

AN ALTERNATIVE OUTLOOK

By Everett W. Gross

Did you miss me for a couple of weeks? My spouse and I have just returned from a trip to visit our offsprings and their offsprings. On our return through St. Louis we took in a conference of economists (amateur and professional) who know about the school of thought which I am trying to make known here in the Crete area.

On our trip, we observed, as always, massive poverty which will almost surely bring the collapse of our country as we know it. It would be more fun to observe a rising material standard of living, which we know to be possible.

Whenever we take a trip, we usually pay very little attention to current news. And so, when we return, I rush for a paper to see what I can find for a topic for this column. As usual, there are so many that the choice is made difficult.

I was struck this time by the articles and pictures of the peace ribbon being stretched half way around our State Capitol building. Maybe there is something symbolic about that "half-way" figure. I don't know what all is written on the ribbon but I doubt that it contains anything that will produce peace. None of the items mentioned in the news article will do so.

In order to produce peace, it would seem to be necessary to abolish war. In order to abolish war, it would seem to be necessary for the correct people to know the cause or causes of war. If large numbers of us do not know, then we will most likely elect people who do not know the causes of war.

War is an economic phenomenon. The last war and all before that were generated by economic problems which are long-range in nature. The economic causes of the next war have been operating for a very long time.

No matter how long our peace ribbon grows -- to reach the rest of the way around our Nebraska Capitol, around the National Capitol, the Pentagon, the Great Memorials near the reflecting pool -- if the protest is addressed to people who do not know the real economic causes of war -- you can finish this sentence yourself.

Is it hopeless? Not at all. But aside from dealing with the covering moral principles which are violated in the structure of our own laws, our touching emotional protests are in vain.