Columbia University Professor Seymour Melman speaking at Saturday's symposium on the military and the economy.

Speakers doubt defense spending aids economy

By Robert Adams

US businesses would be more competitive if less money were consumed through government spending, asserted corporate head Bernard O'Keefe at the "Military and the Economy" symposium Saturday. The symposium was co-sponsored by the Technology and Culture Seminar, Student Pugwash, and the Disarmament Study Group.

The United States should attempt to reach some kind of agreement with the Soviet Union, so that government cutbacks can be sustained, he claimed. This would help the United States maintain a better competitive edge with foreign businesses.

"The solution is not to hate the Japanese; the solution is to get a common dialogue and keep a common dialogue with the Soviet Union," he added.

If the government were to cut all military spending to its current level of 50 aircraft carriers, O'Keefe claimed, the Soviets would be more impressed with our economy, he said.

But "in the effort to make the USSP spend itself into oblivion, we would spend ourselves into oblivion," he commented.

"If anyone should be charging us on [to build up SDI spending], it should be the Japanese, the South Koreans, the Germans, and the French," because they stand to increase their competitiveness, Bluestone concluded.

"The Soviets don't care. We have 5 aircraft carriers or 50 aircraft carriers," O'Keefe claimed. The Soviets are more impressed with our economy, he said.

"Military spending is capital-intensive," but "civilian spending goes toward hiring instead of consumption," Bluestone said.

The program in Science, Technology, and Society plans to enlarge its offerings with a graduate degree, according to Program Director Karen Kayson.

The degree, under consideration by the School of Humanities and Social Sciences Council, will be called "History and Study of Science and Technology," Kayson said. The curricula of the proposed degree would take advantage of the strong background of the STS faculty in the 18th-19th centuries, placing emphasis on studies done in that period, she said.

Approval by the School of Humanities and Social Sciences would open the way for implementing this degree program within two years, Kayson said.

National and state elections today

Today is election day in the United States.

Voters will pick the candidates for the US Congress, state legislatures, and local offices. Most states also have referenda on various issues, including school finance, property tax relief, and municipal bonds.

Citizens have the opportunity to make their voices heard on important issues that affect their daily lives. It is crucial that everyone participates in this democratic process, as it is the foundation of our republic.

The presidential election is a significant event, as the president holds one of the most powerful positions in the world. The choice of the next president will determine the course of the nation for the next four years.

Therefore, it is important to educate ourselves about the candidates and their policies before casting our ballots. This will enable us to make informed decisions and ensure that our voices are represented in the political process.

Let us all take the time to vote and participate in this important process. Our individual votes can make a difference in shaping the future of our country.

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