

Every month since February 1987 the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation has produced one-hour TV programs on issues related to peace, social justice, economics, the environment, and nonviolence.

The Olympia FOR's program airs several times every week for the entire month on Thurston Community Television (TCTV), channel 22 for Thurston County's cable TV subscribers. You can see TCTV's schedule at www.tctv.net.

You can also watch the program described below (and more than 90 of our previous interview programs and special programs at the Olympia FOR's website, www.olympiafor.org. Simply click the TV programs link to reach www.olympiafor.org/tv_programs.htm, scroll down, and click the program you want to watch.

Many of our website's TV program listings also include a .pdf document describing the program.

DECEMBER 2010

"CONVERTING TO A PEACE ECONOMY"

by GLEN ANDERSON, PRODUCER AND HOST OF THIS TV SERIES

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

We also created a "**permanent war economy.**" Massive military spending year after year – decade after decade since the 1940s – has distorted and disrupted the U.S. economy and hurt our society in many ways.

For example, after World War II the U.S. prevented Germany and Japan from re-arming, so those countries devoted their scientific and engineering talent to making better consumer goods, while the U.S. built a military empire. Their economies prospered, but ours suffered.

Country	Military Spending as % of GNP, 1966	% Growth Rate in Output per Employee, 1950-1966
United States	8.6	2.4
West Germany	4.1	5.3
Japan	1.0	7.7

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

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

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

Jobs Created per Billion Dollars of Government Spending (Data from 1970s)

Military:	75,812
Health Care:	80,041
Education:	104,019

Other people around the country and here in Washington State were thinking along the same lines. In about 1980 he helped to create the Washington State Conversion Project. He also helped draft state legislation that would move us in positive directions and testified at a legislative hearing on our bills.

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

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

have come to pass. Now is the time to lift up the economic realities and the principles for another look and new action.

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

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

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

Be sure to watch this powerfully informative TV program!