

How George Bush, his Congress and Pentagon Are

LOOTING Our Cities,

ROBBING Our People &

STEALING From Our Children

By Seymour Melman*

The strong – perhaps savage – accusation in the title of this short paper is in response to the post 9-11 marshalling of resources for enlarging the war powers of the U.S. government. All this is in support of a worldwide drive for profit and power, without limit, by the Bush-Cheney state capitalist directorate. A principal “cover story” for these processes is the *Guns and Butter* dogma: the U.S. can afford both without limit.

See for yourself in the following data.

TAKEN FROM OUR LIVES → **FOR THEIR WARS**

Cost of building housing for the 600,000 homeless families in the U.S. ¹	= \$59 billion =	Army Comanche Helicopter program \$48.1 BN & Navy Joint Standoff Weapon program \$11.2 BN (SAR) ²
Investment needed to provide 20% of U.S. electricity supply from renewable & clean sources ³	= \$80 billion =	Navy SSN 774 Virginia Class Submarine program \$71BN & Navy Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicle program \$8.7BN (SAR) ²
Annual shortfall to meet federal safe drinking water standards and replace aging facilities ⁴	= \$11 billion =	Total cost of the Navy’s “Future Surface Combatant” program (SAR) ²
Additional annual investment needed to improve the condition of U.S. roads and bridges ⁵	= \$42 billion =	Navy Trident Sub program \$35 BN & Army Interim Assault Vehicle program \$7 BN (SAR) ²
“More than twice the net value of the plant and equipment in America’s manufacturing industries” ⁶	= \$5.3 trillion =	Costs of creating U.S. Nuclear Weapon Overkill Capacity, 1940-96 ⁷
Rehabilitation of all unsafe U.S. dams ⁸	= \$2 billion =	Tactical Tomahawk Cruise Missile (SAR) ²
Electrification of 50 miles of main-line railroad ⁹	= \$210 million =	One Global Hawk Unmanned Drone (PAC) ²
Annual cost to provide sanitary water to the 2.4 billion people worldwide ¹⁰	= \$10 billion =	2 Navy CVN6-B Aircraft Carriers (SAR) ²
3,500 miles of Maglev (magnetic levitation) Train Lines, running at 266 miles per hour ¹¹	= \$99 billion =	F-22 Raptor Advanced Fighter program, [\$228 million / plane] (SAR) ²
Research program to develop zero emissions, coal gasification power plants ¹²	= \$11 billion =	Amphibious Assault Ship program (SAR) ²

(over)↘

THESE TOO FOR THEIR WARS

100 New Natural Gas School Buses to replace high-polluting diesel buses ¹³	=	\$12.7 million	=	One Longbow Apache Helicopter (PAC) ²
Expand Medicare to everyone in the U.S., saving 18,000 Americans annually from death due to lack of health insurance coverage ¹⁴	=	\$41 billion	=	C-17A Heavy Airlift Airplane program (SAR) ²
Portion of "No Child Left Behind Act" left unfunded in 2003 federal budget ¹⁵ This program was to help schools in impoverished areas.	=	\$ 4 billion	=	C-130 Aircraft Avionics Modernization program (SAR) ²
Annual cost to enroll 1100 Children in Head Start Pre School Programs ¹⁶	=	\$7.9 million	=	One "Upgraded" Abrams Tank (SAR) ²
Five years of funding for a global tuberculosis control program ¹⁷	=	\$9.1 billion	=	E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System program (SAR) ²
Fix deteriorating U.S. school buildings ¹⁸	=	\$268 billion	=	One third of the estimated cost of the Joint Strike Fighter program. ¹⁹
Estimated cost of reopening the 64 general hospitals closed in 2000 ²⁰	=	\$3.1 billion	=	CH-47F Cargo Helicopter program cost. (SAR) ²
Enacted and proposed cuts to New York City Public Libraries, FY 2003 & 2004 ²¹	=	\$52 – 55 million	=	Two MH-60 S Helicopters (PAC) ²
Cost of salaries for an additional 561,000 nurses, an increase that will be necessary by 2010 ²²	=	\$20 billion	=	DDG-51 Guided Missile Destroyer program (SAR) ²

SOURCES

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- ² SAR = DoD [Selected Acquisition Report Summary Tables](http://www.acq.osd.mil/ara/am/sar/2002-SEP-SARSUMTAB.pdf), September 30, 2002. <http://www.acq.osd.mil/ara/am/sar/2002-SEP-SARSUMTAB.pdf>
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- ³ "Renewing Where We Live". Union of Concerned Scientists: <http://www.ucsusa.org/publication.cfm?publicationID=349>
- ⁴ American Society of Civil Engineers "Report Card for America's Infrastructure", Drinking Water: <http://www.asce.org/reportcard/index.cfm?reaction=factsheet&page=6>
- ⁵ Federal Highway Administration "2002 Status of the Nation's Highways, Bridges, and Transit": <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policy/2002cpr/es8.htm>
- ⁶ Seymour Melman, [*After Capitalism*](#), P 100.
- ⁷ Seymour Melman, [*After Capitalism*](#), P 100.
- ⁸ ASSOCIATION OF STATE DAM SAFETY OFFICIALS April 16, 2002: <http://www.damsafety.org/layout/subsection.aspx?groupid=15&contentid=85>
- ⁹ John E. Ullmann, Engineering estimate.
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- ¹¹ New York Times, "China Tests German-Made Fast Train; Deal Awarded" January 1, 2003
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- ¹³ Rebecca Sayre, Union Of Concerned Scientists; also http://www.ucsusa.org/clean_vehicles/trucks_and_buses/page.cfm?pageID=244
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<http://www.pnhp.org/news/archives/001697.php>
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- ¹⁶ Administration for Children & Families, "Head Start Program Fact Sheet", FY 2002: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/research/2003.htm>
- ¹⁷ [Global Plan to Stop TB Phase 1: 2001 to 2005](http://www.stoptb.org/GPSTB/Introduction_pages_13to22.pdf) http://www.stoptb.org/GPSTB/Introduction_pages_13to22.pdf page 15.
- ¹⁸ NEA estimate: <http://www.modernschools.org/need>
- ¹⁹ George Runner, "California Needs to Compete for Key Military Jet Contract," *Los Angeles Times*, Nov. 2, 1997.
- ²⁰ Seymour Melman, engineering estimate; Office of Inspector General, "Hospital Closure 2000" <http://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-04-02-00010.pdf>
- ²¹ The City Of New York, [Summary of Reduction Programs, Fiscal Year 2004 Executive Budget](http://www.nyc.gov/html/omb/pdf/srp4_03.pdf), http://www.nyc.gov/html/omb/pdf/srp4_03.pdf
- ²² US Dept of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. [Occupation Projections and Training Data, 2002-3](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/archives/ocp0203.pdf)

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