

SURVIVAL THINKING by Kurt Saxon (c) 1979

On page 617, Dave Font asks for an article on how to think; or how to put together all the confusing issues working up to the crash into a set of workable rules. Throughout the letter columns many have expressed confusion over how to handle all the conflicting attitudes between survivalists and standing up to the scoffing of non-survivalists.

So many have said they felt alone in their thinking until they read my works or those of other professional survivalists. Others told of the walls they ran up against when they tried to convince friends that civilization was in real trouble.

What I'm going to try to do in this editorial is set up a system of ideas which will give the survivalist a feeling of rightness in his stand. I'd like to establish a kind of belongingness among individuals who are widely separated.

No one likes to feel he is alone in his thinking, unless he is a paranoid fantasizing that he's the only one who has the truth. Paranoids in the field just stumble on it. Without survivalism, they would just as likely have fancied themselves in contact with beings from outer space who would take them off the planet at the last minute.

But normal survivalists need a set of common sources of identification so they will not think they are paranoid. Also, such an identification would be useful in keeping the survivalist from getting discouraged when people scoff at his preparations.

Well, the survivalist is a loner by necessity, now. There are no real groups to join, no armbands to wear, no dues to pay, no demonstrations to participate in. So a survivalist can easily feel very different from those around him without being able to focus on an identifiable organization sharing his thoughts and ideas. This can make one lonely, indeed.

But there is no need for loneliness. There are more potential survivalists around than you think. In fact, just about everyone with any sense shares your fears, but has not as yet seen a reason for optimism in the face of increasing adversity. This optimism is what sets off the survivalist from the non-survivalist.

Let me first explain to you that you are not alone in your anxieties about the future. I will also point out why your scoffing neighbor is even more afraid of the future than you are. I'll describe him in an analogy which will let you know how afraid he is and why he finds a kind of refuge in scoffing at your preparations.

Let's say that your neighbor bought a plot of land and built his dream home on it. When it was finished he believed his security was assured. Then he went to get it insured.

The insurance agent looked at a geodesic survey map of that area and found the house to have been built on a major earthquake fault. No insurance. No fire insurance, lest a tremor break a gas main or cause an electrical short and cause a fire. Anything that might happen to the house, except something like a burglary, could be blamed on a tremor. The agent went on to explain that the area is due for a quake any time. Maybe in a month, a year, three years at most, since geologists have kept records of periodic quakes in that area.

So what does your neighbor do? He has sunk all he has in that doomed home. He can't afford a new plot or the price of moving the house to it. he can't sell it since anyone with the price would also have the sense to ask why it wasn't insured.

If he were a survivalist, he would sell the house and fixtures to a salvage company or to a party who had another plot of land and the money to afford moving it, either at a terrible loss. Then he

would take what little he had, move to a safer place and build a shack. But he is not a survivalist so he rationalizes that a quake will not hit in his lifetime. He develops an ulcer, takes up bedwetting, gets a prescription for valium and says, "This is the best of all possible worlds."

Don't you realize by now that the average person who has given you the horse-laugh has built his house on an earthquake fault? How many of those scoffers have everything they own, their lifestyles, their jobs, sunk in this floundering system?

They know what's going on. They watch TV the same as you, read the same headlines, pay the same inflated prices for food and everything else. They just lack the guts to get out of the trap, even if, like an animal, they may have to chew a leg off to get free. Can you blame them for looking for pie in the sky, rather than sacrificing all they now hold dear to survive the coming crash?

Of course, I've pointed out in previous editorials that the change need not be so radical. But too many non-survivalists seem to believe that facing the whole picture would be too frightening and find it easier to hope for relief from sources outside themselves.

My northeastern subscribers know many who had to dig their cars out of record snows. The changing weather patterns have wiped out the properties of hundreds of thousands of families in America. Even Carla Emery's entire farm was washed out of existence by a recent flood. But Carla toughed it out and is on her way back. How many thousands are still living in government supplied trailer homes?

Everyone knows that the surplus population, the increasing government and technological incompetence, Moslem fanaticism in the Middle East, communist crap-stirring worldwide, etc., is bringing world civilization down. They know this, but refuse to admit its application to their own futures. Any guy you meet in a bar, after a few beers, will say the world is going to hell in a handbasket. But the next day, he'll go on whistling in the dark, as usual.

The only difference between a non-survivalist and you, is that the non-survivalist lacks the confidence to prepare. He will scoff, rationalize, call you paranoid and then fall on his knees before the TV evangelist and ask Jesus to save him.

Barring that, he might join a political extremist group and set out to save the world by bombing a politician's flower box. He might lose himself in drink or drugs. In his anxiety and frustration he might batter his child. He may go into a mom and pop store, shooting the old couple and taking \$50.00 from the register. He may turn to mugging. Losing himself in degeneracy, he might try to crash the Guinness Book of Records by scoring the most rapes in his area. You'll also find him in a leather club, beating or being beaten. He may sexually abuse children. The fag bars are also filled with people who say you're full of baloney. These are the self-doomed, the damned and the undisciplined. They know the end is near for their kind and before they go, they're going to indulge in every primeval, infantile fantasy they've ever entertained.

In short, the people of this planet are going mad through anxiety over situations they can't cope with. Oh, you're not alone in your anxieties. Your special kind of aloneness simply manifests itself in facing reality, while those around you are going collectively mad.

A bit of Black Humor I like is the idea that the only one who keeps his head while those around him are losing theirs is the one operating the Guillotine. You've got to be in control. You've got to approach everyone worthy within your sphere and tell them they can ride this out.

Don't preach at them or argue. If they can't handle the situation, you're wasting time best spent on someone else. Instead of making a debate of the issue, show them that you have a plan which helps you to face the same problems inflicting them. Compare your respective situations and show them they are not alone and there are answers.

I remember joining the John Birch Society in 1964. They would create chapters made up of citizens who met in the members' homes regularly. There they would discuss many of the problems which have since grown into major concerns today. They talked over coffee and made it like a cordial little party.

The only thing wrong with them was they blamed all the approaching troubles on the communists, especially the Russians. It seemed that every bit of international and domestic skulduggery, all economic woes and even teenage acne were caused by the Russians. (I still get bulletins from various alert patriots explaining how the Russians are behind the bad weather, even though Moscow is being mobbed by peasants coming in from the countryside for meat. Russia's weather has been worse than ours, causing major crop losses. Dumb Russians for ruining the world's weather and thereby starving their own people).

The Birchers finally went out of business; at least, I haven't heard of them for years. They told what was wrong, and quite well. But they offered no solutions except to write letters of complaint. Also, they blamed the communists for everything and our own system for nothing.

Even so, their ideas of local chapters where concerned citizens could get together was good. Survivalist chapters might be the answer to the need for community preparation for harder times ahead.

If you would like to start a survival chapter in your area, I'll give you a few pointers on how to get started. First, put a classified ad in your local newspaper. Such ads cost very little. Put it in the "Personals" column and keep it running until you have the group you need. You might word it like this; "Survival Seminar. If you are worried about inflation, government bungling, job security, the decline of the world's systems, etc., call -----".

Of course, before putting in such an ad, you must have a home suitable for such meetings. The Birch meetings I attended were in middle-class homes with plenty of couches and easy chairs. The refreshments were coffee, cake and cookies and general goodies served guests dropping in for a little talk. Nothing fancy.

When people call up to enquire you can tell them it's just a non-political get-together to discuss individual and group preparation to make it through the worsening conditions facing the community. The discussions will deal with saving money on foods, starting home businesses, storing commodities soon to be in short supply, etc.

If they seem interested, tell them your address and the evening of the meeting; Fridays are best. If a caller begins to argue and tell you everything is fine, you're talking to a boob who is so locked into the system he can't consider an alternative. He called because he's afraid and hoped you were some sort of phoney who would reinforce his hopes that his fears were unfounded. He's too far gone. Tell him politely that he must have had something else in mind and wouldn't enjoy the group and then hang up.

The ones who have the guts to act will be receptive. They are the ones you can count on for a good discussion. They may not accept all your ideas, nor you theirs. But such discussions will consolidate the worries your visitors have in common. Then you and

they will learn to think concerning those survival issues confronting those in your area.

You wouldn't need to begin your first meeting with the rougher aspects of survival. You could emphasize the logic of learning alternative trades, dozens of which are in the four volumes of THE SURVIVOR. Not one of the visitors could reject them all.

You might also emphasize buying in volume or even creating a food cooperative. The way this works is for everyone to list what they regularly buy. Then you could arrange for a visit to your nearest food wholesaler. Upon getting the wholesale prices for all the week's order, you could collect each member's share for what he will take. That way, the group would get all their food at wholesale rates. There are thousands of such community food cooperatives around the country and that's the best way to start a survival group.

You could also broach the idea of buying commodities by the case or the gross to resell or barter later. About three years ago, Johnny Carson jokingly predicted a shortage of toilet paper. There was nothing to it but a lot of people took him seriously.

One old lady panicked and bought 1000 cases of toilet paper. It finally dawned on her that there was no shortage. However, she had the cases stored in an outbuilding. A few months ago she decided to sell them back to the wholesaler. She got back over twice what she originally paid.

This system would work with anything and is far more sensible than putting money into a savings account. A member might buy 100 cases of 50 book cartons of matches. Another might buy several gross of packets of sewing needles and spools of thread. Razor blades, safety pins, office supplies such as ball point pens, pencils, erasers, etc., would be relatively cheap by the gross and would rise in value over the months ahead.

You can get such commodities wholesale from jobbers listed in your phone book or even from your local stores. The store owner would be glad to knock off 10% on cases of canned goods and such. And if you use the product regularly, you can be sure the price will have risen by the time you had used half the case.

The above money-saving ideas would immediately interest a general survival group and make them more receptive to your ideas on the harsher aspects. To get them to accept the harder stuff, you could sell survival books to the members. For instance, you can buy 30 of my books in any selection for half price. You could resell them to group members and make a profit or just enough over to pay for refreshments. You could work the same arrangement with other survival book publishers and your members would assemble fine survival libraries and think more your way as the weeks went by.

In a short time, you'd have a gung-ho survival group, the kind of which so many of you have been wanting. Not only will you have a fine survival group, but in helping others to think survival, you'd be getting your own thinking squared away. You and your group would then be the most stable force in the community when the crash finally comes.