

**UAW** WASHINGTON OFFICE  
1126 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W.  
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.  
EXECUTIVE 3-7761

4-18-61

APR 20 1961

TO: Otha

FROM: Grete

..... For your information

..... For your action

..... Per your request

..... Note and return to me

..... For Comment

This is our total supply.

Best regards.

# TRANSMITTAL SLIP

*Law*

WASHINGTON OFFICE

TO: VGR

APR 10 '61

FROM: Otha

.....For your information

.....Note and return to me

.....Per your request

.....For your action

Comments:..... Do you have a supply of these

..... you can send WPR? If not, return this

..... and we can duplicate on this end.

*March 12, 1961*

*Sane Comment:*

## THE ECONOMICS OF PEACE

by Walter P. Reuther  
President,  
International Union, UAW



**P**EACE is not just the absence of war. It is an assertion of values and a commitment to life-giving actions.

Fifty years ago an American philosopher understood this when he told us we must find a moral equivalent of war. We don't have another fifty years to look. We must release the forces of peace soon, before the forces of war overwhelm us. We must prove—to ourselves and the rest of the world—that man's energies can be used for something better than war or the preparation for war.

The communists have the same human reasons for wanting to avoid a nuclear holocaust as we do. But the communists have another reason to urge disarmament. Their dogma tells them that our way of life cannot cope with the challenges of peace, *cannot manage the economics of peace.*

We will know they are wrong when we prove it to ourselves. There are over five million jobless men and women in this country today. Their idleness is our common loss. It is a loss that goes beyond any economic calculation. It is a moral defeat, a denial of dignity to free men.

We must face the fact that peace will bring additional problems. Whole industries will have to be reconverted or replaced. Hundreds of communities and millions of individual workers will need help to readjust, to establish new industries, to learn new skills, perhaps to move to new homes.

We are now devoting to major defense programs over \$45 billion per year of our national resources. If controlled disarmament becomes a fact, we should have programs ready to utilize these resources for the meeting of our individual and social needs. If we fail to do so they may simply be left unused, adding to the burden of unemployment and the idle capacity of our plants.

What are the needs we have to meet? They are apparent on every hand. The unfinished business of America leaps to the eye and the heart. Our industrial centers are deteriorating, our slums are still spreading, our schools and our hospitals are over-crowded, our rivers are polluted, our soil is eroding, our highways and airports are inadequate. Wherever we turn, our human and natural resources need the investment of human work and care.

The economics of peace demand even wider action. Hunger, illiteracy, and disease on other continents claim our attention. Peace cannot live on an empty stomach. Peace needs jobs and hope. We have it within our power—and we owe it to our democratic faith—to lead, not merely follow, the revolution of rising expectations.

We cannot meet these challenges by refusing to face them. We need to draw up an inventory of our public needs in such vital areas as education, health, housing and welfare, with programs for meeting them.

We need programs to teach displaced workers new skills. We need special grants to enable some workers to move to areas of new employment. We need a better system of unemployment compensation and a strengthened public employment service.

We must have programs to help areas and industries convert from defense to peace employment. We need joint planning with underdeveloped nations to help provide development funds. And to achieve these programs we need full consultation, planning and participation by all the major groups in our own country, including management, trade unions, agriculture and government at all levels.

Nobody claims this mobilization for peace will be easy. Is our present condition easy? Ask any one of the 5,500,000 men and women without work today. Would nuclear war be easy? Would a perpetual balance of terror be easy—or possible?

The question is not what is easy but what is best, what is true to our deepest commitments, what is necessary and urgent for the preservation and enhancement of life.

The economics of peace is the economics of survival.

*Seventh in a Series*

**NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR A SANE NUCLEAR POLICY**  
Co-Chairmen: Clarence Pickett, Norman Cousins  
17 E. 45th St., New York 17, New York

**Your contribution can help extend our work for peace and a sane nuclear policy. Ask for free program booklet.**

# SANE