**The Case for Peace Conversion:**

**Its Impact on Washington State and**

**Suggestions for Converting Successfully**

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**New cover page for the December 2010 reprinting:**

I researched this report in the old-fashioned way before computers – by reading books and other printed materials that I could locate in person. (When you turn the page you’ll see that I wrote it on a typewriter.) In late 1976 and early 1977 a variety of printed materials were available, and people across the country – including here in Washington State – were examining the economic fallout of military spending and exploring the possibilities for converting to a peace economy. In 1979 I worked with a few other peace organizers and sympathetic state legislators to write supportive legislation and testify at legislative committees. In about 1980 I helped to create the Washington State Conversion Project. The conversion movement grew in Washington, California, Britain, and elsewhere until the mid-1980s when President Reagan’s massive escalation in military spending overwhelmed any possibility of proceeding.

In July 2010 I re-read this report and found that the underlying economic principles are still valid, even though the specific yearly numbers had become outdated. Military spending still hurts our economy in many systemic ways. Our national experience in the past 33 ½ years has taken us farther down the trajectory toward economic and societal ruin.

The need is greater than ever now for a strong grassroots movement to convert to a peace economy. Computers and the internet make researching and writing easier now, so I urge other people to pick up where the researchers of the 1960s, 70s and 80s left off. (I can share original paper copies of research and reports written then, after I had completed this report.) The underlying principles are sound, but we need new economic data and new grassroots organizing.

I offer copies of this report and opportunities for study groups and grassroots organizing. This report also provides some context for the Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation’s new campaign to “Bring the Billion$ Home” – to cut military spending, especially for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and use the savings to meet urgent domestic needs for social and environmental priorities. When we talk with people in support of WWFOR’s new campaign, some people might resist cutting military spending because they believe that military spending creates jobs or is good for the economy. This report offers clear rebuttal to those widespread but mistaken notions. Finally, I invite people to watch the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation’s one-hour TV program **“Converting to a Peace Economy,”** based on this report, at **www.olympiafor.org**. Click on the TV programs link, then click on this December 2010 TV program.