**“Glen’s Parallax Perspectives”** is a series of TV programs offering fresh ways for people to see issues such as foreign policy, social and economic justice, governmental functioning, the environment, 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. Therefore, in order to solve problems, we need to see things in fresh ways.** 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***,” which is the view you get by looking from a different perspective. 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 cable TV subscribers in Thurston County, Washington. TCTV is part of Thurston County Media. You can see their schedule at [**www.tcmedia.org**](http://www.tcmedia.org)

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

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**🡪 Please invite other people to watch this video and/or read this thorough summary at these parts of my blog,** [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)**: “TV Programs” and “Nuclear Weapons.”**

**“The New Nuclear Arms Race Is Happening in Oak Ridge, Tennessee”**

Glen’s Parallax Perspectives TV Series

March 2022

**Glen introduced our topic and our guest, Ralph Hutchison:**

The March 2022 interview on “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” provides a lot of information about nuclear weapons that most Americans don’t know. Even people who know a lot about nuclear weapons will learn new information from watching this interview.

This interview also provides fresh information about a savvy organization in Tennessee that is working hard to stop the newly escalating nuclear arms race.

Glen welcomed our expert guest, Ralph Hutchison, the Coordinator of the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA, [**www.orepa.org**](http://www.orepa.org)).

**New START Treaty -- “Modernization” -- Provoking new global arms race:**

Glen said that in order to provide context for this interview’s first topic, he would summarize some recent history, and then Ralph could add his thoughts.

Glen said a decade ago President Obama and Russian President Putin negotiated a very good treaty to reduce nuclear weapons. This was called the New START Treaty. It placed verifiable limits on all deployed intercontinental-range nuclear weapons.

The U.S. Constitution specifies that treaties go into effect only if the Senate ratifies them, so President Obama asked the Senate to ratify the treaty. At that time the U.S. Senate was dominated by Republicans. Senate Republicans routinely obstructed Obama, so in order gain their support for ratifying the New START Treaty, President Obama caved in to the Senate’s Republicans and agreed to a massive plan to – quote/unquote – “modernize” ALL of the U.S.’s nuclear weapons. With this commitment to support a massive spending increase for ALL new nuclear weapons, the Senate ratified the treaty. It went into effect in February 2011.

Obama agreed to support the “modernization” of the U.S.’s nuclear weapons, but the term “modernization” is a very deceptive euphemism that seriously distorts what would actually occur. In order to get Senate Republicans to ratify the New START treaty, he agreed to REPLACE ALL of the U.S.’s nuclear weapons with NEW nuclear weapons. This included not only ALL NEW nuclear warheads, but ALSO ALL NEW missiles, ALL NEW bomber airplanes, and ALL NEW submarines.

Worse yet, some of the NEW nuclear weapons systems would be designed to be horribly more dangerous – designed to be radically more provocative – to actually make it much easier to start a nuclear war.

The cost was projected to be $1.2 TRILLION, but everybody knew it would reach close to $2 TRILLION because the costs of military projects are almost always underestimated in order to get Congress’s approval, and then – once production is underway – the cost overruns increase. Unlike the recent crisis in which the Senate refused to pay for the Build Back Better Act, NONE of the Republicans and ALMOST NONE of the Democrats opposed this horribly expensive scheme, whose cost was very similar.

New START’s wording said it would last only five years, but it could be renewed. While Trump was President, he was allowing New START to expire at the five-year mark. But the horribly expensive and recklessly dangerous nuclear weapons replacements were not affected by the treaty’s expiration, so they were planned to continue for decades – and they were vigorously funded by BOTH political parties in Congress.

When Biden took office, he promptly renewed New START. But has also vigorously supported the aggressive new weapons programs.

After Glen summarized this recent history, Ralph added more information. Before we started this interview, Ralph had said the U.S. is going “all-out to provoke a new nuclear arms race.”

Now Ralph suggested looking back thirty years ago to the early 1990s. The U.S. Department of Energy (the federal agency that produces nuclear weapons) recognized then that its production capacity (which had been making nuclear weapons since the Manhattan Project of the 1940s) was seriously deteriorating and scarcely functional anymore.

He said the plant at Rocky Flats, Colorado, which had produced the plutonium pits for nuclear weapons had been shut down in 1988 by the FBI because it was committing environmental crimes.

Ralph said the Dept. of Energy tried several different ways to revive their nuclear weapons production:

* In the early 1990s “Complex 21” was an attempt, but it was so strongly opposed at public hearings that this proposal was canceled.
* Then about a decade later “Complex Transformation” was proposed as a way to revive nuclear weapons production, but that flopped too.
* Finally the “modernization” scheme – for which both Ralph and Glen have been using “air quotes” to expose this term as a misleading euphemism – was proposed, and Congress adopted it. Ralph said this term is deceptive but it sounds innocuous, because it sounds nice to modernize things and spiff them up.

Ralph said that the New START treaty was so clearly needed that there was a compelling case to ratify it. When President Obama proposed New START’s ratification by the Senate, the Senate’s Republican leadership used this as an opportunity to get what they could get out of it – specifically, the money for “modernization.” Probably a fair number of Republican senators might have supported it on its own merits, but this was a way to score a financial benefit for the big corporations that make nuclear weapons. Ralph mentioned two of the Republican senators who helped make that happen.

He said “modernization” has been getting much more expensive since Congress approved it. Instead of about $1 trillion, it is now expected to cost close to $2 trillion.

The part of the Department of Energy that actually makes nuclear weapons is the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). Ralph said that in the Trump Administration’s final year, NNSA’s administrator proposed a 25% increase in nuclear weapons funding. This was a wild, unprecedented increase, even while many other parts of the federal budget were being cut. The Secretary of DoE said no, but the NNSA administrator went over his head – directly to Trump himself – and Trump approved the massive increase.

Ralph added that when Biden became president – instead of treating Trump’s huge increase in nuclear weapons spending as a one-time anomaly and rolling it back – Biden agreed with this massive increase and started adding more funding on top of it.

Ralph said this issue is not based on any philosophy or ideology or military necessity. He said it is purely an economic matter. (Later in this interview we discussed the economic and political power of the Military-Industrial Complex.)

This “modernization” has triggered a new nuclear arms race. The U.S.’s “modernization” escalated the U.S.’s nuclear threats against Russia, China, and the rest of the world. Other nations have reacted to the U.S. by increasing their own spending on recklessly dangerous new nuclear weapons. Ralph said China had been rather inactive with only a few hundred nuclear weapons while hoping the U.S. and Russia would de-escalate, but now China has reacted to the new provocation by apparently digging holes for land-based missile silos and upgrading its nuclear weapons technology.

Glen said ever since China developed nuclear weapons in the 1960s, China has **always** had a **“no first use”** policy, while the U.S. has **always** had a policy of being **willing to start** a nuclear war. He said China has never been a threat but American politicians want to frighten the American people into thinking that China is a threat. (Russia also has had a **“no first use”** policy for many years.)

Ralph said the U.S. outspends China 4 to 1 on nuclear weapons, and the U.S. outspends Russia 5 to 1 on nuclear weapons.

He said the U.S. is the only nation that started the new nuclear arms race, and the U.S. is the driving force that is keeping it going.

Glen said the U.S. has done that persistently ever since the 1940s. At many points along the way, the U.S. developed and build reckless and provocative new technology to escalate the nuclear arms race. The Soviet Union was afraid for their own national security, so they felt the need to try to catch up, but then the U.S. made further reckless new technological advances and provoked each escalation of nuclear weapons.

The U.S. has not been content with seeing China only as an economic rival, but has also been recklessly accusing China of being a military rival. He said recently the U.S. started ramping up its rhetoric against China and trying to make China a new enemy. This has suckered China into this dynamic of a new nuclear arms race.

Ralph pointed out that the nuclear weapons Establishment has perverted language into ways that evoke feelings and meanings that serve their narrow interests. He said this reminds him of the so-called “missile gap” that was publicized in about 1960. He said there actually was a “missile gap,” but the U.S. – **not** the USSR – was ahead. But politicians used the “missile gap” lie for political purposes.

Glen agreed and said this entire history has been all about deception, fear-mongering and corruption to enrich the weapons manufacturing corporations.

**Summarize the nuclear weapons production at Oak Ridge and other locations:**

Nuclear weapons work at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, began in the 1940s. Before discussing those decades of work, Glen asked Ralph to briefly summarize the nuclear weapons work that is CURRENTLY underway at Oak Ridge and at other locations where nuclear weapons are developed and produced. Locations include **Oak Ridge**, Tennessee, **Savannah River**, Georgia; **Los Alamos**, New Mexico; the **Lawrence Livermore Labs** in California; and the **Pantex** plant in Texas.

Ralph said the U.S.’s nuclear weapons complex is smaller now and less spread out than it used to be. We have three weapons labs that design nuclear weapons, plan their refurbishment, and so forth. We have four sites that produce components. We have one assembly plant. Ralph said that in addition to the lab locations Glen mentioned a moment ago (Lawrence Livermore in California and Los Alamos in in New Mexico), he said the **Sandia** labs also are in both California and New Mexico.

He provided more information about the four locations that manufacture the parts of nuclear weapons. Los Alamos has a small facility to produce the plutonium pits. These are the “triggers” that he will discuss further in just a few minutes.

Glen showed on the screen this photo of the Y-12 complex at Oak Ridge, Tennessee:



This plant produces the thermonuclear “secondary” part of the hydrogen bomb. (A few minutes later Glen showed on the screen a diagram of the “trigger” and the “secondary in a hydrogen bomb.)

Ralph said Oak Ridge’s Y-12 plant produces the “secondary” from highly enriched uranium – and also several other extremely dangerous materials. (For more information, see OREPA’s fact sheet titled, “What Does Y-12 Do?” at this link: [**https://orepa.org/what-does-y-12-do/**](https://orepa.org/what-does-y-12-do/))

He said Savannah River’s plant extracts tritium from fuel rods that had been used in nuclear power plants. Also, he said, another plant in Kansas City makes all of the electronic parts of hydrogen bombs (their fusing, firing components, etc.). He said the Kansas City plant makes about 93% of each hydrogen bomb.

Glen showed on the TV screen this highly simplified diagram of a hydrogen bomb. This diagram shows the “trigger” (shown in yellow and blue on the right side) and the “secondary” (shown in red and gray on the left):



Ralph explained that this diagram illustrates what’s called “the physics package” – just the nuclear warhead itself, not the missile or anything else.

He said the plutonium pit is shown at the right side of this diagram. This is called the “primary” because it is the first part of the bomb that goes off. This is a fission bomb such as what ethe U.S. dropped on Japan in 1945. He said the yellow pointed illustration surrounding the blue plutonium pit show high explosives that are used for compressing the plutonium. In the middle is a little space for tritium. This highly explosive “primary” fission atomic bomb triggers the “secondary,” which is shown here in red and gray.

The red part shows the highly enriched uranium that Oak Ridge’s Y-12 plant produces. The gray part around it is (so-called) “depleted” uranium, which actually is still radioactive. The term “depleted” is misleading; it only means that the U-235 has been drawn out of it, so what’s left is Uranium 238.

The part that this diagram depicts as a smaller gray tube inside is lithium deuteride. When it is compressed in the explosion, it becomes tritium. That is the thermonuclear part of the bomb.

He said this is **not** a fission explosion, but rather a **fusion** reaction, like what occurs in the sun. This kind of bomb is very, very much more destructive than the bombs we dropped in Japan.

**Tritium at a TVA nuclear power plant location – and U.S. government deception:**

A moment ago when explaining the parts of a hydrogen bomb, Ralph mentioned tritium as one part. Now Ralph provided more information about tritium and a new project to produce more tritium for nuclear weapons.

Glen said in the 1930s President Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal included a bold project to generate electricity by building hydroelectric dams in the Southeast through the Tennessee Valley Authority – the TVA. Glen said probably only a few persons watching this interview know that the TVA also generates nuclear power – and probably almost nobody has heard about the government’s new plan to use those nuclear **power** plants to generate a lot of tritium for building even more nuclear **weapons**.

Ralph said most of the parts of hydrogen bombs (as in the diagram we saw just now) have a very long shelf life. Some last 80 years or perhaps even longer. But, he said, one component – tritium, an isotope of hydrogen – has a half life of a little over 12 years. Tritium is necessary for the bomb to function. In order to keep a hydrogen bomb fully functional, the tritium inside it must be replaced periodically.

He said the U.S. used to buy the tritium from commercial suppliers, but in the 1990s the U.S. decided that it needed its own reliable source for tritium. Soon after that, it decided to produce the tritium by inserting special fuel rods into a commercial power reactor. While the reactor is running, these fuel rods would be inserted and would capture most of the tritium. The tritium is radioactive.

Glen pointed out that this is yet one more linkage between nuclear power and nuclear weapons. He said the government wants us to pretend that those are totally separate activities. But actually nuclear power and nuclear weapons have been united in multiple ways all the way along since the 1940s. He said in the early 1950s nuclear power was being promoted as a peaceful use of the atom, but the government’s propaganda for a civilian application of atomic power has always served also as a cover for nuclear weapons. He thanked Ralph for pointing out the tritium connection as yet one more kind of deception.

Ralph said it has always been possible for commercial nuclear power reactors to be used to produce materials for nuclear weapons. There is no law against this, but there has been an international understanding (a norm) that nobody should have “dual-use” reactors that could produce military weaponry in addition to civilian nuclear power.

Ralph said this is what made the U.S.’s decision in the late 1990s so huge. It wasn’t Iran or any other nation that crossed the line; it was the United States that crossed the line that had been separating military from civilian nuclear reactors. He said the U.S. was the renegade nation that broke the international norm.

Glen exclaimed that the public does not know about any of this! This is yet one more thing that has been kept secret from the American people. He said there are very obvious reasons why the U.S. government has kept the American people totally ignorant about these hard realities.

Ralph said decades ago he read a news article from a source in Egypt about Egypt’s possible construction of such a “dual-use” reactor. The article said Egypt would not be crossing the line because the U.S. government had already crossed that line by using a civilian reactor in Tennessee to produce tritium for nuclear weapons by using specially formulated rods so a TVA power reactor is producing tritium for nuclear weapons.

Ralph said TVA is already doing this at its Watts Bar nuclear power plant in eastern Tennessee. He said the U.S. government used “double-speak” language to give itself a waiver for producing tritium there for nuclear weapons. The government deceptively said the international norm we mentioned a moment ago pertains only to plutonium and highly enriched uranium, but the norm realistically covers radioactive tritium too. The U.S. would not allow other nations to do what our own government is doing to violate the international norm.

Ralph added that in January 2022 a meeting occurred with the TVA and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission because the Department of Energy strongly wants to vastly increase the number of these special rods so they can produce vastly more tritium in order to make many more nuclear weapons. Instead of a few hundred tritium fuel rods in the reactor, the DoE now wants 1,700 of them in every fuel cycle. He said this would not only vastly increase the material for making nuclear bombs, but this escalation is also very provocative toward Russia and China.

Ralph said this is one more indication that the U.S. is going all-out to maximize nuclear weapons. The U.S. is pushing very hard to amass as much nuclear weapons material as we can in order to provoke the new nuclear arms race.

Glen said the American government, the American news media, and the American culture and people routinely fail to understand things from other nations’ perspectives. We always see things from a “make America great” bias – which is really a bi-partisan agenda for more militarism and more nuclear weapons – but we need to understand how Russia would feel about the problems we’ve been discussing here. He asked, “How Americans would feel if we saw Russia going all out to maximize enormous amounts of nuclear weapons production. Wouldn’t Americans feel afraid for our national security? Why can’t we empathize and see how it looks from another nation’s perspective?”

We need to empathize with and understand the nearly 200 nations that do not have any nuclear weapons at all. They feel they are being held hostage by the 9 nations that do have nuclear weapons. The U.S. has always dominated the nuclear arms race. Even now the U.S. is spending as much on nuclear weapons as **all** other nations **combined**!

Ralph said that just once he’d like to hear somebody in the U.S. media – while talking about Iran – say, “Of course they’re not doing anything we haven’t done tens of thousands of times over.”

**Oak Ridge’s nuclear weapons work since the 1940s Manhattan Project:**

Glen said that during World War II President Roosevelt started a secret program to produce an atomic bomb.

Although it was called the Manhattan Project, secret locations in many parts of the U.S. were involved in various aspects of researching, developing and building the atomic bomb. He showed on the TV screen this map of locations where the Manhattan Project’s activities occurred.

Big circles and font sizes showed that Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and Richland, Washington (where the Hanford nuclear reservation is located) were among the major sites.



Ralph said Oak Ridge was the first permanent site selected for the Manhattan Project. He said just a few weeks after Enrico Fermi’s historic experiment in Chicago to prove that a nuclear reaction could occur and be contained, the Oak Ridge location was chosen.

It was chosen because it was a remote location inland, far from the Atlantic coast, so it could not be attacked by German submarines. Also, plenty of water and plenty of electricity were available. Ralph said that the Manhattan Project’s director, General Leslie Groves, talked with David Lilienthal, the head of the TVA, and Lilienthal promised Groves the entire electrical output of one of the TVA’s huge dams near Tennessee’s border with North Carolina.

The location also benefited from an abundant and willing workforce. Ralph said Tennessee’s motto (“The Volunteer State”) was a symbol of people’s willingness to provide the paid labor for this massive project.

The mission of the Oak Ridge facility was to create a large amount of nuclear materials (especially plutonium and enriched uranium) for an atomic bomb. Such materials had never been produced before.

He said a 900-square-mile area at Oak Ridge was chosen as the place to build three major industrial facilities. Two were for enriching uranium by using different processes. The third was to produce plutonium in a nuclear reactor.

Ralph said the scientific/technical accomplishment was stunning. In three years, 75,000 people lived in what was called “the city of mud,” because it was always under construction. He said the first sustaining nuclear reactor in history was built at Oak Ridge and called “the graphite pile.”

He said this was the model for the massive reactors that were built at Hanford, Washington. Glen clarified that Hanford’s location is near the “tri-cities” of Richland, Pasco and Kennewick east of the Cascade Mountains. Ralph said Hanford produced plutonium. (The plutonium for the Nagasaki bomb was produced at Hanford.) Glen said one commercial nuclear power plant also exists there.

Ralph said when the Oak Ridge reactor was getting ready to begin operating, Enrico Fermi went there in person to oversee the final stages of that preparation.

Ralph said the Oak Ridge reactor – unlike the one at Hanford – was air-cooled with giant fans. That turned out to be disastrously bad for the environment. Hanford’s reactors were designed and built to be water-cooled using water from the Columbia River.

Glen added that the Hanford area is horribly contaminated by an enormous amount of nuclear waste. The government does not really know how to clean it up. He said every year they spend billions of our tax dollars pretending to clean it up but without success. They pay billions of dollars to capitalistic businesses who – in many cases – keep screwing up, and – in some cases – use fraudulent reporting.

He said the nuclear waste has been horribly contaminating the lands and waters, including making the downstream Columbia River radioactive. He said the waste remains radioactive and deadly for thousands of years, but some of it was put into steel drums that rusted out after only fifty years. Some of it was simply dumped into trenches, where it leaked into the groundwater and the river water. The Columbia flows south to the Oregon border and then west past Portland and empties into the Pacific Ocean.

Glen said that although governmental officials pretend to care about this, only people in the environmental and anti-nuclear movements are doing much.

We did not have time for Glen to mention that some non-profit organizations are working hard to protect the environment and public health. For example, Heart of America Northwest ([**http://www.hanfordcleanup.org/**](http://www.hanfordcleanup.org/)) has been doing excellent work for many years.

Ralph said environmental damage is another connection between Hanford and Oak Ridge. Oak Ridge keeps experiencing environmental catastrophes on an ongoing basis because of how waste has been handled there too.

He added some more information about the Manhattan Project. He said the Oak Ridge National Lab was one facility located in one valley. The other two facilities he mentioned a moment ago were inserted into two different valleys. He said that decision was made because in case of a catastrophic accident, it would not ruin all three of them.

Glen said people lived nearby, but apparently the people were expendable, just so long as the nuclear weapons facilities were protected.

Ralph said that originally the Oak Ridge National Lab was called X-10, and it was making plutonium and proving that plutonium could be produced and extracted from a nuclear reactor.

He said the Y-12 plant was enriching uranium by using one kind of process. The K-25 facility was trying to enrich uranium through a different kind of process. The Y-12 process was faster. It made the uranium for the Hiroshima bomb. The K-25 process was much more efficient, so after World War II ended, the U.S. decided to use this K-25 process for decades to enrich uranium.

This left the Y-12 plant needing to find a different purpose. While this dilemma occurred, Edward Teller (the father of the hydrogen bomb) was in California urging the U.S. government to significantly ramp up its nuclear weapons work. The Y-12 plant was chosen to make the ”secondary” for the U.S.’s hydrogen bombs. This thermonuclear core of the bomb is what makes it a hydrogen bomb. Oak Ridge’s Y-12 plant has produced this part of **every** hydrogen bomb the U.S. has ever produced since the 1940s.

For this reason, Oak Ridge plays a key role in the U.S.’s aggressive new nuclear arms race and the so-called “modernization.”

Glen thanked Ralph for sharing this important information that he said approximately zero people have understood before hearing Ralph explain it.

**Our nation’s nuclear weapons policies are crucially important life-or-death
matters, but politicians and news media do not discuss them,
so most Americans are almost totally ignorant:**

Glen said almost all Americans pay practically zero attention to the policies that direct our nation’s nuclear weapons activities. People disregard those issues because they figure it’s too scientific and technical for them to understand, or that’s stuff that happens somewhere else so we can disregard it, or that’s “just politics,” so we can dismiss it.

Also, he said, the news media do not report meaningfully about nuclear weapons issues, because there is a bi-partisan consensus in Washington DC that nuclear weapons are good and we need a lot of them. With no real controversy, there is nothing for news media to report. When the news media fail to tell people the facts about what’s really happening, that is very dangerous for a democracy.

However, the national policies regarding nuclear weapons really are life-and-death matters. They determine whether we and billions of other people will live or die.

He said when a new president is inaugurated, the Pentagon develops a crucially important document that defines how the new president understands the role of nuclear weapons and under what circumstances the new president would use them. This document – the “Nuclear Posture Review” – is hugely important. Trump’s “Nuclear Posture Review” was extremely reckless and extremely dangerous.

Now the peace movement is concerned that Biden does not seem to be moving in a new direction that would be sensible and safe. Biden’s campaign promises said he would reduce the role of nuclear weapons, but since taking office he has enthusiastically supported Trump’s reckless escalation of the nuclear arms race – including extremely new weapons – and many experts have pointed out that Biden’s foreign policy is virtually the same as Trump’s.

**The “Life-Extension Programs”:**

Most Americans do not know that many of our nation’s nuclear power plants that have reached the end of their useful life and should be shut down because their various parts have deteriorated, have become brittle, have become more vulnerable to leaking, and have become dangerous in a variety of other ways. However, the government has been recklessly allowing nuclear power plants to continue operating for decades longer than what’s safe.

Likewise, nuclear weapons also have aged. Some years ago the Pentagon proclaimed it would implement “Life-Extension Programs” instead of developing new nuclear weapons. However, they are developing and building new nuclear weapons anyway.

Glen asked Ralph to help us understand “Life-Extension Programs” for nuclear weapons – and related concerns.

Ralph said that initially the “Life-Extension Programs” were trying to keep existing nuclear weapons up-to-date and reliable through maintenance, repairs, and so forth, so they could (air quotes) “function as designed” (which he said is to destroy life on this planet.

He said what happened instead was that the nuclear weapons labs, corporate contractors, and everybody saw this as a goose that would lay golden eggs for them. So instead of honest “Life-Extension Programs,” it became an excuse to re-design nuclear weapons with new capacities and replace some parts or many parts, so they would become essentially new nuclear bombs.

However, instead of being honest and assigning new identifying numbers for these basically new nuclear bombs, they keep the original identifying number and simply add a modification number to it. For example, they are now building the B-61, modification 12. Ralph said this is 12 bombs away from what it originally was. He said they developed a new arming, fusing and detonating mechanism, so although the B-61 was designed to be a gravity bomb that can be simply dropped from an airplane [and the U.S. has a great many of them], he said now it has been radically redesigned to be a “smart bomb,” so the military can control exactly where each B-61 bomb detonates. Experts have determined that these changes have radically increased the destructive capacity of each bomb by at least 125% more than before – and probably much, much more than that. But the “Life-Extension Program” pretends that this is simply extending the bomb’s life. Actually, this is a radically new bomb.

**More insights into public policy about U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe:**

Glen said the U.S. has been deploying B-61 bombs to several NATO countries and installing these bombs on military air bases in those countries. The U.S. government likes this significant military control over those European nations.

He said the U.S.’s nuclear weapons located in Europe have frightened and angered a great many people there. He said a growing number of Europeans strongly oppose the U.S.’s militarization and nuclearization of their countries. They do not want to be the location where World War III starts. Many local jurisdictions have taken official positions against the U.S.’s nuclear weapons in their nations, and many national parliamentarians have spoken out boldly against them.

Glen said Europe’s peace movement is growing significantly. People are pushing on their national governments to get the U.S.’s nuclear weapons out of their countries. People are urging their nations to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which 59 nations around the world (especially in the Global South) have already done. For more information about the Treaty see [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org) and Ralph’s strong support near the end of this document.

Ralph said that Germany’s Bundestag (their national parliament) has voted decisively for removing the U.S.’s nuclear weapons from the Buchel Air Base where they are currently deployed. However, Germany’s Chancellor and NATO overruled the Bundestag.

Glen said it’s ironic that NATO, which is dominated by the U.S., gets to overrule a decision made by the national parliament of a nation that’s a member of NATO. “So who’s really in charge? It’s not really the German government itself that’s in charge. It’s NATO, the U.S.-dominated octopus.” Instead of protecting Europe’s democracy, NATO is bullying and trampling on Europe’s democracy.

Ralph said that – while we are taping this program in February 2022 – Russian troops are massed near Ukraine’s border. The issues we’ve been discussing during this interview are important context for this European crisis.

Glen agreed. He said the American people don’t know the context of that crisis. He said when the Soviet Union collapsed more than 30 years ago and the various Soviet republics became independent nations, President George H.W. Bush promised that the U.S. would not expand NATO toward Russia. But a few years later President Bill Clinton violated that promise, and he did radically expand NATO and U.S. militarism right up to Russia’s border. Russia has centuries of experience of being attacked from the west, so they see the U.S. as threatening their national security.

Glen asked how Americans would like it if our roles were reversed? What if Russia dominated a gigantic and powerful multinational military alliance (including Canada and Mexico) with nuclear weapons and lined up a lot of Russian-dominated military forces all along the U.S.’s borders inside Canada and Mexico – and aimed inward at the U.S.? He said we Americans need to understand how Russia feels

He said this TV interview program is scheduled to air on TV during March 2022. He asked whether anyone will be alive to watch it.

**Seismic dangers at Oak Ridge buildings -- OREPA’s successful lawsuit --
Federal nuclear weapons agency’s defiance of the federal court order:**

Glen said that people living on the West Coast know that we are in an earthquake zone. Every now and then earthquakes occur and cause some damage. At some unexpected time we’ll get hit by “the big one,” which will cause enormous damage and kill many people.

He said one of the things that he has read about in the newsletters published by Ralph’s organization (Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, [**www.orepa.org**](http://www.orepa.org)) is the danger of earthquakes at Oak Ridge. He agrees with OREPA’s deep concern that the nuclear weapons production buildings are not safe in the case of earthquakes. OREPA sued the federal government, and the judge ruled in favor or OREPA, but the federal government is continuing to work with highly enriched uranium and other dangerous materials in buildings that are in danger of falling down. He asked Ralph to tell us about this.

Ralph said when Oak Ridge was selected for the Manhattan Project, the government got the land, water, power and secrecy that it wanted. They also got something they had not wanted: earthquakes. He said **Oak Ridge is in the U.S.’s second highest seismic activity area**. The East Tennessee Seismic Zone is second only to California for seismic activity.

He added that fracking for oil and natural gas has been increasing seismic disruptions in some parts of the country.

He said Oak Ridge’s buildings that are currently used for manufacturing the thermonuclear “secondaries” out of highly enriched uranium are not safe. They were designed and built quickly during World War II to last just a few years for the air-cooled nuclear reactor. Now – 75 years later – they are still being used for dangerous nuclear production.

He said that fifteen years ago the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) declared that they would replace all of these buildings with a new nuclear bomb plant to be called the Uranium Processing Facility (UPF). The UPF was to be a state-of-the-art and seismically safe new bomb plant.

After publishing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and spending half a billion of our tax dollars on the design phase, they discovered that the building they were designing would be too small for all of the equipment that needed to be fit inside of it. They could not increase the building’s footprint size without extending into more serious earthquake areas. This fiasco was called the space-fit issue.

How did Congress respond? They refused to hold any hearings about this. Instead, they increased the budget for the contractor.

Ralph said the budget was already a problem. It was approved for a cost of $1.5 billion. Then the cost increased to $3 billion. Then it doubled again to $6 billion. This occurred in just a few years.

Glen said Lamar Alexander, the U.S. Senator from Tennessee, kept lying that it was still within the budget and still within the time frame. Ralph said Senator Lamar Alexander chaired the budget committee that held the Senate’s purse strings for all energy and water projects throughout the entire nation. He insisted on fully funding this bomb plant for his state, regardless of the facts.

Ralph added information about what happened next. He said that when the price tag hit $6 billion Senator Alexander finally got angry about what had been happening, so he went to Oak Ridge and said he was fed up with a project that started at $1 billion and escalated to $6 billion. Ralph said that two weeks later the Department of Defense released the news that the UPF bomb plant would cost $19.2 billion.

Senator Alexander reacted by publicly stating that it would be built for $6 billion – and built on time.

Ralph said the current cost is already about $6.5 billion and it will not be built on time. But Senator Alexander has retired, so he is free to stop worrying about it.

Ralph said further that when the budget escalated to such a huge size, the government decided to cut back on some aspects of the project. He said that – instead of reducing the number of nuclear warheads down from 80 “secondaries” per year – the government kept that same number but decided to conduct some of the work in the old buildings that had already been determined to be seismically unsafe and not qualified for the dangerous work with radioactive materials. The government decided to continue using those old dangerous buildings for an additional 20-30 years. He said those old buildings are so bad that they cannot be retrofitted to be brought up to code.

He said OREPA pointed out that the federal government was violating the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), so it needed to conduct a new Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), but the federal government rejected OREPA’s request.

He said that during this time, the U.S. Geological Survey, the federal agency responsible for studying all earthquake zones, updated their hazard map, as they have been doing every five years. He said the USGS’s assessment of earthquake danger for the East Tennessee Seismic Zone increased more than the increase of danger at any other zone in the U.S., except California.

Ralph said this new danger assessment also would require a new EIS for the Oak Ridge bomb plant, but the federal government refused to conduct a new EIS. OREPA sued the government in federal court. He said they raised $50,000 online from many people. [Full disclosure: Glen donated many hundreds of dollars for this, in addition to his regular annual donations to OREPA.] Ralph said each side submitted many motions, and two years later the federal judge ruled in favor of OREPA. **OREPA won this lawsuit!**

**The U.S. Department of Energy simply ignored the federal judge’s decision.** A few days after the decision, DoE released a bogus new “study.” (Ralph used “air quotes” and the term *bogus*.) He said the court sat on this. Later the National Nuclear Safety Administration (NNSA) produced what Ralph called “a very weak supplement” that “only barely scratched the surface of what the court had required.” The court ordered a new study, including consideration of the earthquake dangers. While OREPA was figuring out what to do next, the federal judge died of cancer. Only then did OREPA discover that the judge had been preoccupied with this health crisis, so that explained why the court had not taken stronger action more promptly.

While considering a new lawsuit, OREPA knew this would cost a lot more money. Their lawyer said they had a good chance of winning. But they had already won, so winning a federal court case does not necessarily solve the problem. When the government wants to build bombs, they will simply build the bombs.

The new bomb plant at Oak Ridge is moving ahead. The government also will build two new plants for making plutonium pits at Los Alamos and Savannah River. Ralph said citizens in both of those communities have sued the NNSA for violating the NEPA, just like OREPA did. The plaintiffs are waiting for those court decisions.

**Federal politicians and Washington DC’s political culture:**

Glen said the problems Ralph has been explaining expose powerful examples of who really runs our country. He said it’s not “the rule of law” and not an effective judiciary whose decisions are honestly implemented. The power is held by people and entities that like nuclear weapons and profit from them. Money is powerful. Glen said ordinary Americans need to know about these problems and get active in solving them. He said we will discuss local grassroots organizing in just a few minutes.

For now he invited Ralph to respond to a few questions about the politics related to these problems. He said Ralph and all of us who are organizing against nuclear weapons keep trying to inform and activate the American people so we can organize a strong, effective grassroots movement that could abolish nuclear weapons.

So he asked Ralph: What are we up against? Who really makes the decisions that we want to change?

Ralph said there are only a few politicians with the courage and commitment to challenge the nuclear weapons Establishment. There are not enough of them in Congress now to make a difference. “It’s about the money,” he said. Presidents and Congress members generally do not listen to the citizens, because their decisions are not driven by military necessity or concern for security. Their decisions are driven by Lockheed, Bechtel, Honeywell, Boeing, and so forth. No president has been willing to really challenge them. He said, “The University of California operates weapons labs.” Giant pension funds and other financial entities such as Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Blackrock, and others are deeply invested in nuclear weapons. He said in order to convince Congress to get rid of nuclear weapons, we must either pressure them by accumulating more money than the weapons manufacturers (which is not likely to happen), or we must build a grassroots movement that compels them to listen to us.

Glen said he gives a unique title for each TV program he produces. While preparing for this TV program, he chose to use Ralph’s suggestion for this month’s TV program title, “The New Nuclear Arms Race is Happening in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.” But Glen said he thinks it’s ALSO true in a more profound way that “the new nuclear arms race” started in Washington DC – **AND** “the new nuclear arms race” **ALSO** started with the weapons manufacturers donating big-money contributions to politicians’ election campaigns.

Glen said he comes from Washington State, where for many years a very powerful Democratic U.S. Senator was Henry Jackson, who was very widely known as “the Senator from Boeing.” Jackson vigorously fought for anything and everything that Boeing wanted. Now we have two other Democratic senators who also routinely cave in to militarism and don’t stand up for peace at all. He invited Ralph to comment.

Ralph said Pete Domenici was a powerful U.S. Senator from New Mexico and chaired a relevant committee for a very long time. He was quoted as saying, “As long as I can bring the money home for Los Alamos, I can do whatever the hell I want.” Ralph said two-thirds of the federal money Congress spent in New Mexico went to the nuclear weapons work at Los Alamos and Sandia.

Glen said this is the kind of political culture we have. He believes only a grassroots movement can change that.

When we were preparing for this interview, Ralph mentioned the famous words that President Eisenhower had said about this very point. Glen showed Eisenhower’s quotation on the TV screen:

President Eisenhower said:

“I think that people want peace so much that one of these days government had better get out of their way and let them have it.”

Glen said that even though Eisenhower was an army general – the very top military general in charge of fighting the Nazis in Europe during World War II – and later became U.S. President – he actually had many peace-oriented values. In January 1961 when he was leaving office, he warned us about the Military-Industrial Complex, which was gaining a huge amount of power already more than 60 years ago.

**Grassroots organizing is absolutely necessary.**

Glen said this is why we need to build a big grassroots movement to abolish nuclear weapons. He said he does a lot of work in the Olympia, Washington, area and statewide. In 2017 he founded the Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, which he currently chairs. He’s also a very active volunteer in our statewide coalition, Washington Against Nuclear Weapons ([**www.wanwcoalition.org**](http://www.wanwcoalition.org)). He said about 60 organizations around the state belong to this coalition.

He emphasized the need to **shift the political culture in Washington DC**, but he said they will not do that voluntarily. **We must change that from the bottom up.** Likewise, Congress passed Civil Rights legislation in the 1960s only because the nonviolent Civil Rights Movement forced Congress and presidents to pass it. Civil rights legislation was not a gift from any Congress or president. The Civil Rights Movement changed our nation’s culture and forced Congress to see that our nation’s politics had changed, so they needed to obey the public demand.

Glen said the system is so dysfunctional and corrupt that Congress and presidents will not reduce or abolish nuclear weapons unless we people organize at the grassroots and make them do it. He said we need a strategically savvy nonviolent grassroots movement to grow from the bottom up and change the American people’s culture and our nation’s political culture.

Likewise, we need such a movement to change the news media, because for many years they have been saying about nuclear weapons whatever the government wants them to say. Mainstream news media do not listen to us.

**Besides providing facts, we must reach people at their heart and gut levels:**

Glen asked Ralph to recommend his best strategies for abolishing nuclear weapons. **Ralph offered two ways:**

**#1**: First, Ralph said our best strategy right now is to promote the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). (See [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)) He also referred to it simply “the Ban Treaty.” He appreciates the TV programs Glen has produced in support of the TPNW (such as the one at this link: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/the-treaty-on-the-prohibition-of-nuclear-weapons-is-a-powerful-step-toward-peace**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/the-treaty-on-the-prohibition-of-nuclear-weapons-is-a-powerful-step-toward-peace))

Ralph said the Treaty is the most powerful tool we’ve had in the past 30 years. The U.S. has not ratified or even signed the TPNW, so it has no legal power in our country, but it does have moral power that transcends the national boundaries drawn on maps. He said he is committing time and effort to collaborating with other people to build a grassroots movement to support the TPNW.

**#2:** Second, Ralph said that – while he has been doing this kind of work for thirty years – it’s tempting to tell people a lot of facts, numbers and technical information to fill people’s heads. But he said that although he himself would resonate with hearing a good rational argument, most people are motivated more by their hearts than by their heads – for better or worse, he added.

For example, he mentioned that rational information convinced him to stop eating meat because he learned how many pounds of grain are needed to produce a pound of beef, so he did the math and figured out that in order to help feed a hungry world, many of us need to quit eating meat. But he said most people don’t approach issues that way. We need to appeal to people’s hearts, not only their heads.

Nowadays, he said some politicians stand up and say things that are blatantly untrue. When their lies are exposed they do not apologize because their lying words were not intended to convey literal truths. They used their words to generate feelings such as anger, suspicion or fear. They know the power of speaking to people’s hearts.

He said we need to be honest when we reach out to people’s hearts. We need to be authentic and talk with people about what they really care about. He said public opinion polls show that all kinds of people – all political parties and all across the political spectrum – want a better world for their children. All kinds of people want their kids and grandkids to thrive in a world without nuclear weapons.

Glen agreed and said we need to design our organizing strategies, our outreach strategies, and the messages we convey with words and images so we will communicate with different kinds of people effectively at the heart level and the gut level. If somebody is obsessed with fear of Russia, the facts can’t access their minds because their emotions are preventing us from accessing their minds. If we communicate in strategically smart ways, we can help people become committed to peace – and then they can open their minds to be able to hear and absorb the factual information we want to share with them.

He said this is crucial. We don’t do enough of this kind of savvy strategizing for outreach.

Also, he said we need to use wit, even though nuclear weapons are not a very funny issue. Actually some of the most effective methods of raising the anti-nuclear issue have used humor and wit, such as the 1964 film “Dr. Strangelove.” Humor can catch people off-guard so they’re able to see things in fresh ways. When someone is laughing, their fear is not ramped up. We need to use humor much more than we have been.

**OREPA is an excellent organization that deserves our support:**

Glen said he wants the people watching this interview to understand the very knowledgeable and savvy organization for which Ralph works, the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA), [**www.orepa.org**](http://www.orepa.org)

Glen said that twenty years ago he met a previous organizer for OREPA, and she impressed him so much that he signed up for OREPA’s mailings, and he started donating money. He said he has been reading OREPA’s informative newsletters cover to cover and also donating money consistently for the past twenty years. Now that we produce our TV programs through Zoom instead of in the TV studio in Olympia, this is a great opportunity for Ralph to be our TV interview guest. Glen invited Ralph to tell us more about OREPA and what it does.

Ralph said OREPA began as a grassroots organization committed to nonviolence and with the intention of organizing one demonstration at Oak Ridge in 1988 and including the option of civil disobedience. Now more than three decades later OREPA is a thriving grassroots organization.

He said they believe in using all of the nonviolent tools in the toolbox, so they do many more kinds of activities, including speaking at public hearings, writing letters, vigiling every Sunday at the bomb plant, demonstrating in the streets, and practicing civil disobedience when necessary. Once a year they go to Washington DC. They had not planned to use litigation, but as he explained a few minutes before, they found it necessary to sue the government four years ago.

He said they usually focus locally in the greater Oak Ridge area, and they work toward creating a culture of nonviolence. They work well with a variety of allies, including African American allies in Knoxville and elsewhere for training and workshops.

Glen said he is glad OREPA collaborates with other organizations. He said this is important. Many of the organizations he works with recognize that it’s important to do that. In order to reach our goals we need to bring more kinds of people into our movement – and at the same time we want to help other organizations reach their goals, so we need to participate also in their movements. He said when we work together we have a lot more people-power, so we can accomplish a lot more of everyone’s goals.

Ralph said collaboration was necessary for OREPA to grow from their earliest years to their current success. When OREPA was just getting started, the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability brought them into positive working relationships with local organizing efforts at other nuclear weapons facilities nationwide (Los Alamos, Livermore, Rocky Flats, Hanford, Nevada Test Site, and so forth). They have enjoyed productive collaboration with allies all over the U.S. This gave them useful perspectives and the confidence that they could do the work effectively.

He said he even went to Germany a few times to participate in the international peace camps at the German air base where American nuclear weapons are deployed. OREPA collaborates with global networks, including the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN, [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)), the global organization promoting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

He said all of these collaborations energize OREPA along with building its political strength.

**We were running out of time, so Glen did not have time to say the information printed in the rest of this document.**

**Many excellent sources of information can help us in our work:**

A great many sources of information exist. Glen invites you to read and/or watch the resources listed below – and also encourages you to share with your friends and your e-mail lists the link to the blog post containing the TV interview video and this document. Then your friends can watch the interview video and/or read this thorough summary of what we said during the interview.

We did not have time during the interview to mention the substantive information below, but you can see what’s here and click links to connect with these resources.

In 2020 and 2021 Glen produced and hosted five TV interview programs about various aspects of nuclear weapons. You can watch those episodes of “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” series at the “TV Programs” part of [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org). Also, some of Glen’s nuclear weapons programs from before 2020 are posted to the blog’s “Nuclear Weapons” category.

See links to the five programs from 2020 and 2021 at the top of the next page.

**Here are links to Glen’s five most recent TV programs about nuclear weapons:**

* Marshall Islanders Still Suffer from U.S. Nuclear Weapons Testing (1946-1958):  [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/marshall-islanders-still-suffer-from-u-s-nuclear-weapons-testing-1946-1958**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/marshall-islanders-still-suffer-from-u-s-nuclear-weapons-testing-1946-1958)
* Nuclear Weapons: History, Science and the Public: TV program and more information:  [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/nuclear-weapons-history-science-and-the-public-tv-program-and-more-information**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/nuclear-weapons-history-science-and-the-public-tv-program-and-more-information)
* The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is a POWERFUL step toward PEACE!  [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/the-treaty-on-the-prohibition-of-nuclear-weapons-is-a-powerful-step-toward-peace**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/the-treaty-on-the-prohibition-of-nuclear-weapons-is-a-powerful-step-toward-peace)
* PART 1 of “Nuclear Weapons: Updates on the Crisis and Opportunities”:  [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/tv-part-1-of-nuclear-weapons-updates-on-the-crisis-and-opportunities**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/tv-part-1-of-nuclear-weapons-updates-on-the-crisis-and-opportunities)
* PART 2 of “Nuclear Weapons: Updates on the Crisis and Opportunities”:  [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/nuclear-weapons-updates-on-the-crisis-and-opportunities-part-2**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/nuclear-weapons-updates-on-the-crisis-and-opportunities-part-2)

**OREPA’s information resources:**

* OREPA produced a brief fact sheet about the Oak Ridge plant, titled “What Does Y-12 Do?” Read it at this link: [**https://orepa.org/what-does-y-12-do/**](https://orepa.org/what-does-y-12-do/)
* See some of OREPA’s information about safety problems at the Y-12 Nuclear Weapons Complex at Oak Ridge, Tennessee at this link: [**https://orepa.org/more-safety-problems-at-y-12-bomb-complex/**](https://orepa.org/more-safety-problems-at-y-12-bomb-complex/)
* Past issues of OREPA’s highly informative newsletter are at this link: [**https://orepa.org/orepa-newsletter-archive/**](https://orepa.org/orepa-newsletter-archive/)

**Other information resources, organizations, and so forth:**

* Recently Glen compiled a great list of information resources – organizations, periodicals, and so forth. He posted it to his blog’s “Nuclear Weapons” category. Here is the direct link: [**https://parallaxperspectives.org/nuclear-weapons-good-sources-of-informatio**n](https://parallaxperspectives.org/nuclear-weapons-good-sources-of-information)
* If you live near Olympia, Washington – or elsewhere – you can find out about the Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (OCANW) and get onto our e-mail list. We share important information about nuclear weapons and organize a variety of strategically smart activities to help our nation abolish them. Contact Glen at (360) 491-9093 or **glenanderson@integra.net**
* OCANW developed and has been presenting a highly informative and engaging FREE ONLINE COURSE titled, “Nuclear Weapons Nowadays: What You Can Know and Do.” If you can recruit 6 or more participants, some of OCANW’s well-informed members can present it. Contact Glen at (360) 491-9093 or **glenanderson@integra.net**
* A statewide coalition in Washington State is smart and active. Contact Washington Against Nuclear Weapons, [**www.wanwcoalition.org**](http://www.wanwcoalition.org) (206) 547-2630. Their website provides a lot of information. You can get onto their e-mail list if you live anywhere in Washington – or elsewhere.
* Our TV interview mentioned the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. By early February 2022 when we taped this TV interview, 59 nations had ratified this historically significant treaty. Please learn more by visiting the website of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons at [**www.icanw.org**](http://www.icanw.org)
* See a brief fact sheet with basic information about the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons at this link:[**https://parallaxperspectives.org/flyer-fact-sheet-on-the-treaty-on-the-prohibition-of-nuclear-weapons**](https://parallaxperspectives.org/flyer-fact-sheet-on-the-treaty-on-the-prohibition-of-nuclear-weapons)
* Heart of America Northwest is an excellent non-profit organization working to hold the government accountable for cleaning up nuclear waste at the Hanford nuclear reservation in Washington State: [**http://www.hanfordcleanup.org/**](http://www.hanfordcleanup.org/)

**Glen’s closing encouragement:**

Glen thanked thank Ralph Hutchison for sharing his information and insights.

He also thanked all of the people who have been watching this interview.

Our world is in serious danger from several escalating problems, including escalating abuses of the environment and escalating disruptions of the climate.

The nuclear weapons crisis is different because instead of incremental problems worsening over a period of years, a nuclear war could begin instantly (by accident, miscalculation, or a moment of recklessness), escalate in a few hours or days, and promptly kill hundreds of millions of people – or billions of people – and turn Planet Earth into a radioactive wasteland.

Recently the United States government has been provoking a new nuclear arms race. BOTH of our big political parties have been **aggressively** funding **provocative** new nuclear weapons and allowing **reckless** new policies designed to make it **easier to start a nuclear war**.

The U.S. is aggressively targeting Russia and China. They have nuclear weapons, but for many years both Russia and China have publicly committed that **they will not start** a nuclear war. The U.S. has ALWAYS had policies allowing the U.S. to start a nuclear war – and our government has designed and built provocative weapons to do just that.

A number of big American business corporations make billions of dollars by making weapons of war – including nuclear weapons. Those big businesses lavishly fund the election campaigns of politicians running for Congress and the Presidency.

Because of **this bi-partisan consensus**, there is **practically no debate** in Washington DC to challenge the suicidal status quo. Without a partisan debate, **mainstream media simply go along with the status quo and do not inform the American people** about this terrible crisis.

**If we are to prevent nuclear suicide, ordinary people must inform themselves – and speak up – and join together with other people and non-profit organizations.**

**We must build a very big grassroots movement nationwide.**

We must change our national culture to go beyond narrow nationalism and nonviolently force the federal government to do what’s best for the whole world.

**This is absolutely important and urgent: We must abolish nuclear weapons!**

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 or e-mailing me at **glenanderson@integra.net**

Glen ends each TV program with this invitation to help make progress:

**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 whatever you can do to help!**