**“Glen’s Parallax Perspectives”** is a series of TV programs that offer fresh ways for people to see issues such as foreign policy, social and economic justice, governmental functioning, and so forth. We provide voices and viewpoints that are rarely heard in mainstream media.

 Mainstream media, politicians, and culture see the world in conventional ways. The Establishment is stuck in how they see the world. In order to solve problems, we need to see things differently. Glen Anderson created this TV series to help people see things differently so we can solve problems at all levels from the local to the global.

 This series title refers to “Parallax Perspectives.” **Parallax** is the view you get by looking from different perspectives. For example, put one finger in front of your nose and another finger farther away. Close one eye. Then open that eye and close the other. Your fingers will seem to move. This is called a “parallax” view. This TV series invites you to look at issues from fresh perspectives.

 Each program airs three times a week (currently every Monday at 1:30 pm, every Wednesday at 5:00 pm, and every Thursday at 9:00 pm) for the entire month on Thurston Community Television (TCTV), channel 22 for Thurston County’s cable TV subscribers. You can see TCTV’s current schedule at [**www.tctv.net**](http://www.tctv.net). This is part of Thurston County Media,[**www.tcmedia.org**](http://www.tcmedia.org).

 You can also watch the program described below through [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org) All episodes of “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” are posted on the “TV Programs” part of that blog and also in one or more of the categories listed in the right side of the computer screen. Also, see much information about a variety of issues at my blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org).

 **Here is this month’s program:**

**March 2018**

**“Nuclear Weapons Updates: Dangers and Opportunities”**

🡪 Please invite other people to watch this program and/or read the thorough summary through video at [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)

🡪 This summary of the interview’s contents also includes some additional information we could have said but did not have time to say during the hour.

🡪 See sources of information near the end of this document.

by Glen Anderson, producer and host of the TV series “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives”

This month’s interview on “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” brings us up to date on the rapidly changing crisis of nuclear weapons. We are facing some seriously increased dangers. But also, the people working against nuclear weapons have made some great progress. During this hour we’ll bring you up to date on both the dangers and the opportunities.

**Three guests** help us explore this topic. **All four of us** are very active members of the new **Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons**:

**Bob Delastrada** has been working for peace and social justice in a variety of ways.

**Mark Fleming** is a Vietnam veteran who also has been working for peace, especially through Veterans for Peace.

**Tim Russell** currently teaches at the college level. He has a long and deep knowledge of nuclear weapons.

**The complete rebuild of the U.S.’s entire nuclear weapons arsenal**

For many decades the U.S. has maintained thousands of nuclear weapons that can be launched in any of three ways (referred to as the “nuclear triad”):

* Land-based nuclear missiles (intercontinental ballistic missiles – ICBMs)
* Nuclear missiles that can be launched from submarines (sea-launched ballistic missiles – SLBMs)
* Nuclear bombs that can be dropped from airplanes

Bob explained the background of why the U.S. government is planning to replace all of our nuclear weapons with new ones.

In 2010 the U.S. and Russia signed the [**New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START)**](https://www.armscontrol.org/treaties/new-strategic-arms-reduction-treaty). This would reduce to 1,550 the number of strategic nuclear warheads each nation could deploy. But President Obama found that Congress would not approve it unless he committed our nation to replacing all of the U.S.’s nuclear weapons with brand new ones. (The euphemistic term “modernize” misleads the public about this.) Bob explained that Trump inherited this deal from Obama.

Tim said that we have already reached the 1,500 level of deployed strategic nuclear weapons. He clarified that there are three kinds of status. Some are actually deployed and ready to launch at a moment’s notice. These are on hair-trigger alert. Some others are in reserve status, and there is another lower-priority status. All together, we have many more nuclear weapons than the number reported in any count. Different numbers get reported, depending on what kind of status is included in the count. We have perhaps 7,000 total.

**The huge cost of these new nuclear weapons**

Bob noted that the cost would be very high. The cost of the new weapons could exceed $1 TRILLION. (That’s a million times a million!) Bob said that the deal was pitched as $1 trillion, but this does not count inflation, various add-ons, delays, the cost of dealing with the nuclear waste, and other costs. He said a more accurate estimate would be $1.7 trillion or $2.2 trillion.

Glen said that cutting Social Security, food stamps, health care, education, etc., are at risk in order to pay for this. Bob said that even if nuclear weapons are never launched, they would do a lot of damage because the costs will have already taken away money we need for other purposes, so nuclear weapons are hurting our society in these ways.

Mark added the insight that nuclear weapons are not productive; they do not help our economy or society. The bomb just sits there. Our society would benefit if instead the $2 trillion were invested in infrastructure or other positive, useful purposes. Mark referred to what economists call “opportunity costs” – the alternative uses that are neglected because the money was spent for something else. Glen agreed. Investing in education would create better educated Americans. Investing in health care would improve Americans’ health. And so forth. Tim also agreed. These weapons are “capital-intensive,” not “labor-intensive.” They cost a lot of money but do not create nearly as many jobs as would be created if we were to spend that money for education, housing, etc. Tim mentioned reports that spending money for education creates twice as many jobs as spending that same amount on military weapons.

But in order to create the illusion that military weapons create a lot of jobs, the prime contractors sub-contract and sub-sub-contract and sub-sub-sub-contract them into as many congressional districts as possible, so they can coopt as many members of Congress as possible to support funding those weapons. Also, the weapons manufacturers fund the election campaigns of candidates for Congress and the Presidency.

In 1961 when President Eisenhower was leaving office, he warned us about the permanent military establishment and the Military-Industrial Complex. This has become the Military-Industrial-Congressional Complex.

Congress and mainstream media have failed to discuss this seriously, so the public is almost totally ignorant of this extremely serious threat to our survival. But the rest of the world has been paying attention and they are outraged. Later in the interview we mention that most other nations of the world want to ban nuclear weapons altogether.

**Nuclear Posture Review (NPR)**

On February 2, 2018, the Trump Administration released its Nuclear Posture Review (NPR), which lays out how the Trump Administration and its Pentagon (which wrote the document for Trump) understand the role of nuclear weapons. Previous Nuclear Posture Reviews were issued in 2010, 2002, and 1994.

Mark read much of this document. He said that Trump’s 2018 NPR does significantly change U.S. policy regarding nuclear weapons. A significant break from Obama’s NPR (which stated that the U.S. would not use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear countries that had signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is that Trump would use nuclear weapons against anybody, including non-nuclear nations and even non-state entities.

He said that now the U.S. says we might use nuclear weapons first even in situations that did not involve nuclear attacks against our nation, so we will be more likely to use them.

Also, the U.S. will build more kinds of nuclear weapons, including some that will be more likely to be used. These will be “smaller” (although still big) and more accurate. These might lead our adversaries to feel more at risk, so these might cause our adversaries to launch their nuclear weapons against the U.S. before the U.S. can attack them.

We discussed the game of “nuclear chicken” in which we threaten each other with nuclear weapons, and in which each nation hopes that the other nation will back down rather than commit mutual suicide.

When a single nuclear weapon has the explosive power of millions of tons of TNT, it could destroy a large city or a region. Several of them could destroy an entire nation. Some people think these are so huge and frightening that they are too big to use, so in order to pose a credible nuclear threat we need “smaller” nuclear weapons (Hiroshima-sized) that will be more likely to be used, and therefore more credible as deterrents.

Actually, this is not really new, Mark said. We have long had “tactical” nuclear weapons and threatened the Soviet Union, Russia, and other countries with those. They were very controversial in the 1980s. We’ve had ways to send them in to their targets. He said we had a “nuclear cannon” that could shoot a 15-kiloton warhead (with the explosive power of 15,000 pounds of TNT). This is considered a “small” or “low-yield” weapon.

This notion was big when Reagan was president in the 1980s, and this has come around again now. They want both the hardware and the rationale that would make nuclear weapons more “usable.”

This is part of trying to establish a credible deterrent against other nations to frighten them away from doing what they want to achieve their objectives. We threaten to use our nuclear weapons first. The U.S. creates an exception for our own nation but will not tolerate other nations thinking the same way as we do. The rest of the world sees this hypocrisy.

Trump’s Nuclear Posture Review identifies a number of adversaries against which to consider using nuclear weapons (Russia, China, North Korea, Iran, etc.) and some non-state entities (terrorist groups). The document says Russia is more aggressive now and China is exerting influence over the South China Sea region. The South China Sea is closer to China than it is to the U.S. We should understand that China would want to protect its own immediate neighborhood from intruders such as the U.S. The U.S. and other nations have legitimate interests in having these international waters remain navigable by all nations. To protect that legitimate interest we should be talking with all nations, not threatening any. The U.S. has been using nuclear weapons to threaten other nations since 1945.

The Nuclear Posture Review emphasizes threats of military (nuclear) violence, but fails to support diplomacy and negotiation and open channels of communication. Trump’s NPR is especially dangerous in failing to support diplomacy because his State Department has been hollowed out and has become less capable of functioning. We do not have enough diplomats and other experts who understand these geographical areas and could be looking for areas of mutual interest. Actually, the U.S. has a number of mutual interests with the nations whom we see as adversaries, so we need to be exploring those and solving problems, not simply seeing the conflicting interests and seeing war as the only solution. “If your only tool is a hammer, you’ll see every problem as if it were a nail.” In 1958 the sociologist C. Wright Mills referred to this kind of thinking as “crackpot realism.” Even our smaller nuclear weapons are “weapons of mass destruction.”

Even a modest exchange of 5 or 10 nuclear weapons could create “nuclear autumn,” not a full-fledged “nuclear winter,” but enough debris and dust and ash in the air to seriously shade out the sunlight that crops need (thereby reducing food production) and sharply reducing temperatures.

Don’t assume that a so-called “limited” nuclear war would remain “limited.” Once anything is launched, all bets are off, and it could easily escalate out of control with global destruction. When the first one or the first few are launched it would be hard for the targeted nation to estimate how big these were – and how many more might be coming – so they would not be able to figure out how big – and how many – should be the nuclear weapons they launch in retaliation. Do not expect retaliation to be limited.

**What new nuclear weapons would the U.S. build?**

The plan is to replace all of the land-based U.S. nuclear missiles (ICBMs) and their nuclear warheads. The plan is for about 400 missiles plus about 50 more to hold in reserve. Each missile would likely include several nuclear warheads, as they have now.

The U.S. also plans to build 1,000 new Long-Range Stand-Off (LRSO) missiles with nuclear warheads.

And the U.S. plans to build 80 to 100 new bombers that would drop the B61 model of nuclear bombs.

The U.S. plans to replace the entire Trident nuclear submarine fleet with 12 new “Columbia class” nuclear submarines with 20 new missile tubes on each submarine. Each missile would have multiple nuclear warheads.

A particularly risky plan is to put some smaller warheads on those submarines. But a nation that fears an imminent attack by one of these won’t know whether it’s “small” or large nuclear weapons ready to be launched at them, so – fearing the worst – they might retaliate with their big nuclear weapons against the U.S.

**Additional dangers in Trump’s Nuclear Posture Review (NPR)**

It is truly bizarre for Trump’s Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) to seek to deter nuclear war by making it easier to use nuclear weapons.

Many people are alarmed that the 2018 Nuclear Posture Review would allow nuclear weapons to be launched in more kinds of situations. Circumstances include a response to a non-nuclear attack that caused mass casualties, or was aimed at critical infrastructure. Nuclear weapons could even retaliate against a cyber-attack on U.S. computer infrastructure. But computer hacking and attacks can be disguised to come from somewhere else, so one nation – or one computerized terrorist group – could create a cyber-attack and route it through another nation, causing the U.S. to use nuclear weapons against the innocent nation that had been victimized by hackers.

The NPR keeps emphasizing new nuclear weapons and more aggressive policies, but it sidelines diplomacy and arms control treaties. Although the NPR says the U.S. supports the Non-Proliferation Treaty, its policies would hurt it. Also, the NPR says the U.S. will not submit the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) for ratification, but will comply without ratifying.

The document criticizes the United Nations’ 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (which we discussed a few minutes later, and which this summary discusses below), calling it “unrealistic” and “damaging to international security.” Donald Trump referred to abolishing nuclear weapons as “some magical moment in the future.”

As mentioned above, the NPR dangerously increases reliance on nuclear weapons while diminishing the diplomatic agreements that prevent conflict and keep us safe. Its emphasis on increasing the role of nuclear weapons in the US security policy and lowering its threshold for using nuclear weapons would actually undermine the United States’ legal obligation to pursue nuclear disarmament under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The NPT, which went into effect in 1970, was a grand bargain between the nations that did have nuclear weapons and the nations that did not have them. In exchange for the non-nuclear nations’ commitment to not get them, the nations that did have them committed themselves to promptly get rid of them. The nuclear nations have been violating the NPT for 47 years – nearly half a century.

Ignoring the NPT and rejecting the United Nations General Assembly’s 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW, which we discussed a few minutes later and this summary will report on below) shows that the U.S. is moving in the opposite direction of the rest of the world by rejecting diplomatic treaties to reduce nuclear weapons dangers. The international community (two-thirds of U.N. nations) have voted in support of the TPNW, declaring nuclear weapons illegal.

The end of the document you’re reading now includes many sources of information, including some regarding the Nuclear Posture Review.

**New nukes to be “more usable”**

A few minutes ago we had discussed how Trump’s Nuclear Posture Review would allow him to launch nuclear weapons in more kinds of situations – and that he was proposing more kinds of nuclear weapons that are intended to be “more usable.”

The notion of a "limited" nuclear war is an oxymoron because any use of nuclear weapons would have catastrophic global health and environmental consequences. If the U.S. thinks it can launch one nuclear weapon in response to some problem, we can’t be sure that the adversary won’t retaliate with several or several dozen of them.

Physicians for Social Responsibility ([**www.psr.org**](http://www.psr.org)**)** estimates that a regional nuclear war involving less than one percent of the global nuclear arsenal would be ecocidal and cause instant climate change. A nuclear war fought with low-yield nuclear weapons also risks escalating into a large-scale global conflict where higher-yield nuclear weapons are used.

The notion of building “small,” “more usable” nuclear weapons is abhorrent. Just because a nuclear is a lower yield weapon is does not mean it is less dangerous than more powerful nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons flatten cities, inflict mass casualties, and cause long-term devastation to environmental health.

Hiroshima demonstrates that using a “small” nuclear weapon would have devastating humanitarian consequences. A meaningful medical response would be impossible. It would destroy hospitals and clinics, kill many of the city’s health professionals, wipe out medical supplies, and paralyze communication and transportation systems. At Hiroshima, 90 percent of physicians and nurses were killed or injured and 42 of the 45 hospitals were destroyed.

Also, the radiation our nuclear weapon would cause in an adversary nation would not stay neatly within those national borders. It would contaminate innocent nations – and kill many innocent people – in nearby innocent nations. Also, the radiation we’d put into the atmosphere would blow around the world and irradiate us here in the U.S. It is cruel and grossly immoral to kill and injure many, many innocent civilians. They are not responsible for what their reckless political and military leaders do. We did not sign up to become targets from reckless leaders.

“A key element of the nuclear weapons modernization is increased accuracy which is likely to increase adversaries’ likelihood of placing their nuclear weapons on “hair trigger” alert.

Trump’s Nuclear Posture Review legitimizes US participation in a new nuclear arms race. The NPR is a reckless departure from an already dangerous status quo.

**North Korea**

Since mid-2016 North Korea has been in the news a lot. American politicians and news media have been expressing fear about North Korea’s recent work on nuclear weapons.

Trump especially has been reacting in ways that further threaten North Korea and seriously increase the danger of nuclear war.

In order to resolve any conflict with someone, we must understand how the other person sees it.

While Americans think empathy between individuals is good to practice, we do not practice empathy when our government is in conflict with other governments.

The Korean people know that during the Korean War the U.S. bombed every possible target in the north. A U.S. military leader said there were absolutely no targets left that the U.S. had not already destroyed.

The Korean War never ended. No peace treaty was ever signed to formally end the war. Merely a ceasefire has been in effect for about 65 years. During all of that time the U.S. has been militarily threatening North Korea – including threatening them with nuclear weapons – continuously for 65 years. We must understand why North Korea feels threatened – and feels the need to defend itself from the U.S.

Since the early 1950s the U.S. has attacked and/or overthrown many dozens of other nations’ governments, but none of those had nuclear weapons. North Korea knows this, so they feel that they can defend themselves only by creating their own nuclear weapons for self-defense.

The American and South Korean militaries keep conducting military exercises near North Korea that we refer to as “war games.” These are highly threatening!

Trump keeps venting ignorance and anger against North Korea. He rejects diplomacy and threatens to utterly destroy the nation and kill many millions of its innocent citizens. Trump is practicing nuclear terrorism.

Trump’s threats only give North Korea more reason to feel in severe danger. Trump’s threats only motivate North Korea to build nuclear weapons.

The crisis is even worse because the leaders of both the U.S. and North Korea are psychiatrically distorted.

Bullies pick on people who are weaker than themselves. Trump picks on women, minorities, Muslims, and immigrants. He is picking on North Korea, one of the poorest nations on earth. He thinks attacking North Korea would feed his ego. Thoughtful people know that attacking them might kill all of us in nuclear holocaust.

The remedy is not to continue threatening. The remedy is for ALL nations to abolish nuclear weapons. A few minutes later in the interview we discussed what the international community is doing to abolish nuclear weapons.

The Korean people are all in the same ethnic group with the same long history. The line that separated their nation into North and South was totally artificial and imposed upon them. People in each half have relatives in the other half. The vast majority of Koreans want to reunite their nation. Now during the Winter Olympics in South Korea, people from the North and South are meeting together and practicing peace, but the Trump administration does not like that. We should get out of their way and let them create peace instead of endless war.

**Iran**

Another country where Trump is irrationally trying to provoke a totally unnecessary war is Iran.

A few years ago several nations used diplomacy with Iran to work out a deal that stopped Iran’s preliminary efforts to build nuclear weapons. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is a multi-lateral agreement worked out by seven nations: Iran and the U.S. (while Obama was President) and also by three of the U.S.’s most significant allies (France, Germany and the United Kingdom) and also Russia and China.

Although Trump says we need his bellicose Nuclear Posture Review in order to protect the U.S.’s allies, three of the U.S.’s most significant allies helped create the JCPOA. The JCPOA is the kind of thing we should be doing instead of threatening more wars.

The JCPOA has been working very well. The only people who oppose the Iran nuclear deal are Trump and the hawks who have always wanted war against Iran. Trump’s hostility toward the JCPOA only emboldens the hard-liners within Iran and provokes more conflict, as with North Korea.

Trump cannot reject it unilaterally without antagonizing these powerful nations and the rest of world opinion. Trump cannot boss the rest of the world around.

Every international problem needs diplomacy – not threats and war. The U.S. and other nations worked out the JCPOA through diplomacy during the Obama administration.

This was much better than when George W. Bush started a war against Iraq in 2003 – a war we are still fighting – after Bush rejected diplomacy and falsely claimed that Iraq was building “weapons of mass destruction.” When Bush chose war instead of diplomacy, he provoked terrorism throughout the region and caused many other problems.

**Comparisons between Iran and the U.S.**

Iran has never had any nuclear weapons, but the U.S. has 7,200.

Iran is not violating the Non-Proliferation Treaty, but the U.S. violates the NPT by not eliminating our nuclear weapons, and by building new ones.

Iran spends $303 per capita on its military, but the U.S. spends $2,057 per capita on its military – nearly 7 times as much per person as Iran.

Iran has 0 foreign bases – and has started 0 wars in centuries, but the U.S. has more than 800 foreign bases in more than 70 countries.

Iran has not militarily invaded another country for 200 years, but the U.S. has invaded more than 70 nations in the past 70 years and has overthrown many nations, including some democracies.

Iran has never overthrown the U.S. government, but the U.S. overthrew Iran’s democracy in 1953 to install the Shah, an extremely brutal dictator who oppressed Iran for decades.

Every international problem needs diplomacy – not threats and war.

**The Doomsday Clock now at 2 minutes to midnight**

Tim told us about the Doomsday Clock, the famous indicator of our nuclear danger, announced by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists ([**www.thebulletin.org**](http://www.thebulletin.org)). Some of the atomic scientists who had developed the U.S.’s atomic bombs created this organization to work for peace after these bombs had been dropped on Japan. One of their activities is to carefully track the increasing or decreasing risks of nuclear war and express the changes by moving the hands of their iconic “Doomsday Clock.”

One year ago – on January 26, 2017 – Trump’s recklessness about nuclear weapons – and his denial of the climate crisis – caused the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists to move their “Doomsday Clock” 30 minutes closer to midnight, the symbolic end of the world. They moved it from 3 minutes to only 2 ½ minutes to midnight.

Now – just one year later on January 25, 2018 – these atomic scientists moved the Doomsday Clock’s hands even 30 seconds later, to only 2 minutes to midnight. They posted their announcement at [**www.tinyurl.com/yb73gcqc**](http://www.tinyurl.com/yb73gcqc)

This is the closest to global destruction we’ve been since 1953, soon after the U.S. and USSR had conducted hydrogen bomb tests. The scientists’ 2017 statements said, “For the first time in the 70-year history of the clock, “the board has decided to act, in part, based on the words of a single person: Donald Trump.” They cited reckless things Trump has been saying since he started campaigning – and also the actions he took during the first few days of his administration. See the article at [**www.tinyurl.com/h3bajrx**](http://www.tinyurl.com/h3bajrx)

There had been great potential for peace when the Cold War ended, so in 1990 and 1991 they moved the hands much farther away from midnight. However, since then the nuclear nations have been failing to make the progress that was possible, so the hands have been moving closer in the scary direction, especially in the past few years. The atomic scientists’ most recent statement expressed alarm and also mentioned dangers of “accidents and misperceptions.”

**Additional considerations, such as deterrence, militarism and diplomacy**

During this hour we had talked some about nuclear deterrence. In a previous speaking engagement one of our guests had made the analogy of two men in a room full of gasoline and gasoline fumes. One man has 4 matches and the other has 2 matches. Is the man with 4 matches safer than the man with 2 matches?

This is indeed the “crackpot realism” that C. Wright Mills had referred to in 1958, as we said earlier in this interview.

These nuclear weapons really are “weapons of mass destruction.” The U.S. government made war on Iraq supposedly to get rid of theirs (even though Iraq did not have them and was not making them), but the U.S. keeps threatening to destroy the world with ours.

The rest of the world is fed up with us! A few minutes later we discussed some great progress through the United Nations General Assembly.

**Thus far the interview has focused on the problems.**

**The rest of the hour explored some exciting solutions.**

**Religious positions opposing nuclear weapons**

People of faith who appreciate the beautiful world God created – and the human beings, animals, plants and ecosystems that God wants to live and thrive here on earth – feel a strong personal responsibility to work hard to prevent nuclear weapons from destroying everything God has created.

A great many religious bodies and religious leaders strongly oppose nuclear weapons, both in the U.S. and elsewhere. A number of Religious Peace Fellowships are affiliated with the national Fellowship of Reconciliation ([**www.forusa.org**](http://www.forusa.org)**)**, so they provide opportunities for people from a wide variety of faith communities to work for peace within and across them. See the list of Religious Peace Fellowships at [**https://www.forusa.org/who-we-are/chapters-and-affiliates.php**](https://www.forusa.org/who-we-are/chapters-and-affiliates.php)

A wide variety of religious and spiritual bodies – including Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhists, Humanists, and others – have issued statements against nuclear weapons. If you belong to some faith community, look at your national or international body for its position on nuclear weapons. Statements from many different faiths are posted at this link: [**http://wagingpeacetoday.blogspot.com/p/nuclear-quotes.htm**l](http://wagingpeacetoday.blogspot.com/p/nuclear-quotes.html)

On November 10, 2017, Pope Francis spoke to a high-profile conference about nuclear weapons. He boldly and explicitly denounced nuclear weapons. See [**www.tinyurl.com/y75hgft**e](http://www.tinyurl.com/y75hgfte)

Previously he had urged the U.N. to abolish all nuclear weapons. See [**www.tinyurl.com/mzca3a4**](http://www.tinyurl.com/mzca3a4) and [**www.tinyurl.com/ya6e4v7n**](http://www.tinyurl.com/ya6e4v7n)

On July 6, 2017, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issued this statement with specific information about nuclear weapons: [**www.tinyurl.com/ycdzbhf9**](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycdzbhf9)

Archbishop Desmond Tutu called for a **DIS**armament race: Read his statement at [**www.thenation.com/article/its-time-for-a-disarmament-race**/](http://www.thenation.com/article/its-time-for-a-disarmament-race/)

**Urge Congress to pass S. 200 and H.R. 669 to prevent Trump (or any president) from starting war and to restore constitutional checks and balances.**

Trump seems to be actually insane. Also, he has no impulse control. He is grossly ignorant about nuclear weapons. But his finger is on the nuclear button and he has unilateral authority to start a nuclear war! Millions of people are outraged and terrified by this danger.

Now we must urge Congress to correct the situation by passing S. 200 and H.R. 669, the “Restricting the First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act.”

The U.S. Constitution is full of checks and balances, including the restriction on the President that only Congress can declare war. However, the Constitution’s writers did not anticipate nuclear weapons, so since 1945 the President has had sole authority to begin a nuclear war – the biggest, most horrible war of all – despite the Constitution’s explicit wording that only Congress can declare war.

This nuclear loophole has existed for 72 years, but people are worried especially now that a crazy person has the power to launch nuclear weapons if he gets mad and feels like lashing out. The problem preceded Trump and it will outlast him unless we convince Congress to pass S. 200 and H.R. 669. We urgently must restore the Constitution’s checks and balances and prevent any president from starting a nuclear war without Congress’s approval!

S. 200 and H.R. 669 would not prevent retaliating if attacked; the legislation only requires that a president cannot start a nuclear war unless Congress actually declares war.

Peace folks statewide and here in Olympia have been urging U.S. Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell and our state’s ten U.S. House members to co-sponsor this absolutely necessary legislation, but both of our U.S. Senators have refused to do so. U.S. Representative Pramila Jayapal from Seattle co-sponsored it promptly, and recently our Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons recently did convince Rep. Denny Heck to co-sponsor it. However, Murray and Cantwell are still failing to protect us.

**Wherever you live**, please urge **YOUR** U.S. Senators to pass S. 200, which is called the Restricting the First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act. Also, **wherever you live**, urge **YOUR** U.S. House members to pass the House version, which is H.R. 669.

Tim reminded us that if an attack seems imminent, the nuclear weapons systems allow only a very short response time to launch nuclear weapons before they’re destroyed in their silos. He called that “a recipe for disaster.”

Mark added that Russia’s systems are less sophisticated than the U.S.’s so they can’t see far enough out to recognize incoming missiles, so this means their window of time for making a decision to launch is even shorter than the U.S.’s window of time.

**The United Nations General Assembly has taken some bold actions**

Tim started the discussion about the exciting progress that the United Nations General Assembly recently accomplished.

In 2017 the United Nations General Assembly took strong action toward outlawing nuclear weapons. On July 7, 2017, the General Assembly adopted the “Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.” If enough nations sign on, the treaty will prohibit the possession, development, testing, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons. Of the UN’s 193 member states, 122 of them – almost two-thirds of the world’s nations – supported this treaty, but none of the 9 nations with nuclear weapons did. On September 20, 2017, when this Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons opened for signatures at the United Nations, 50 nations immediately signed it. More nations have continued signing onto it.

Tim said this effort was organized largely by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). They based their effort on the successful campaign that banned land mines in 1997. (See more information in the next section.)

Although since 1970 the Non-Proliferation Treaty has been requiring the nuclear nations to push hard to eliminate all nuclear weapons, the occasional NPT follow-up conferences have not been making progress. Therefore, the non-nuclear nations are insisting that they have their say. They organized this effort and got huge support from other non-nuclear nations.

It’s important that this was accomplished through the United Nations **General Assembly**, where each nation gets one vote, **not** through the Security Council, where the U.S. and other powerful nations have veto power. So this is a great example of global democracy!

Also, let’s recognize that banning nuclear weapons really is possible! The world has banned other kinds of weapons. It is reasonable – and necessary – to also ban nuclear weapons.

* In 1972 the world banned biological weapons through the Biological Weapons Convention.
* In 1993 the world banned chemical weapons through the Chemical Weapons Convention.
* In 1997 the world banned land mines through the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Treaty.

The U.N.’s General Assembly made additional progress on November 1, 2017, when the General Assembly scheduled its first-ever high-level conference on nuclear disarmament for May 14-16, 2018. Now is the time for grassroots people throughout the entire world to push our respective governments to act responsibly and abolish nuclear weapons!

**ICAN won Nobel Peace Prize for its global efforts to ban nuclear weapons**

The international organization that was most responsible for getting the U.N. General Assembly to pass its ban on nuclear weapons is the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).

The 2017 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to ICAN. ICAN is comprised of hundreds of partner organizations in 100 countries, including the nationwide Physicians for Social Responsibility ([**www.psr.org**](http://www.psr.org)) and the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action ([**www.gzcenter.org**](http://www.gzcenter.org)) in Kitsap County WA. ICAN’s years of hard work are paying off. Their victory in moving the United Nations and the world community toward peace shows how powerful non-government organizations and civil society can be. Democracy Now! reported on this great news. See this link: [**www.tinyurl.com/y79zxo49**](http://www.tinyurl.com/y79zxo49)

The resources listed at the end of this document offer more information about the United Nations action and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).

Tim mentioned that a great number of the Nobel Peace Prize winners have won because of their work for nuclear disarmament. Bob mentioned that Obama was one (especially for his speech in Prague in 2009), but he did not follow through enough with his stated commitment to abolish nuclear weapons.

**Statewide organizing through WPSR’s “Washington Against Nuclear Weapons”**

Here in Washington State, we are organizing vigorously and effectively. Early in 2017 a statewide non-profit organization of medical professionals and other concerned persons – Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility (WPSR) – created a statewide coalition of a rapidly growing number and diversity of persons and organizations to work against the new nuclear arms race that the U.S. government has been provoking.

WPSR is Washington State’s part of a nationwide organization of doctors working to abolish nuclear weapons. Visit the websites of both the national PSR and Washington PSR – [**www.psr.org**](http://www.psr.org)and [**www.wpsr.org**](http://www.wpsr.org) – and at each website click the “Nuclear Weapons” links. Their international level – International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War ([**www.ippnw.org**](http://www.ippnw.org)) – won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985.

We invite you to reach our statewide coalition – **Washington Against Nuclear Weapons** – through [**www.wpsr.org**](http://www.wpsr.org) and our organizer Lilly Adams at (206) 547-2630 **lilly.wpsr@gmail.com**

I have participated in all of their monthly meetings. In mid-2017 I organized our local group, the Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, which Tim Russell told the viewers about next.

**Local organizing through our “Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons”**

Tim has been chairing our local group, the **Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons**, since July 2017. He summarized our wide-ranging accomplishments in our brief existence thus far. We have met regularly with knowledgeable and committed volunteers. We have:

1. Exerted influence at various levels of government. Bob Delastrada organized (a) and (b) below, and Tim Russell has been organizing (c) below:

(a) Met with staff of U.S. Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell and produced modest results

(b) Met with Congressperson Denny Heck and convinced him to co-sponsor H.R. 669 (No First Use without a congressional declaration of war)

(c) Started working with Olympia City Council members in pursuit of a resolution as part of Global Zero’s nationwide campaign to persuade local governments to oppose nuclear weapons

2. Organized a number of speaking engagements, panel discussions, film showings, etc. (These were organized by several of us)

3. Collected signatures on petitions (especially by David Billings and Chris Carson)

4. Written several letters to newspaper editors

5. Created a large banner (“ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS”) and held it on overpasses over I-5 in Olympia a number of times during this winter. (Mark Fleming took the lead in creating the banner, and all four of us plus other volunteers have held it publicly this winter. We’ll continue doing this.)



Bob pointed out that when the Cold War ended, many people assumed that nuclear weapons were no longer a problem, but actually the problems have persisted and gotten worse recently, so we need to organize vigorously now.

We warmly invite you – and organizations to which you belong – to join the Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. We meet monthly and continually organize more activities. Contact us at (360) 705-2407 or (360) 491-9093 or **nuclearweapons@olympiafor.org**

**See many sources of information here:**

A lot of information is available from a great many sources. We did not have time to list them during the TV interview, but I’m listing a good selection of information sources on the next three pages (pages 12-14), grouped by category.

**Watch Informative TV Interviews about Nuclear Weapons through Two Websites:**

You can learn a lot about nuclear weapons by watching locally produced TV interviews. Glen Anderson produced and hosted several programs about nuclear weapons for the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation’s TV series from February 1987 through December 2017. His new series, “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives,” debuted in January 2018, and it also sometimes focuses on nuclear weapons.

**You can watch several of these programs through either website:**

* Visit [**www.olympiafor.org**](http://www.olympiafor.org), click the “TV Programs” link, scroll down through the chronological list, and click the title of any program you want to watch. Also, you may click any Word or .pdf documents to read a summary of that program.
* Visit [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org) (Glen’s new blog), click the “Nuclear Weapons” link, and click the TV program you want to watch and/or read any Word or .pdf summary posted there.

**March 2018 “Nuclear Weapons Updates: Dangers and Opportunities”**

**June 2017 “Confronting the New Nuclear Arms Race”**

**July 2015 “The U.S. Is Risking Nuclear War with Russia over Ukraine”**

**March 2014 “Preventing Humanity’s Suicide”**

**March 2013 “Nuclear Weapons Threaten Life and Waste Money”**

**April 2009 “Nuclear Weapons”**

**April 2007 “Nuclear Weapons & Nonviolent Resistance at Ground Zero”**

Also, each website -- [**www.olympiafor.org**](http://www.olympiafor.org) and [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)– has a “Nuclear Weapons” section with much information.

**Nuclear Weapons:**

* **Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists**: [**www.thebulletin.org**](http://www.thebulletin.org) This was founded in 1945 by University of Chicago scientists who had worked on the Manhattan Project and were deeply concerned about the use of nuclear weapons and nuclear war. In 1947 the Bulletin introduced its Doomsday Clock to convey the perils posed by nuclear weapons. The “Doomsday Clock” evoked both the imagery of apocalypse (midnight) and the contemporary idiom of nuclear explosion (countdown to zero).
* **Disarm Now Plowshares**: [**http://disarmnowplowshares.wordpress.com**](http://disarmnowplowshares.wordpress.com)These persons have been taking courageous, nonviolent actions against nuclear weapons facilities.
* **Doomsday Clock articles:**  [**www.tinyurl.com/h3bajrx**](http://www.tinyurl.com/h3bajrx) and [**https://thebulletin.org/sites/default/files/2018%20Doomsday%20Clock%20Statement.pdf**](https://thebulletin.org/sites/default/files/2018%20Doomsday%20Clock%20Statement.pdf)
* **Friends Committee on National Legislation** is a highly credible, respected and effective nationwide Quaker-based lobby that lobbies Congress and educates the public. [**www.fcnl.org**](http://www.fcnl.org)(202) 547-6000 Toll-free: (800) 630-1330
* **Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space:** [**www.space4peace.org**](http://www.space4peace.org)
* **Global Zero:** [**www.globalzero.org**](http://www.globalzero.org)
* **Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action**: Since 1977 this non-profit organization’s members, supporters, land and house immediately next door to the Trident nuclear submarine base at Bangor in Kitsap County WA have been educating the public and taking courageous nonviolent actions to resist nuclear weapons. [**www.gzcenter.org**](http://www.gzcenter.org) (360) 930-8697
* **International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War** is PSR’s international network.
[**www.ippnw.org**](http://www.ippnw.org)
* **National Priorities Project** has been educating the public about the trade-offs in the federal budget about what we could accomplish if we did not waste money on military spending.[**www.NationalPriorities.org**](http://www.NationalPriorities.org)
* **Nuclear Age Peace Foundation:** [**www.napf.org**](http://www.napf.org)
* **Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA)** works nonviolently to stop nuclear weapons work at the Y-12 nuclear weapons plant at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. [**www.orepa.org**](http://www.orepa.org)
* **Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation** works in several ways. I summarized much information and posted relevant links at the “Nuclear Weapons” part of [**www.olympiafor.org**](http://www.olympiafor.org). Also, please contact Olympia FOR’s new committee working to abolish nuclear weapons at **nuclearweapons@olympiafor.org** or (360) 491-9093 or (360) 705-2407.
* **Peace Action** is the organization resulting from the merger decades ago of the decades-old anti-nuclear organization SANE and the 1980s Freeze Campaign. [**www.peace-action.org**](http://www.peace-action.org)
* **Peace Alliance:** [**www.peacealliance.org**](http://www.peacealliance.org)
* **Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR)** at the national level:
1111 14th St, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC, 20005 (202) 667-4260 [**www.psr.org**](http://www.psr.org)
* **Puget Sound Nuclear Weapon Free Zone**: [**www.psnukefree.org**](http://www.psnukefree.org)
* **Washington Coalition to Stop the New Nuclear Arms Race** is the name of WPSR’s statewide coalition. Contact this through [**www.wpsr.org**](http://www.wpsr.org) (206) 547-2630 **lilly@wpsr.org**
* **Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility (WPSR)** at the Washington State level has done amazingly good work in opposing nuclear weapons, opposing the contamination at Hanford in Eastern Washington, and working on other important issues. 4500 9th Ave NE Suite 300, Seattle WA 98105 (206) 547-2630
[**www.wpsr.org**](http://www.wpsr.org)Especially see this website’s “RESOURCES” section.
* **Western States Legal Foundation**, 510-839-5877 [**www.wslfweb.org**](http://www.wslfweb.org)
* Also see the “Nuclear Weapons” parts of [**www.olympiafor.org**](http://www.olympiafor.org) and [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)

**Foreign Policy Context, etc.:**

* **American Friends Service Committee:** [**www.afsc.org**](http://www.afsc.org)
* **CodePink:** [**www.codepink.org**](http://www.codepink.org)
* **Foreign Policy in Focus:** [**www.fpif.org**](http://www.fpif.org)
* **Institute for Policy Studies:** [**www.ips-dc.org**](http://www.ips-dc.org)
* **Just Foreign Policy:** [**www.justforeignpolicy.org**](http://www.justforeignpolicy.org)
* **National Priorities Project:** [**www.nationalpriorities.org**](http://www.nationalpriorities.org)
* **United for Peace and Justice:** [**www.unitedforpeace.org**](http://www.unitedforpeace.org)
* **World Beyond War:** [**www.worldbeyondwar.org**](http://www.worldbeyondwar.org)

**Nuclear Posture Review:**

Search the internet for the document itself and many articles and commentaries about it. Items from peace organizations and peace publications will show fresh information and insights.

**North Korea:**

* This article debunks 5 myths about war with North Korea that make Americans think they are safe, so we absolutely must act now to prevent World War III: [**www.tinyurl.com/y9tafjn6**](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9tafjn6)
* This article points out that North Korea sees clearly how the U.S. overthrows governments it does not like (“regime change” against nations that do not have nuclear weapons), so North Korea’s nuclear weapons are very understandable: [**www.tinyurl.com/yasuqg3m**](http://www.tinyurl.com/yasuqg3m)
* The following article says, “Trump sees power as military strength — and nukes as the apex of that power.” Read it at [**www.tinyurl.com/yacm3b49**](http://www.tinyurl.com/yacm3b49)
* Expert Lawrence Wilkerson says Trump is clueless on North Korea, and the only way to defuse the nuclear standoff is through direct negotiations: Wilkerson has extensive experience in the government and military. Read his interview at this link: [**www.tinyurl.com/yawe7ht2**](http://www.tinyurl.com/yawe7ht2)
* See the “Korea” part of [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)

**Iran:**

* Some of the information sources listed in the Foreign Policy Context, etc. section above pertain to this.
* Iran’s foreign minister calls for nations that do have nuclear weapons to join Iran in abandoning nuclear weapons. See [**www.tinyurl.com/otzphwg**](http://www.tinyurl.com/otzphwg)
* See the “Iran” part of [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)

**Religious:**

* Religious peace fellowships from many faiths are listed at the national Fellowship of Reconciliation’s website, [**www.forusa.org**](http://www.forusa.org)See the list of Religious Peace Fellowships at [**https://www.forusa.org/who-we-are/chapters-and-affiliates.php**](https://www.forusa.org/who-we-are/chapters-and-affiliates.php)
* A great many religious bodies and religious leaders strongly oppose nuclear weapons, both in the U.S. and elsewhere. Statements from many different faiths are posted at this link: [**http://wagingpeacetoday.blogspot.com/p/nuclear-quotes.html**](http://wagingpeacetoday.blogspot.com/p/nuclear-quotes.html)
* On November 10, 2017, Pope Francis spoke to a high-profile conference about nuclear weapons. He was bold and explicit as usual in denouncing nuclear weapons. See [**www.tinyurl.com/y75hgfte**](http://www.tinyurl.com/y75hgfte) Previously he had urged the United Nations to abolish all nuclear weapons. See [**www.tinyurl.com/mzca3a4**](http://www.tinyurl.com/mzca3a4) and [**www.tinyurl.com/ya6e4v7n**](http://www.tinyurl.com/ya6e4v7n)
* On July 6, 2017, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issued this statement with specific information about nuclear weapons: [**www.tinyurl.com/ycdzbhf9**](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycdzbhf9)
* Archbishop Desmond Tutu called for a **DIS**armament race: Read his statement at [**www.thenation.com/article/its-time-for-a-disarmament-race/**](http://www.thenation.com/article/its-time-for-a-disarmament-race/)The U.S.
* Pax Christi: [**www.paxchristi.net**](http://www.paxchristi.net)

**The United Nations ban and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN):**

* International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) – [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org) – is a coalition of more than 400 organizations based in approximately 80 nations joining together to work for this treaty.
* Democracy Now! reported on ICAN’s great victory and emphasized how powerful non-governmental organizations and civil society can be. See this link: [**www.tinyurl.com/y79zxo49**](http://www.tinyurl.com/y79zxo49)
* The United Nations published information at [**www.un.org/disarmament/ptnw**](http://www.un.org/disarmament/ptnw) and info at [**www.tinyurl.com/mzhucvt**](http://www.tinyurl.com/mzhucvt)
* Joseph Gerson from American Friends Service Committee ([**www.afsc.org**](http://www.afsc.org)) wrote an article at [**www.tinyurl.com/m2kwpph**](http://www.tinyurl.com/m2kwpph)
* [**www.BaselPeaceOffice.org**](http://www.BaselPeaceOffice.org)
* [**http://thebulletin.org/blog**](http://thebulletin.org/blog)

**Closing encouragement**

Glen thanked our three well informed guests, **Bob Delastrada, Mark Fleming and Tim Russell**.

The world has many serious problems. They may seem daunting.

But – as serious as they are – many people are working hard to solve those problems.

We need more people to work with us to prevent nuclear war from destroying all life on earth.

More people need to nonviolently pressure our government and other governments to abolish nuclear weapons.

The task is difficult, but it is possible if we work hard – and if we work smart.

You can get information about a wide variety of issues related to peace, social justice and nonviolence through my blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)or by phoning me at (360) 491-9093

We're all one human family, and we all share one planet.

We can create a better world, but we all have to work at it.

The world needs your help!