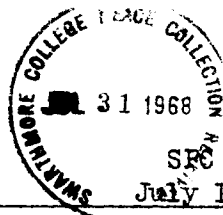


PEACE NEWS LETTER



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THE "Most Americans assume that when and if the war in
INSATIABLE Vietnam can be brought to an end, the resultant reduc-
PENTAGON tion in military expenditures will make available tens
of billions of dollars for meeting the growing backlog
of urgent domestic needs.

"On the face of it, this seems a reasonable assumption. The war is currently gobbling up the nation's resources to the tune of approximately \$30 billion a year. One would suppose that if the war were ended, this sum could be applied to fighting poverty, rebuilding our cities, and scores of other constructive undertakings.

"Unhappily it isn't that simple. What the optimists tend to overlook is the grim fact that the military establishment in this country has become a Frankenstein's monster, with a voracious appetite beyond the ability of the executive and legislative branches to control.

"Joseph W. Barr, the Undersecretary of the Treasury, as much as acknowledged this in a speech delivered in California (June 26). Unless the diplomatic and military objectives of the United States are drastically revised, he declared, a settlement of the war in Vietnam will result in little if any reduction in Defense Department expenditures.

"There are several reasons for this gloomy forecast, which has been made in varying forms by a number of other fiscal experts in recent weeks. For one thing, there is little expectation of a Vietnamese settlement which would not entail the retention of large numbers of U.S. troops in Southeast Asia. For another, an end to the fighting would be accompanied by a huge surge in expenditures for other Pentagon activities which have been cut back because of Vietnam, particularly military construction and stockpiling programs. A third factor is the inexorable effects of the current inflation and projected military pay increases on the Defense Department budget.

"Compounding the problem is the fact that Congress, against the advice of ex-Secretary of Defense McNamara and leading scientists, has now voted to start work on an anti-missile defense system of exceedingly dubious value which is expected to reach an eventual cost of anywhere from \$40 billion to \$100 billion. The Johnson administration

is reluctantly going along with this for fear of being accused in the coming campaign of neglecting the nation's defenses. Congressmen favor it, in many instances, because billions more in military contracts is good for business in their constituencies.

"How," asks the New York Times editorially, "can a government that rashly wastes resources on such a perilous military boondoggle hope to persuade its own citizens and other nations to limit their arms acquisitions?" How indeed? The explanation is that Congress for two decades now has been an eager patsy of the military-industrial establishment, ever ready to hand over without question whatever vast sums are demanded.

"Until and unless this master-servant relationship is reversed, it will take more than a cease-fire in Vietnam to make enough money available for the domestic ills which cry out for treatment."

--Editorial in The Berkshire Eagle
Pittsfield, Mass., June 28, 1968

THE SENTINEL The Sentinel is the name assigned to the anti-ballistic missile system which the present administration in Washington has decided to build. Last September, when Secretary of Defense McNamara announced the decision, he made a convincing case against deploying an antimissile system against the U.S.S.R., pointing out that it would compensate for our system by building counter measures into their strategic offensive missile force, and by adding to their numbers of missiles, setting off a costly and wasteful new arms race.

Consequently the decision to build the Sentinel was made ostensibly as a defense against a potential threat from China. Dr. Jerome Weisner of Mass. Inst. of Technology, and a science adviser to President Kennedy, calls the system "senseless and totally unnecessary." He further comments: "I have always been baffled by the logic which acknowledges, on the one hand, that the United States strategic power is adequate to deter a Soviet missile attack, but, on the other hand, that it still makes sense to build a defense against a much weaker China." Moreover, he writes, "The questionable value of the Sentinel system is implicit in the puzzling Administration offer not to build this anti-Chinese system if the Soviet Union would agree not to build its (Anti-Ballistic Missile) system."

Dr. Weisner terms Sentinel as "already technically obsolete" in "the light of new radar and missile technology." But more important, "by the time a defensive system is supposedly perfected, the offense has long since developed a means of overcoming it." Thus Sentinel

will not work as intended, and will lead "to an expanded arms race at great cost and with no improvement to national security." Therefore "it is silly to waste a penny on it" when "we desperately need money to apply to badly neglected and more urgent problems at home." (Letter, New York Times, June 23, 1968)

On June 24th, the Senate, by a vote of 52-34, rejected a motion to eliminate \$227 million from a military construction authorization bill to start the \$5.5 billion Sentinel system. The Johnson Administration, while initially advancing the system as a defense against an emerging Chinese missile threat, plead with the Senators that Sentinel is a defensive move against the Soviet Union. Subsequently the President publicly urged that the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. needed to recognize the futility of Anti-ballistic missile systems. Premier Kosygin of the U.S.S.R. responded favorably in a speech, and the two nations will enter conversations looking to limitations on this form of weaponry which are expensive and of dubious utility. However, the questions will arise, can a government which succumbed to pressures to build a useless system resist pressures to continue its construction and its eventual expansion?

Why did the administration, last Fall, reverse a previous decision and decide to build Sentinel. Drew Pearson put it succinctly: "The answer is that the people who forged the decision were the defense contractors who stand to make a whopping profit out of it. They brought quiet pressure on Congressional friends who in turn brought pressure upon the administration.

"The great corporations primarily responsible were McDonnell, Douglas, the Martin Company, General Electric, Sperry Rand, Raytheon and Western Electric and Bell Telephone Laboratories. The following corporations also will get a piece of the \$5 billion pie: AVCO, Block Engineering, Burroughs, Brundy, Control Data, Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory, Hughes Aircraft, Radio Corporation of America, Sperry Gyroscope, TRW, and Wheeler Laboratories. All lobbied with their friends on Capitol Hill for the ABM system." (Clinton Courier, Oct. 12, 1967).

Congressional Quarterly, in a special study dated May 24, corroborates Pearson's allegations. More than 15,000 companies will benefit from Sentinel. Customers of one brokerage firm were told a year ago that when Congress approves the ABM, it "will shake the money tree for electronic companies." In the final quarter of 1967, following McNamara's announcement, some 75 mutual investment funds, according to Congressional Quarterly, "sold \$90 million in other stock holdings and invested the proceeds in electronics."

LOCAL NOTES

Hiroshima Vigil

The Syracuse Peace Council and the Women's International League for Peace - Syracuse Branch will co-sponsor a Hiroshima Day Memorial Vigil on Sunday, August 4, 1968, from 12: to 1: PM at Columbus Circle. You are urged to lend your support to this Memorial by your participation. Come - bring your family.

Fall Seminars

University College will offer two special six session seminars beginning in late September which may be of interest:

- A. Black and White Seminars on the Kerner Report will be held in High Schools throughout the area (Cazenovia, Fayetteville-Manlius, Nottingham, Henniger, West Genesee and Corcoran).
- B. A seminar on the 1968 elections - issues, candidates, platforms, commentary and analysis.

Details may be obtained from the Counseling Office at University College, Syracuse University.

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