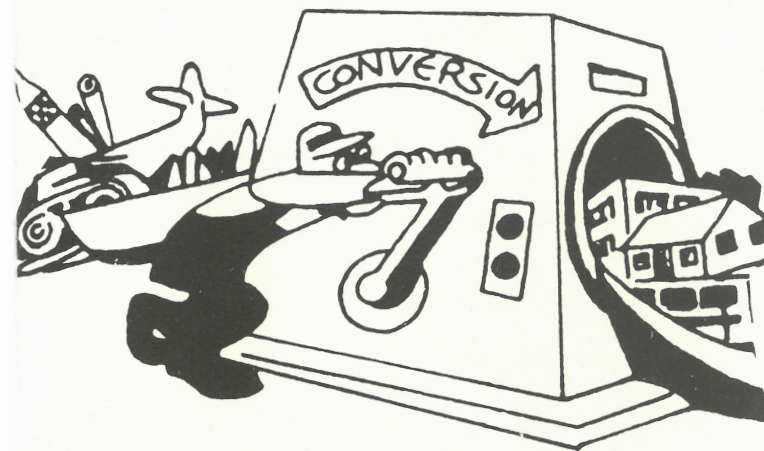


# MORE JOBS



**CONVERTING  
TO A PEACEFUL,  
PRODUCTIVE  
ECONOMY**

Everybody is concerned these days about the health of our economy. America's basic industries are in a state of collapse. Inflation is out of control. Unemployment is up and rising.

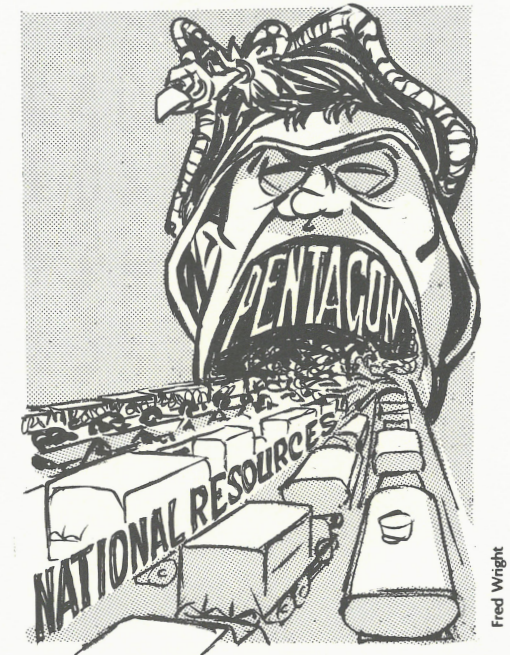
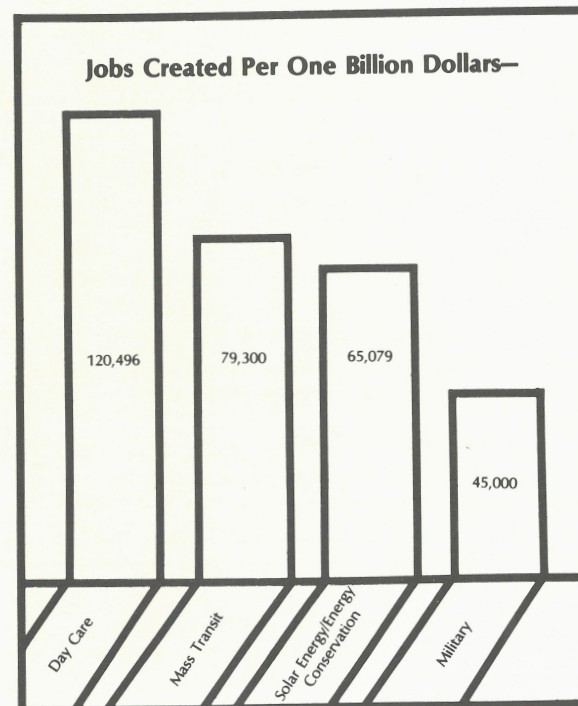
How have we reached the state we're in?

Experts agree that part of the reason is the declining rate of U.S. productivity growth, now the lowest among industrial nations. Many blame this decline in productivity growth on excessive arms spending. Military spending hinders the development of our civilian industries because it:

- absorbs the lion's share of our nation's capital and technology;
- siphons off over half of all federal R&D funds and one-third of our engineers and scientists into military production.

As a result, our civilian industries have been stunted. We can build "smart" missiles and high-tech weaponry, but we can't manufacture efficient, low-cost railroad cars. While we spend billions on military overkill, our industrial base gets weaker and urgent domestic needs go unmet.

Of course we need to defend our nation. But we don't need a constant arms race. If just a *fraction* of the dollars we spend on the military were redirected towards shoring up our economy and meeting human needs, many additional new jobs could be created. Our basic industries would benefit and productivity would rise. Unemployment lines would shorten and welfare and poverty rates could be reduced.



Fred Wright

## THE MILITARY ECONOMY FEW JOBS, MORE INFLATION

It's a fact that military spending is bad medicine for the economy. Military production creates relatively few jobs since it is highly automated and capital-intensive. The jobs it does create are usually reserved for highly-trained technicians and engineers. Job opportunities in the defense industry for unskilled and structurally unemployed workers like women and minorities are few.

Military spending is also a guaranteed inflation-fueler. It generates dollars for arms contractors but adds nothing productive to our economy. It is riddled with waste and cost overruns and bids up the price of scarce materials and resources.

It's clear that excessive arms spending is a major cause of our present stagflation. But our economic decline also results from the policies of multinational corporations. The same gigantic corporations that brought us the runaway shop are now exporting American capital and technology.

Some of these multinationals are also arms contractors who peddle American technology and weaponry all over the world—including the volatile Persian Gulf. American multinational companies are actually undermining our national interest.

Without a system of democratic checks and balances, big business will continue to prosper, while at home we're left with plant closures, community dislocation and a decaying economy.



## PLANNING FOR A PEACEFUL ECONOMY

There is a solution to all the problems created by excessive militarism. It's called Planned Economic Conversion—three big words that can mean the difference between a job and no job when a shutdown occurs.

For workers in the defense industry, conversion is a way to cope with the boom and bust cycle of defense production. But it's a strategy which could also be used by workers who suffer from shutdowns and runaway shops in other sectors of the economy. Conversion is a means to:

- create new jobs;
- avoid layoffs;
- re-order priorities and plan for a more peaceful economy.

### WHAT IS PLANNED ECONOMIC CONVERSION?

- Planned Economic Conversion means preparing alternative use plans for endangered industries with an early warning signal in the event of a shutdown.
- Planned Economic Conversion means bringing workers, management and community representatives together to prepare these plans in advance.
- Planned Economic Conversion means income guarantees and retraining for workers affected by plant closings.

## PLANNED ECONOMIC CONVERSION WORKS

Rank and file trade unionists in Britain's aerospace industry have shown that Planned Economic Conversion works.

When the Lucas Aerospace Corporation threatened to shutdown some of its facilities and lay off thousands, workers there got together and saved their jobs. They came up with their own industrial plan for the future, preventing layoffs, and using their skills to develop 150 socially useful products.

They solved a tough problem and at the same time proved that workers can use technology for beneficial rather than destructive purposes.

In the U.S., workers and communities are also saying "no" to layoffs and plant closures. In order to guarantee economic security and community stability, groups like the St. Louis Conversion Project, the Puget Sound Conversion Project and others across the country are organizing. To cope with boom and bust in California's defense industry, the Mid-Peninsula Conversion Project has formed a labor/peace/community alliance. Together they are saving jobs and communities through careful economic planning for peace.

## A NATIONAL PROGRAM

Labor leaders also recognize the need for conversion. As International Association of Machinists President William Winpisinger recently said:

**"We need economic conversion programs so that one day those of us who depend upon military production for our livelihood can think about and act on the war and peace issues, free from the fear of job loss and economic insecurity."**

That's why the IAM is leading an effort to promote national economic conversion legislation for defense workers. Conversion bills and amendments would:

- \* guarantee 1 year prenotification in the event of plant closures;
- \* pay salaries and benefits to displaced workers;
- \* provide training and retraining for workers who need it;

- \* mandate alternative use and planning committees at defense facilities;
- \* make communities eligible for planning grants;
- \* transfer government capital and technology from military to civilian purposes.

Legislation like this could be a model for conversion efforts in all sectors of the economy.



Fred Wright

## USING TECHNOLOGY TO MEET HUMAN NEEDS

A commitment to Planned Economic Conversion means using technology for life purposes, not destruction. It means modernizing industry to create jobs and make America competitive again with our foreign trading partners.



Through Planned Economic Conversion we could:

- revitalize our inner cities and neighborhoods;
- rebuild our nation's mass transit system and rehabilitate our decaying railroad network;
- develop safe and renewable energy systems to solve the energy crisis;
- fund a comprehensive national health program.

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

These new industries could be targeted to communities in distress—communities who suffer most from low employment, defense adjustments or plant closures. And retraining benefits, income guarantees and successor's rights would insure that the new industries employ the same workers, in the same union.

## WHAT ABOUT NATIONAL SECURITY?

Revitalizing the American economy and building a more peaceful world are worthwhile goals. But people ask, "What about the Russians?" Or, "If we cut military spending how can we protect U.S. oil supplies in the Middle East?"

The truth is that we are still the strongest military power in the entire world. The U.S. can destroy every major Soviet city some 50 times over! Shipping troops overseas and spending billions on new weapons to protect our access to foreign oil won't make America more secure. To do that we need to become energy self-sufficient. Excess military funds would be better spent on developing safe, renewable energy systems here at home.

It's time to reorder priorities and put a stop to needless military expansion. For a strong and more secure nation we need to convert our vast technological and industrial wealth to civilian purposes. With careful planning our national security and economic vitality will not be endangered but enhanced.

**COALITION**  
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## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Economic Conversion is the way to protect workers and their communities, but it won't happen unless we all speak out and take action. Giant corporations have a stake in keeping things the way they've always been.

To move toward full employment and a better world, much work has to be done. You can start today by joining the struggle for Planned Economic Conversion with the sponsors of this pamphlet:

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM)

International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU)

United Electrical Workers (UE)

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**"I think it is a terrible thing for a human being to feel that his security and the well-being of his family hinge upon a continuation of the insanity of the arms race. We have to give these people greater economic security in terms of the rewarding purposes of peace."**

**—Walter Reuther, 1969**