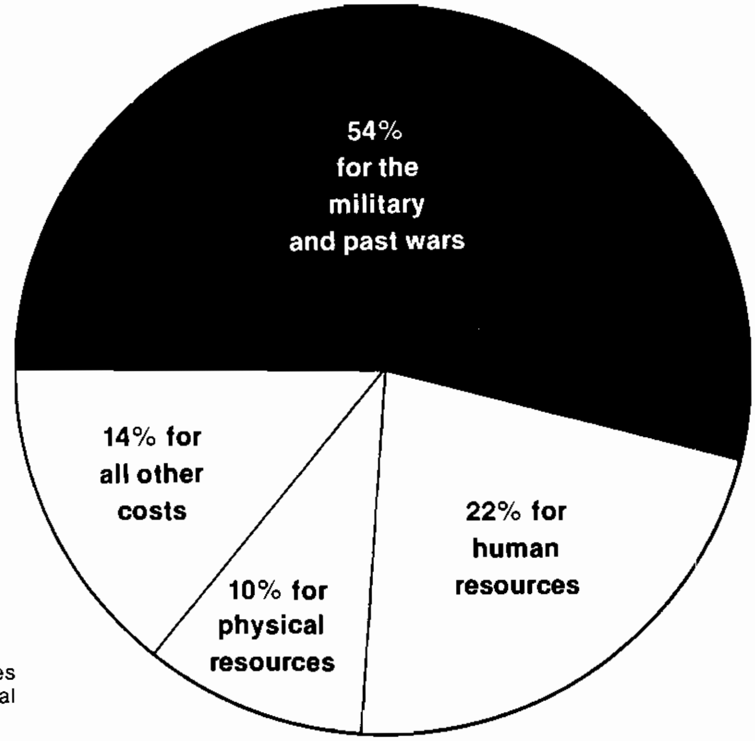
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR TAX DOLLAR BUYS?



Where Do Your Taxes Go?

You work hard for your money. But much of your tax dollar goes to pay for wars — past, present and future: 54% in the Fiscal Year 1976 budget proposed by the Administration.*

In fact, the U.S. has spent $1.5 trillion on the military since the end of World War II.

The Administration is asking Congress for $254.2 billion in Federal funds for Fiscal 1976. Of this amount:

Military: 54% — 37% is earmarked for current military expenditures and 17% for the cost of past wars — 6% for veterans benefits (which the Administration includes in "human resources") and 11% for interest on the national debt (four-fifths of which can be conservatively estimated as war-incurred).

Hunan Resources (education, manpower, social services, health, income security): 22%

Physical Resources (agriculture, community and regional development, natural resources, commerce, transportation, environment, energy): 10%

All Other (international affairs, justice, space, general government, revenue-sharing, and one-fifth of the interest on the national debt): 14%

The figures above have been compiled by the Library of Congress Legislative Reference Service as released by Rep. Les Aspin.

Administration Budget

The Administration, however, presents a far different picture of federal spending priorities. It claims that the federal government will spend more money on "human resources" than on the military. This claim is based on a change in budget accounting, made in 1968, whereby tax revenues from income, inheritance and excise taxes are placed in the same pot as receipts from trust funds such as Social Security, Railroad Retirement and the Highway Trust Fund.

These trust funds were set up years ago to provide specific benefits. They are financed by separate taxes. For example, you pay social security taxes now and receive benefits when you retire. The federal government merely acts as caretaker for these funds. **Neither Congress nor the President can spend the money in the trust funds, except for earmarked purposes.** Therefore, if you want to know what happens to your tax dollars which the federal government can spend, the trust funds should be considered as separate cookie jars, not as part of the federal pie.

The accounting and the rhetoric have changed, but not the reality. Fifty-four percent of the Federal funds budget for Fiscal Year 1976, controlable by the President and Congress, will go to pay for military-related programs.

Based on these budget figures, and an estimated 55 million families in the United States today, the cost to the average American family for military-related programs during Fiscal 1976 will be $2,485. This compares with $301 for health, $258 for education, manpower and social services, and $107 for community and regional development.

Is this how you want YOUR taxes spent?

Are You More Secure?

At the end of World War II, no enemy could attack the United States. Today, in a nuclear war, the U.S. could be wiped out in less than an hour. The Fiscal 1976 Annual Defense Department Report estimated that the U.S. would have 8,500 long-range nuclear weapons in mid-1975, the Soviet Union 2,800. Just **200 to 400** of these weapons could destroy a third of the Soviet population and three quarters of its industrial capacity.

Are you more secure knowing we can "overkill" the Russians more times than they can "overkill" us? Are you more secure knowing the U.S. have over **40** military commitments to other countries and over 2,000 bases and installations around the world? Are you more secure knowing the needs of the American people are being neglected while you pay for more "efficient" and sophisticated weapons — with cost overruns of more than three times the original estimates? Are you more likely to be threatened by Soviet missiles or by crime, polluted air and water, and dishonesty in government?

Does spending over $100 billion a year on the military make you feel secure?

To see how the Administration wants to spend your tax dollars, turn to the other side.

*Federal funds budget: excludes trust funds, which are separately financed.

sane **A CITIZENS' ORGANIZATION FOR A SANE WORLD,** 318 Mass Ave., N.E., Wash., D.C. 20002

WHAT COULD YOUR TAX DOLLARS BUY?

FOR THE PENTAGON:		FOR YOU:
Cost of buying, equipping and maintaining one B-1 bomber during its 30-year life	**—$262 Million—**	Cost of keeping 7,280 kidney patients in intensive dialysis hospital treatment for one year
Maximum annual entertainment allowance for high-ranking officer	**—$4 Thousand—**	Average annual wage for two migrant farm workers
Cost of one F-15 fighter plane	**—$10 Million—**	Cost of meeting the increase in Cleveland's mass transit bill
Cost overrun on DD963 destroyers, six-month period in 1973 — $272.4 million		Dallas' annual budget — $269 million
Cost overrun on XM-1 tanks, six-month period in 1973 — $394.1 million		Baltimore's annual education budget — $395 million
Economic costs of two four-star Army generals for one year (includes quarters, retirement, income tax adjustment, etc.) — $113,028		Funds needed to cover the deficit for the blood bank in San Francisco General Hospital — $110,000

What Can You Do About It?

1. Congress holds the pursestrings. Let your Representative and Senators know how you think the federal government should spend your tax dollars.

2. Keep telling him or her. No single letter, phone call or visit will influence legislation. Get your friends and neighbors to help you maintain a continuing dialogue with your elected representatives.

3. Accept no evasions. Each of us has a Ph.D. in What It's Like to Live in America, so don't let your Congressman give you the "If-you-knew-what-I-knew-from-the-secret-briefings" routine. If they give you that routine, demand to know what they know. Tell them what you know.

If they come up with budget figures that show a smaller slice of the pie for "defense", ask to be shown the ingredients. Since 1968 the government has been lumping Social Security, other trust funds, and veterans' benefits under the category of "human resources". Since the trust funds are set up by separate taxes to pay specific benefits, they should be treated as separate cookie jars, not as part of the federal pie. Veterans' benefits are part of the costs of past wars — as are the bulk of interest payments on the national debt.

4. Use the information in this leaflet in letters to the editor, radio call-in shows, and other community forums.

5. Order more copies of this leaflet and distribute them.

send to **sane** 318 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E.
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Please send me ______________ copies of this leaflet at 2 cents each, $1.50 for 100, $6.80 for 500.

Please send me ______________ copies of an extended and documented list of "What COULD Your Tax Dollars Buy?" 25 cents each, 10 for $2.00, 50 for $8.00.

I would like to join SANE and enclose $15 annual dues ($5 for senior citizens, students, GI's, low income).

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