

Olympia Fellowship of RECONCILIATION'S TELEVISION PROGRAMS

FOR ALMOST 24 YEARS THE Olympia Fellowship of RECONCILIATION HAS PRODUCED ONE-HOUR TV PROGRAMS ON ISSUES RELATED TO PEACE, SOCIAL JUSTICE, ECONOMICS, THE ENVIRONMENT, AND NONVIOLENCE. THE Olympia FOR'S PROGRAM AIRS ON THURSTON COMMUNITY TELEVISION (TCTV), CHANNEL 22 FOR THURSTON COUNTY'S CABLE TV SUBSCRIBERS. EACH PROGRAM AIRS EVERY MONDAY AT 1:30 P.M. AND EVERY THURSDAY AT 9:00 P.M. FOR A FULL MONTH. THIS CREATES MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO WATCH EACH PROGRAM. OUR DECEMBER 2010 TV PROGRAM IS DESCRIBED BELOW

YOU MAY ALSO WATCH ABOUT 70 OF OUR RECENT PROGRAMS THROUGH OUR WEBSITE. SIMPLY VISIT [WWW.OLYMPIAFOR.ORG](http://www.olympiafor.org), CLICK THE LINK FOR TV PROGRAMS, AND CLICK ANY PROGRAM YOU WANT TO WATCH.

“CONVERTING TO A PEACE ECONOMY”

Throughout our nation's history, we had occasional wars and then de-mobilized afterward. But after World War II we launched the Cold War and maintained a **permanent war** status.

We also created a **“permanent war economy.”** Massive military spending year after year – decade after decade – since the 1940s – has distorted and disrupted the U.S. economy and hurt our society in many ways. This is the topic of this month's TV program.

Every year Congress makes decisions about how much money to spend for which purposes. For example, Congress could spend less on nuclear weapons and more on education. But far beyond such budgetary trade-offs, military spending causes **systemic** harm to our economy's functioning – and **systemic** harm to our society as a whole.

If we want to rescue our economy – and our society – from continuing decline, we must convert to a peace economy.

In 1976 and 1977 Glen Anderson conducted a lot of research on this and discovered that economists and other researches had proven that military spending causes problems. He also researched Washington State's economic dependence on the military – and how to convert to a peace economy.

Other people around the country and here in Washington State were thinking along the same lines. In about 1980 he helped to create the Washington State Conversion Project. He also helped draft state

legislation that would move us in positive directions and testified at a legislative hearing on our bills.

In the 1980s when Ronald Reagan launched a massive escalation of military spending, the pressure extinguished the political likelihood of converting to a peace economy, and the peace conversion movement withered.

Now our economy is crumbling, and we must look again at peace conversion as one remedy for our economy's systemic problems. Recently Glen re-read his 1977 report and found that the economic reasoning was still sound. The numbers are old, but the somber predictions of economic deterioration have come to pass. Now is the time to lift up the economic realities and the principles for another look and new action.

During this TV program Glen summarizes the economic problems caused by military spending and some potentials for converting to a peace economy. Visual images illustrate this powerful information.

Military spending has bankrupted our economy, so we must convert from a “war economy” to a “peace economy.” This “economic conversion” or “peace conversion” would produce positive ripple effects throughout our economy – and throughout our whole society.

And it is possible to do this. But we must inform ourselves and organize a grassroots movement.