CCPM HOMELESSNESS DEMONSTRATION MAY 4, 2019

 By John Hellmann

JUST THREE WEEKS AGO I PARTCIPATED IN A CLEANUP OF GOOSE CREEK WHICH RUNS BEHIND THE MACDONALD’S BY HENDERSON HIGH SCHOOL . THERE ARE FOLKS ENCAMPED ALONG THE CREEK JUST A FEW BLOCKS FROM HERE.

IN THE PAST THE CCPM HAS CLEANED UP ALONG PAOLI PIKE AND UNDER THE BRIDGE WE HAVE FOUND HOMELESS CAMPS. WE HAVE HOMELESS NESS HERE IN OUR OWN WEALTHY COMMMUNITY JUST OUT OF SIGHT. HOMELESSNESS IS JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG. EVEN IN AN ECONOMY THAT HAS HIGH EMPLOYMENT, MANY ARE LIVING ON THE EDGE AND FROM PAYCHECK TO PAYCHECK. IF A JOB IS LOST OR HOURS CUT BACK, THE RENT DOESN’T GET PAID AND THE STREET BECOMES THE FINAL RESORT.

FOR 2019, THE CURRENT PRESIDENT HAS SUBMITTED A BUDGET OF 716 BILLION OR 82 BILLION MORE THAN 2018. WHERE DOES THIS MONEY GO?

HOW ABOUT $300 TOILET SEAT COVERS AND SUPERSONIC COFFEE MUGS FOR $56,000 ?

THE MILTARY HAS MORE THAN 800 BASES IN AT LEAST 80 COUNTRIES. THE US SPENDS MORE ON ITS MILTARY THAN THE NEXT 8 COUNTIRES COMBINED!

THE NONPARTISAN CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE PROJECTS THAT IF THE CURRENT FUNDING CONTINUES, THE US WILL SPEND OVER 7 TRILLION OVER THE NEXT DECADE EQUIVALENT TO THE AMOUNT SPENT ON ECUATION, INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS COMBINED

29 YEARS AGO, IN 1990, CONGRESS DECLARED THAT ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES BEGIN GENERATING AUDITED FINANACIAL STATEMENTS. MANY AGENCIES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DID SO BUT NOT THE PENTAGON. BY 2013, THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT WAS THE ONLY FEDERAL AGENCY THAT HAD NOT SUBMITTED A FINANCIAL AUDITED STATEMENT.

THERE IS A IN DEPTH ARTICLE IN THE RECENT ISSUE OF ROLLING STONE BY MATT TAIBBI CALLED “THE PENTAGON’S BOTTOMLESS MONEY PIT”. IT EXPOSES THE FACT THAT NOT THE PRESIDENT, NOT THE CONGRESS AND NOT EVEN THE PENTAGON ITSELF KNOWS WHAT CLOSE TO 700 BILLION ANNUAL MILITARY BUDGET –OF OUR TAX MONEY- HAS BOUGHT.

IN 1935, GENERAL SMEDLY BUTLER DECLARED THAT “WAR IS A RACKET”. JUST OVER 50 YEARS, AGO PRESIDENT EISENHOWER GAVE HIS FAMOUS FAREWELL SPEECH IN WHICH HE WARNED OF THE “MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX”

AND THE CREATION OF A PERMANENT ARMAMENTS INDUSTRY DRIVING OUR BUDGET AS WELL AS OUR FOREIGN POLICY. HE SAID THE “POTENTIAL FOR THE DIASTROUS RISE OF MISPLACED POWER EXISTS AND WILL PERSIST”. WE, AS A NATION, HAVE FAILED TO HEED THESE WARNINGS.

THERE ARE MANY REASONS WHY FOLKS FIND THEMSELVES WITHOUT A HOME . OUR NATIONAL PRIORITIES NEED TO BE REALIGNED TO ANSWER THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE: EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, VETERANS’ PROGRAMS, AFFORDABLE HOUSING, DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREAMENT PROGRAMS AND INFRASTRUCTURE REBUILDING ARE AMONG THOSE.

JOIN US IN OUR WEEKLY VIGILS EVERY SATURDAY FROM 11 TO 12 NOON HERE AT HIGH AND MARKET STREETS TO PROCLAIM THAT PEACE IS THE ANSWER.