

the defense budget gets a much bigger slice of the pie, and others seem smaller by comparison.

Post, post script: I have long wished that some TV comedy series would introduce a character I'd call Pietro the Pie Man (or you could call him Pyotr, or Pat, or call her Patsy or Priscilla).

He or she is a statistics nut, and keeps reappearing with what looks like a stack of pizza pies (costume should be white cooks cap, apron, and all) — and the pies turn out to be pie charts on all sorts of subjects, grim and humorous. Anyone is welcome to the idea. Use it in a high school play.

The 1972 federal budget called for only about \$1 billion to be spent cleaning up water pollution. In October '72 Congress voted to spend \$24 billion over the next five years. Hooray. But to do the job completely, I've read, will take over \$100 billions (A lot? \$1 a week from each of us for ten years).

Of course, some people pay more taxes than others. Some millionaires don't pay a cent. But *if* every man, woman, and child paid the same taxes it would average out to over \$1,000 per capita every year . . . to Washington.

And about \$300 per capita is spent by the N.Y. state government at Albany. My own city's municipal bite is about \$130 a year, and another \$115 for school taxes.

It all adds up to about \$1,500 a year per capita. Percentagewise, it's still less than most European countries. USA spends about 27% of the GNP on government. England about 37%, Sweden about 40%. Of course our GNP per capita is about twice that of Europe. And ten or 20 times that of many people living in Africa, Asia or Latin America.

Here's a different way to figure it: Over the last 20 years our country has spent over \$5,000

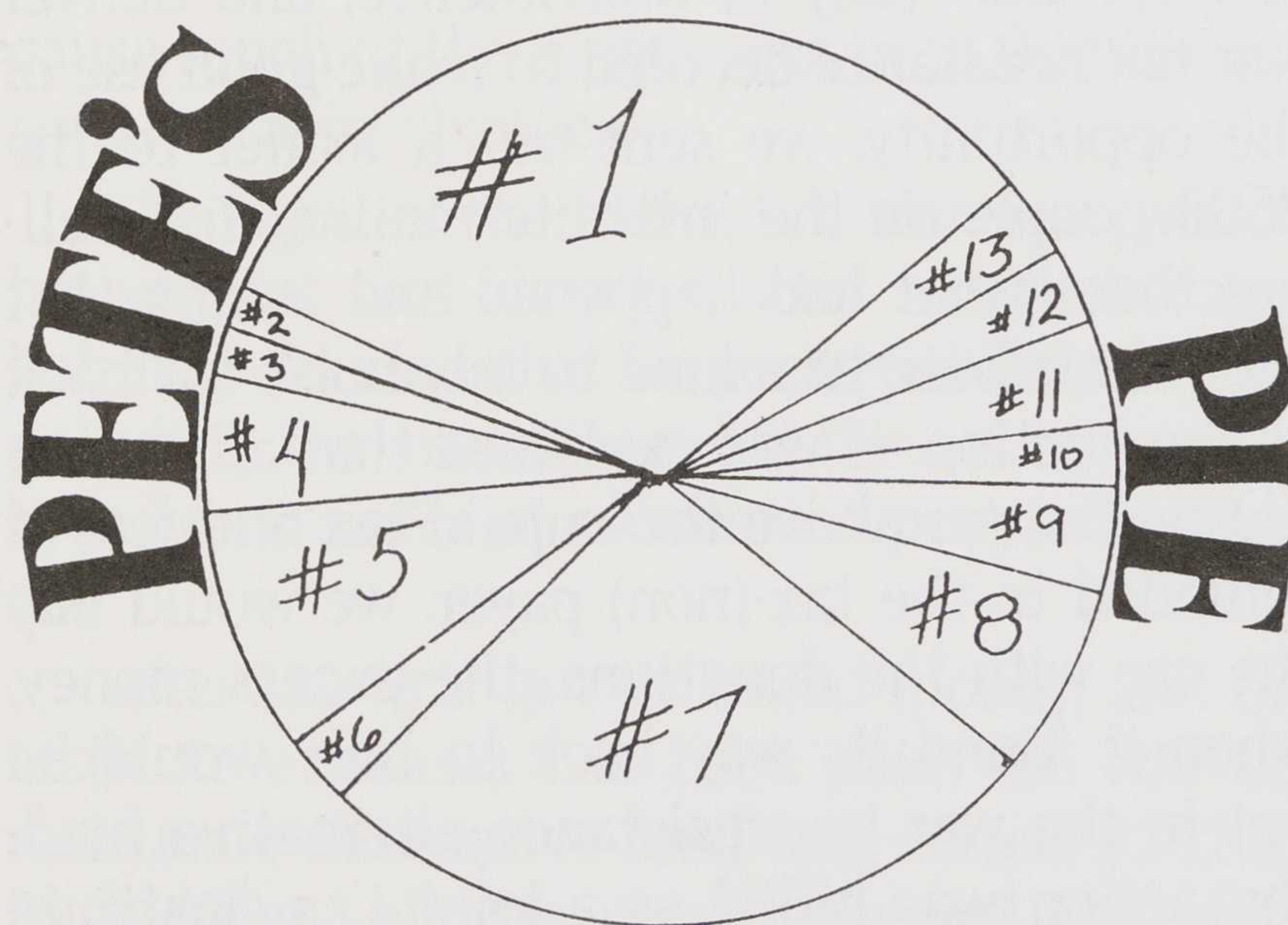
for each man, woman, and child, on "defense". That is what our Cold War costs us. Cheer up. At the rate we are going, we'll spend another \$5,000 per capita in the next 13 years.

Think what you would rather do with that \$10,000.

Think what your community could have done with this tax money. Multiply the population of your home town by \$10,000 and contemplate the figure.

Tokenism is a step in the right direction which does not go far enough and which misleads us into thinking that it is enough. Still, I and my wife take a token step each month, when we refuse to pay our 10% phone tax, which was enacted to pay for Vietnam expenses. The government comes months later and takes it. But it costs them more money to collect than they get from it. I urge you to try it.

—Pete Seeger



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