Preparation and Responsibility: Judy Chapel and the Cuban Missile Crisis

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Judy Chapel
- Born 3 November 1931
- Married Franklin Chapel, 1953
- Claire & Charlie

Cold War Germany

To recognize the possibilities of nuclear war in the missile age, without our citizens knowing what they should do and where they should go if bombs begin to fall, would be a failure of responsibility.

- $3.24 Billion for increased Military Spending
- $207 Million for Civil Defense

Memory Associations
Memories of Pearl Harbor
7 December 1941
"I didn't think [shelters] made a lot of sense. I knew people were building them. It became, in some areas, a small, but busy field of endeavor."

Polls
Gallup
"Have you made any plans or given any serious thought to prepare your home in case of nuclear attack?"

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93% of the respondents answered "no."

Morals and Questions of Class

- Could a shelter be built inexpensively or would only the well-to-do be able to provide nuclear protection for their families?
- What about those who did not have a yard in which to create a shelter or those who rented instead of owning their home?

Clicker Q1: Obligation to Share?
If one family invested a great deal in their shelter (stocked for one month), should they have to let neighbors in during an attack?

A. Yes, no matter what
B. Yes, but only for neighbors who had no yard or way to build a shelter of their own
C. Yes, as long as all can survive for one week
D. No, unless they agreed to it in advance
E. No, not at all, it's their choice to share or not
Clicker Q2: Use of Force

If a shelter owner had only enough food and water for his family, would he be justified in killing his neighbors if they tried to force their way in?

A. Yes, no matter what
B. Yes, but only if he did not have ample room and supplies [note: B is basically the same as C]
C. No, unless the shelter was already packed full
D. No, never under any circumstances

Judy & JFK

“I didn’t vote for him,” Judy remembered, “but I admired what he said. I admired many of the things he said and I think it changed my opinion of him as the years went on.”

Why Judy's House?

Stocking the Shelter

“Imagine a bunch of housewives getting a grocery list together. Really... We simply made arrangements... it made sense to all of us the government wasn’t going to be able to take good care of us. Superman was not going to fly over so we had to do what we could.”

Government Preparedness

- City of Glendale, population 125,000 — space for only 4000 people in its eight official public fallout shelters.
- Burbank, population 92,000 — only four official public shelters with room for 750 persons.
Paradoxical Response

1965
It is estimated that as many as 200,000 may have been in place—1 shelter for every 900 persons or 1 for every 266 households.

- The people wanted/expected solutions, but for the most part, they didn't do anything with the possible solutions.
- Instead, it fell to the individual citizens, like Judy Chapel, to take it upon themselves to ensure their own survival.

Additional Sources

- Film — *Thirteen Days*