a world
power, it becomes increasingly impor-
tant to use to maximum efficiency the
talents of our industrial army. One
step in this direction would be the
retention in industry of experience now
being lost through retirement when
this is not the choice of the individual.

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13. Pumps are individually tested in accordance with Underwriters' requirements.
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Instructor (to student in science class):
"Whom do you consider the greatest inventor?"
Student: "Judging by the number of times I have seen his name on inventions, I would say a gentleman named Pat Pending."

"Doctor", said the patient, "I am feeling much better and I would like you to send me your bill."
"I appreciate your consideration," said the doctor, "but you are not quite strong enough for that, yet!"

Hard Luck
is a polite name for the sleeping sickness.