

Peace Tax Fund

Quarterly Update

National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund & The Peace Tax Foundation

Digging for Support on Capitol Hill

- More Spades Needed

BY Steve Olshewsky

I started my NCPTF Lobby Day activities on Monday the 14th in Lloyd Doggett's office (Dem-Austin-Ways&Means) where his aide told me that they were aware of it, and was uninterested in hearing more. I gave her some materials (mostly my write-ups, as I can share with anyone) suggesting she could start a file on HR 1186. She said she already had a file and would add that to it. At some point, she said that Lloyd was "on board with it" or something like that. She said that with a Republican chair of the Ways & Means Committee, this Democratic bill would not be brought up for a vote. She suggested that I work on getting companion legislation started in the Senate since they were scheduled to introduce the Senate version of the Bush Tax Plan that week.

I went over to the Senate buildings for two days and Gramm (R-Texas) was the only member of the Finance Committee that I could get nothing out of. No meeting with anyone, even to say, "Hello, here is some material about it if you get a chance to look at it". I was told that Gramm will

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Lobbying Beyond Congress

BY JENNIFER BEALL

I don't lobby much. As a matter of fact, the May 16th joint Lobby Day with the Center for Conscience and War was only the second time in my life I had gone lobbying. Because, unlike Marian, I don't lobby on a weekly basis, I tend to be pretty philosophical about it when I do. For this reason and because I've been making efforts recently to get my church to give more support to the Peace Tax Fund, I've been thinking about what it takes to get someone to offer tangible support to the Campaign.

My pastor, Kim McDowell (who is also, incidentally, on the Peace Tax Fund board), and I lobbied our

Congressman, Steny Hoyer (Democrat), from Maryland's fifth congressional district. We didn't have any realistic hope that Hoyer would be receptive to the Peace Tax Fund Bill; there are a couple of military bases in the district, and he is very pro-military. We met with Scott Nance, one of his aides. Nance did know the basic facts about the bill, either from previous encounters with Marian and other NCPTF supporters or because he did a little research to prepare for our meeting. He was quite friendly, but he stressed Hoyer's pro-military position and was unwilling to guess what Hoyer would do if the bill ever came to a vote.

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Top Ten Reasons Why the US Should Keep Nuclear Weapons

By Carah Ong

Recently, a Canadian public relations firm published a report on how to deliver the message of abolishing nuclear weapons to younger generations. The research was compiled for IPPNW. In response to the report, the tongue-in-cheek list below was compiled to resonate with younger people. The list appears on the Foundation's website at: <http://www.wagingpeace.org/students/index.html>. It may be reprinted with attribution given to the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and the author.

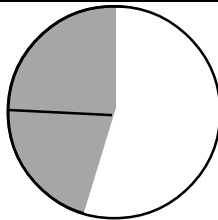
1. Having "smart bombs" is better than having "smart kids."
2. Not everyone in the US really NEEDS healthcare.
3. No one needs shelter in a nuclear winter.
4. What good is it to be the most powerful country in world if you can't destroy it many times over?
5. The radioactive legacy of the Nuclear Age will give cancer researchers, doctors and environmentalists indefinite job security.
6. Since when did threatening indiscriminate mass murder become immoral?
7. Long-term, high-risk, expensive (\$5.8 trillion on nuclear weapons to date) investments ALWAYS have a good return.
8. There are many mammals on the endangered species list, humans might as well be one of them.
9. Why cooperate with other countries when you can bomb them if you don't get your way?
10. Incineration, radiation poisoning and cancer aren't really bad ways to die.



Taken from "The Sunflower Online" monthly newsletter of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation June 2001 (No. 49). The Sunflower is a monthly e-newsletter providing educational information on nuclear weapons abolition and other issues relating to global security. Back issues are available at <http://www.wagingpeace.org/sf/backissues.html>

Tired of paying for war?

Past Military: 24%
(\$334 billion)



Fiscal Year 2001
U.S. Federal Fund

Current Military: 23%
(\$325 billion)

All Other:
53%
(\$735 billion)

Change the rules!

The Peace Tax Fund would allow people morally opposed to war to stop paying for it. They could pay their full taxes into a fund that would be used for non-military purposes only.

Find out more! Contact:



**NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR A
PEACE TAX FUND**
2121 Decatur Place NW
Washington DC 20008-1923
(202) 483-3751
www.peacetax.com

The National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund & The Peace Tax Foundation



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This newsletter is published quarterly. Annual membership of the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund costs \$25.

Since the Campaign advocates for the rights of conscience legislatively, gifts are not tax deductible. Tax-deductible contributions can be made to the Peace Tax Foundation, which educates the public about issues of taxes and war.

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Shalom - It's a Mighty Challenge

Mention the Middle East these days and what response do you get? Shoulders shrug, eyes roll, and expressions of helplessness ensue. Can non-violent rescue dreams of living in peace? A book we've been sent recently deals with that inquiry.

"How is it possible for a Jewish person to be nonviolent, especially after the holocaust?," is an often-asked question. *The Challenge of Shalom: The Jewish Tradition of Peace and Justice* shows that "never again" doesn't necessarily mean taking up arms. This refreshing volume (edited by Murray Polner and Naomi Goodman) features prominent contributors on controversial topics. It includes sections on tradition, the Holocaust, Israel, conscientious objection, civil disobedience. The editors and authors have been deeply associated with the Jewish Peace Fellowship which deals with the unique pressures felt by the Jewish pacifist. (www.jewishpeacefellowship.org)

The authors verify that a powerful peace tradition exists in all branches of Judaism - Orthodox, Conservative, Reconstructionist, and Reform. The Jewish tradition of peace is often obscured, the writers contend, or it has been brushed aside as passive and impractical. The imperative for peace and active non-violence is not only possible but *preferable*.yes, even given the awful history of pogroms and slaughters.

While never forgetting the mass murders, the editors seek to avoid political manipulation of the sacrifices of the martyred. However, they question seriously whether violence and counter-violence are the best defenses against the possibility of future horrors.

Some of the emphases of the Jewish tradition coincide with some convictions which today constitute pacifism. Consciously or unconsciously subtle social and religious influences have created a receptiveness to modern pacifism. In fact, both conscience and consequences persuade. In the nuclear age, war as an option has been eradicated. "Human warfare" is an oxymoron. Armed might cannot be used as an instrument of justice.

Many individual chapter writers are pacifist. Rabbi Albert Axelrad, a long time peace activist, calls himself a "pacifoid" who would make a reluctant exception to his pacifism and choose warfare if Israel's existence were threatened.

Rabbi Henry Schwarzchild whose family fled Nazi Germany in the 1930s is quoted: "The men and women of my generation have gone through a World War, the Holocaust, Stalinism and Vietnam - not to speak of other mass bloodlettings. I have seen enough unnatural deaths to last a lifetime. I know that I, like other men and women, have no choice but to die - only once, but some time. I do, however, have a choice as to whether I will die with human blood on my hands."



Marian Franz is Executive Director of the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund

Rabbi Philip Bentley's chapter interested me because he testified at our Peace Tax Fund hearing before Congress in 1992. Here's some of what he said then:

"Enactment would be both right and wise"

"Those of us who are conscientious objectors to war are distressed at having to pay for and support wars with our tax dollars. We believe that war-making is morally wrong. The words "just," "moral," and "right" cannot, in our view, ever be used to describe a war." ... "We object also to the use of our tax dollars to promote the manufacture of weapons, which encourages and abets a trade in deadly force to whoever has the money to pay for it. ... Jewish law says that whoever sells a weapon bears responsibility for its use. We are pained at the thought that we support such sales with our tax payments.... "The enactment of this bill would be, in my opinion, a great act of decency in allowing for the fuller participation of a religious and spiritual minority in the American polity....Enactment would be both right and wise."

The editors' stated hope is that reconciliation will end the support of *some* Jews and *some* Palestinians for violent actions carried out in the name of collective defense. Unsung heroes on both sides who work daily at reconciliation - some in quiet ways and some in situations of danger. It's a shame their stories are not highlighted in our press.

It seems the only killing in human history not done in revenge is when Cain killed Abel. All the rest have been revenge killings. It reminds me of an old proverb, "If you're going to seek revenge, you should dig two graves."



(continued from page 1)

Nance brought up several of the traditional arguments against the Peace Tax Fund Bill, including the floodgates argument. We knew how to counter each of them (we had attended a Lobby Day briefing session earlier in the day, so the counter-arguments were fresh in our minds). We tried to emphasize, among other things, the religious freedom aspect of the Bill. I even managed to slip into the conversation the fact that my father-in-law was once the pastor of the Baptist church Hoyer attended in southern Maryland!

We pointed out that passing the Peace Tax Fund bill would create a win-win situation. It should be obvious that we're not trying to get away with anything, as we would still be required to pay just as much in taxes. Many of the supporters of the Bill, in fact, have expressed their willingness to pay *more* federal taxes if they can be assured that those taxes won't be used, directly or indirectly, to kill. Passing the Peace Tax Fund Bill would actually raise slightly the amount of taxes collected, as there are people who don't pay federal taxes now who would do so if they could use the Peace Tax Fund. What I was thinking, but didn't say, was that passing the Peace Tax Fund Bill is a no-brainer!

Then again, when I wonder why so many members of Congress are unwilling to support the Peace Tax Fund Bill, I think about how members of my denomination, the Church of the Brethren, often fall short in supporting the bill. I have made statements about the Peace Tax Fund in two different congregations, the Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania Church of the Brethren, which my father attends (and which was my childhood congregation), and my own church, the University Park (Maryland) Church of the Brethren. Both times, I have found that quite a few, but not all, have heard of the Peace Tax Fund. Of the ones who know it exists, many do not support the Campaign financially, although most would agree with its goals.

I will admit that before I actually worked for the Campaign, I did not give it the amount of support I should have, either. Even though I believe strongly

in the goals of the Campaign and would definitely use the Peace Tax Fund if it were created, it was just another of those worthy causes to which I should give money. For much of my life, in fact, I knew little about it, even though my father is (and was at the time) a very supportive member. I believe that there are other members of my denomination who have had similar experiences.

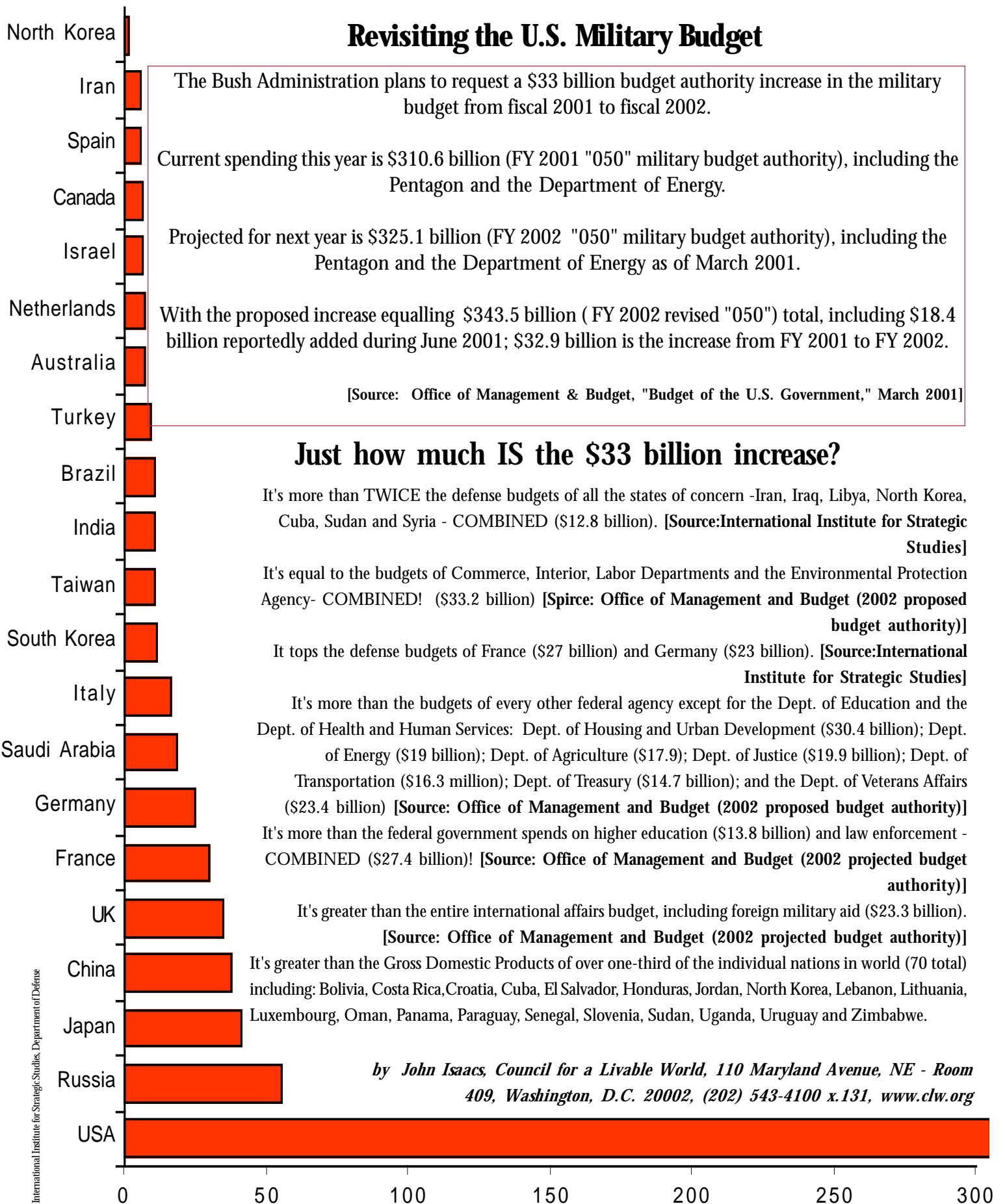
Why is this? Why is it that individual Church of the Brethren congregations and members, despite the denomination's status as one of the three historical peace churches and the fact that it is an official endorser of the Campaign, do not show as much tangible support as one would expect? What can we do to change this? What can we do to mobilize both religious and non-religious people who believe in the Peace Tax Fund to do more on its behalf? How do we keep the Peace Tax Fund from drowning in the huge sea of worthy causes to which we're asked to give our financial support? How can we get across how urgent the passage of the Peace Tax Fund bill is, and that its passage could potentially aid so many of the other causes we support? After all, if the existence of a Peace Tax Fund eventually created a change in Congress' spending priorities, think of how much more money would be available for life-giving programs that would improve health care, nutrition, education, and environmental care around the world.

Please, even if you're not a Congressional District Contact*, talk to the people and the organizations you know who might support the Peace Tax Fund. Keep mentioning it to them. Why not carry a Peace Tax Fund petition with you at all times (consider keeping at least one in the glove compartment of your car)? Do all you can to raise (and maintain) awareness of the Peace Tax Fund Bill. You don't necessarily have to do much, just do SOMETHING! Take it from one who didn't do much of anything about it until recently. In the meantime, I'm going to try to practice what I preach and keep talking to Representative Hoyer's office and my church about the Peace Tax Fund Bill.



*Of course, we'd love for you to become a CDC!

Revisiting the U.S. Military Budget



The Bush Administration plans to request a \$33 billion budget authority increase in the military budget from fiscal 2001 to fiscal 2002.

Current spending this year is \$310.6 billion (FY 2001 "050" military budget authority), including the Pentagon and the Department of Energy.

Projected for next year is \$325.1 billion (FY 2002 "050" military budget authority), including the Pentagon and the Department of Energy as of March 2001.

With the proposed increase equalling \$343.5 billion (FY 2002 revised "050") total, including \$18.4 billion reportedly added during June 2001; \$32.9 billion is the increase from FY 2001 to FY 2002.

[Source: Office of Management & Budget, "Budget of the U.S. Government," March 2001]

Just how much IS the \$33 billion increase?

It's more than TWICE the defense budgets of all the states of concern -Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Cuba, Sudan and Syria - COMBINED (\$12.8 billion). [Source:International Institute for Strategic Studies]

It's equal to the budgets of Commerce, Interior, Labor Departments and the Environmental Protection Agency- COMBINED! (\$33.2 billion) [Spirice: Office of Management and Budget (2002 proposed budget authority)]

It tops the defense budgets of France (\$27 billion) and Germany (\$23 billion). [Source:International Institute for Strategic Studies]

It's more than the budgets of every other federal agency except for the Dept. of Education and the Dept. of Health and Human Services: Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (\$30.4 billion); Dept. of Energy (\$19 billion); Dept. of Agriculture (\$17.9); Dept. of Justice (\$19.9 billion); Dept. of Transportation (\$16.3 million); Dept. of Treasury (\$14.7 billion); and the Dept. of Veterans Affairs (\$23.4 billion) [Source: Office of Management and Budget (2002 proposed budget authority)]

It's more than the federal government spends on higher education (\$13.8 billion) and law enforcement - COMBINED (\$27.4 billion)! [Source: Office of Management and Budget (2002 projected budget authority)]

It's greater than the entire international affairs budget, including foreign military aid (\$23.3 billion). [Source: Office of Management and Budget (2002 projected budget authority)]

It's greater than the Gross Domestic Products of over one-third of the individual nations in world (70 total) including: Bolivia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, El Salvador, Honduras, Jordan, North Korea, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Senegal, Slovenia, Sudan, Uganda, Uruguay and Zimbabwe.

by John Isaacs, Council for a Livable World, 110 Maryland Avenue, NE - Room 409, Washington, D.C. 20002, (202) 543-4100 x.131, www.clw.org

Sources: International Institute for Strategic Studies, Department of Defense

The Bomb in your Heart

~ 77 Approaches to its Safe Disposal

BY TOM KIERANS


John Hume, the Northern Ireland politician and Nobel Peace Prize winner, often speaks of the need for residents of Northern Ireland to break down the walls in their hearts before they can expect to knock down the physical walls dividing their communities. Similarly, for Colman McCarthy, “nonviolence is as much about getting the bombs out of our hearts as it is about getting them out of the global arsenal.”

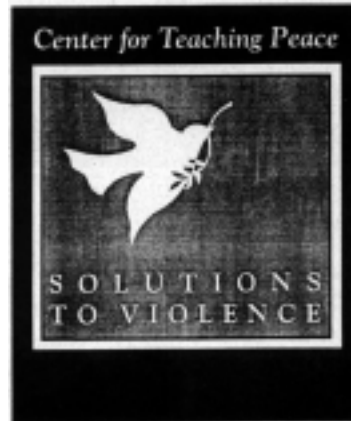
Colman McCarthy is a Washington journalist who has written for The Washington Post since 1968. He is also the founder and director of the Center For Teaching Peace, a non-profit group that helps schools begin or broaden peace studies programs. In the introduction to his recent book *Solutions to Violence*, Mr. McCarthy invites readers to absorb the anthology of essays intellectually, accepting or rejecting them but, at the least, considering them. It seemed to me, though, that reading the essays of Gandhi, King, Tolstoy (and very many others) gathered in *Solutions to Violence* was more of a meditation than an intellectual challenge.

When I opened the book, I went straight to the chapter about war and taxes and was pleased to see *On the Duty of Civil Disobedience* by Thoreau, along with essays on war tax resistance and peace activ-

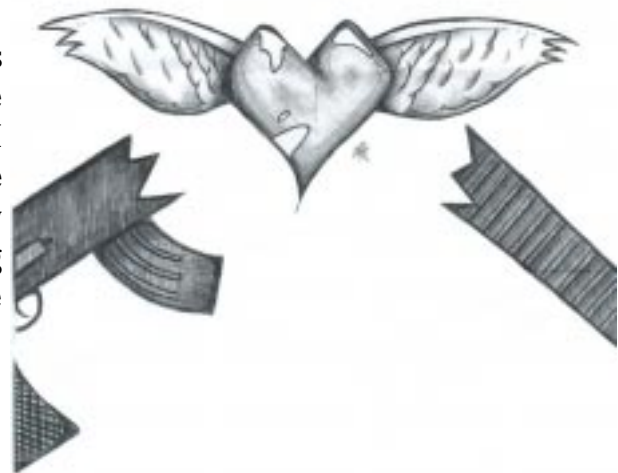
ism in the courts. Those six essays convey very well the assault on their consciences that military spending is to pacifists. It is easy to read political views with which you agree and it was a pleasure to browse the contents and find so many respected familiar names. The book's real value to me, however, was the gathering of the words of these great authors, addressing interactions from speeches on the world stage to everyone's internal conversations. It is so worthwhile to read about non-violence from so many more perspectives than the merely political context in which our work normally resides.

Each chapter addresses an aspect of living non-violently (children, feminism, family, death, etc.), with a Colman McCarthy essay preceded by several other thought-provoking works. As a collection of 77 essays, the book reminded me of all the

books I have been meaning to read and the contemplation often buried by routine hustle. I am grateful for Prof. Jobie Riley's recent *Quarterly Update* article which brought this book to my attention. If you feel that you don't really have the time to read a book like this, that is the reason you should purchase it from the Center for Teaching Peace, 4501 Van Ness Street, NW, Washington DC 20016. 



My picture represents the freedom found when the bonds of violence and war are broken. The heart is the compassion and peace which gives you wings to fly. I chose wings because I often look into the sky while standing in formation here in the Army, noticing how clear and uncluttered the sky is compared to everything around me on the ground, and how birds seem so free to explore and travel almost anywhere with their wings. The wings are also spread open as a loving embrace.



By Michael Pitre, a soldier seeking separation from the military as a conscientious objector to war.

Help! Intern Needed!

JOB TITLE: Outreach and Development Assistant for the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund.

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS: Ability to work independently under the direction of Outreach and Development Director and secondarily with the Executive Director. Ability to use computer word processing and email. Ability to use data base programs and ability to do network maintenance, computer trouble-shooting or system administration is highly desirable. (The office uses a network of 5 Apple Macintoshes). Ability to write articles and edit literature (eg. pamphlets). Must give attention to detail. Must be courteous on the phone. Staff persons at NCPTF must have a basic understanding of the concept of conscientious objection and have a sympathy for those who feel they must resist cooperation with a system contrary to their beliefs. Previous office experience necessary.

DESCRIPTION: The work done by the intern is flexible and is significantly determined by the interests and skill of the intern. Some of the main areas that can be worked in are outreach, development, grassroots organizing, writing literature, world wide web, lobbying coordination, attending conferences and meetings and networking, publicity, computer and network administration. General office work is also required (eg. mailing literature, answering phones).

COMPENSATION: Applicants are encouraged to apply through a service placement agency, which could supply the interns with housing, health insurance, and a small stipend. Otherwise, a subsistence stipend and benefits are available through the NCPTF office. Please contact the office for information on service agencies.

TO APPLY: Send a resume with a cover letter marked "Internship application" to NCPTF, 2121 Decatur Place, NW, Washington DC 20008. Your cover letter should include why you are interested in working for this organization.

INTERNSHIP BALANCE AND SCOPE: The purpose of the internship is for the organization to provide a working environment in which the intern has freedom to learn about the field while doing work for the organization. Additionally, since financial compensation is minimal, the organization seeks to enable the intern to use time (ideally 6-12 months) and resources to do projects for personal enrichment that are not urgently needed for the organization. Toward personal enrichment, the intern may also select certain projects which are needed by the organization and dictated by the long-term plan/mission/Board of Directors, but take more time on them than "needed" in order to learn more from them. The longer the intern stays with the organization, the more in depth his or her project can be. The details of the balance and scope should be considered before the intern is hired, which the staff and prospective intern will discuss.




WE'RE NOT BUYING IT! - Return the Tax Refund Check Project

What it is: An opportunity to: empower ourselves by using our tax refund checks in a constructive way by choosing where they go; make known our opposition to the federal administration's policy of improving the lot of the rich at the expense of the poor; work with each other in a simple, concrete and positive way.

How it works: We get the word out through newsletters, church bulletins, e-mails, word-of-mouth, announcements at conferences and gatherings; we endorse our checks and make them out to a non-profit organization of our choice and send the check to them; we write a letter describing our action and stating our motivation (perhaps with a copy of the check on the back?) to the White House and send copies to our representatives and others of our choice; we organize public events for the media, press conference, interviews etc. showing our checks

and how we've endorsed them; in deference to those of low-income, we ask those who cannot afford to donate the funds to boycott the mall and use the money to lower their credit card debt; we show a fancy list of names of people who've joined the project and send this list to the White House.

Needed: People to give time and energy to: organize, publicize, donate minimal funds for paper, printing, and mailing costs, prepare lists of non-profit organisations and their addresses.

For more information on this idea, please contact: Peace House, 543 South Mountain, PO Box 524, Ashland, OR 97520. Tel (541) 482 9625. E-mail peacehse@mind.net 


(continued from page 1)

do nothing other than support the original Bush plan, so no additions or subtractions. I got into the Finance Committee Chair's office (Chuck Grassley R-IA) all right and had a good conversation with an aide, but was not given much hope that it could get into the current Mark-up. I went over to the conference room where the committee was working late (after 6pm) and got to talk around a bit casually to find out that the Republicans had this thing in their control and would not consider new things. They had a list of amendments proposed by each member of the committee (I picked up a copy) and Gramm was listed with nothing but space (no amendments of any sort proposed). The next day, I went to the conference room where the Democrats were working on this & talked to D-MT Max Baucus' aide; it turns out that Baucus is now the chair. His aide told me that I was a "day late" as they say since they had to have their suggestions in by noon the previous day. Still, he was receptive and spent some time talking about the merits of HR 1186. He also told me the contact person in Harkin's office, so I talked to him and also to Harkin (D-IA) at length the next day.

Harkin's aide, and later that day R-IA Representative Leach's aide (both avid supporters), independently said the same thing. We need to "button hole" several Congressmen before bringing this up for a vote. There was some question about why we had not circulated the need to write Congress in our newsletters and why the Quaker groups that they knew supported it were not organizing any attempt to make Congress aware of it. "That spade work has simply not been done" one told me.

Mr Doggett's aide told me that Doggett has a policy of not co-sponsoring bills that he did not help write. I think that is the sort of point that we can work on, that we need his co-sponsorship if he is in fact "on board with it" or "fully supports it" or whatever I was told. So the Austin Conscientious Objectors to War Taxes has been independently organizing a meeting with Doggett in Austin (we think that Mr Doggett's aide might be there). While I was in DC,

they were lining up Episcopal & Catholic priests as well as a UU minister and so forth for this meeting. There are only 41 members of the House Ways & Means Committee, and I am not sure why more follow-up meetings in the local cities of most of them could not be similarly arranged.

I personally had meaningful conversations with about 35 Senator's aides (plus several Senators), many of whom were mildly supportive or open-minded. Also, every Representative from Texas, Kentucky, on the Ways & Means Committee, Chicago, and a few assorted others. In all, maybe 100 reps. Chet Edwards had an aide who was apologetic that they had not done something about this before. Minority Whip Tom DeLay's aide was about neutral to luke warm, and I was writing down the bible quotes from Tom's personal office wall hangings where we were meeting as I commented on the biblical support for this religious freedom bill. Ron Paul (an MD) had an aide that was shocked he had not heard about it yet. He interrupted me to say that he was 100% for it and that he thought it would help people see more about where their taxes went and that he was totally in favor of giving this treatment to other things in the budget as well. 

22, and counting...

Thanks very much for all your work during and around our lobby day!

Rep Blumenauer, Earl	Rep Leach, James A.
Rep Clay, Wm. Lacy	Rep Lee, Barbara
Rep DeFazio, Peter A.	Rep McGovern, James P.
Rep Delahunt, William D.	Rep Miller, George
Rep Eshoo, Anna G.	Rep Norton, Eleanor Holmes
Rep Farr, Sam	Rep Oberstar, James L.
Rep Fattah, Chaka	Rep Payne, Donald M.
Rep Frank, Barney	Rep Pelosi, Nancy
Rep Frost, Martin	Rep Rivers, Lynn N.
Rep Hinchey, Maurice D.	Rep Sanders, Bernard
Rep Hoeffel, Joseph M.	Rep Woolsey, Lynn C.

Thanks especially to members in Portland (OR-3) who secured Rep. Blumenauer's first time support!



NATIONAL CAMPAIGN
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FOR THE SAKE OF CONSCIENCE

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Toll-free: 1-800-379-2679

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Conscience Gets a Fair Hearing at 107th Congress - Fair Legislation Still Required

On May 16, 2001, citizens from Texas to New England came to Washington DC to press politicians to recognize and respect the rights of conscience. As the culmination of a nationwide letter writing campaign, individuals visited approximately 100 Representatives and Senators, asking them to recognize their freedom of conscience and religious practice by passing a bill to end draft registration and by enacting the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund bill.

The National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund (NCPTF) is campaigning for the right of conscientious objectors to pay their full federal taxes without paying for the military. The Center on Conscience and War (CCW) is working for the end of draft registration. Members and supporters of both organizations will participated in this joint lobby day on May 16.

Participants were very encouraged by the professional and cordial meetings they had with congressional staffers. For some supporters, this was their first opportunity to walk the halls of Congress and 'speak truth to power'; the receptions ranged from being "like a cold shower" to "a very positive experience". Aides were reportedly well informed about these issues of conscience and supporters of NCPTF and CCW were encouraged to be able to engage in substantive discussions with staffers about the merits of the bills. Some found that interest focussed on 'peace' aspects of the bills, while others resonated with the religious freedom arguments presented. Several participants reported that face-to-face lobbying for these bills "felt like it was making a real difference".

"The 107th Congress is a fresh opportunity to address these concerns in a new way. These bills cost nothing and will facilitate the freedom of conscience and religion of all citizens. We were very pleased to be able to engage so many congressional offices today," said Marian Franz, Executive Director of NCPTF.

"This was an important day of action for both organizations," said J.E. McNeil, Executive Director of CCW. "But the campaigning is still gathering momentum; we need all our supporters to continue to write and visit their political representatives".

For further information (and draft letters), please contact:

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(202) 483 3751
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www.peacetax.com

or

J.E. McNeil
Executive Director, CCW
(202) 483-2220
www.nisbco.org

Simple Truth on the World Stage

Oral testimony of CPTI to the UN Human Rights Commission, 57th Session

Mr. Chairman,

My name is Bart Horeman and I speak on behalf of Conscience and Peace Tax International. This is the first time that a representative of Conscience and Peace Tax International has had the opportunity to speak to the Commission on Human Rights. I thank you for this opportunity.

When I am speaking on behalf of Conscience and Peace Tax International, I represent several thousand people around the world, who have one thing in common: we object to pay for war. We are Conscientious Objectors. We are Conscientious Objectors because we are forced by our governments to pay taxes that are spent for military purposes. Our governments force us to take part in war preparation. We cannot contribute to war or the preparation for war with either our bodies or our money. This is a matter of conscience, of our deepest beliefs. However, we are not allowed to have freedom of conscience in this respect, we are not allowed to live according to our deepest beliefs and to commit ourselves to be completely peaceful. Governments force us to pay for war and war preparation. We are forced to contribute our tax money to bombings, killings, and to the upkeep and further development of weapons of mass destruction. Thus we are made accomplices to the killing of fellow human beings and our right to be peaceful and to live according to our consciences is denied.

If we object to pay taxes for war and war preparation, we may be imprisoned, our bank accounts and our properties may be confiscated, and even our homes may be seized. This is not fiction. Several conscientious objectors have been imprisoned for refusal to pay taxes for war. Roger Franklin from the United Kingdom has been imprisoned twice. Several Conscientious Objectors have had their properties confiscated and were forced to buy them back. Mr. and Mrs. Kehler in the United States have had their house seized by the US Internal Revenue Service. Only thanks to large local support have they been able to buy back their home and to try to live according to their deepest beliefs.

We do not question the right of a state to impose taxes on its citizens but we do question the right of a state to

make its citizens accomplices in killings and in war preparations. We want to stand up for our rights as human beings not to be forced to pay for war, because it is our sincerest belief that neither we ourselves have the right to kill, nor that we have the right to pay others to kill in our names.

Not only do we see this as our human right; we feel that it is part of our human duty to work for peace and to pay for peace. In front of the Commission of Human Rights we want to stress the importance of the link between human rights and human duties. We have welcomed the resolution of the UN to declare the first decade of the new millennium as a Decade of a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World. Indeed, we all have a duty to teach our children how to live peacefully. However, we must make sure that this call for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence is not an

“This is not a fiction”

empty phrase. We cannot teach our children to be nonviolent and at the same time force them to take part in military training and other war preparations. How can we tell our children that it is their human duty to be peaceful, when at the same time our governments deny them the right to be completely peaceful?

Mr. Chairman, we welcome the resolutions that the Commission has adopted on conscientious objection to military service. We also welcome the Commission's decision to have a report of best practices of national legislation. We hope that this will encourage countries to bring their legislation in line with the Commission's standards on conscientious objection to military service. We feel that eventually this will provide room for people who are determined to be peaceful, not to be forced against their conscience to take part in war and war preparations.

Yet there is not one single country in the world that has recognized the right of its citizens not to pay for war. Therefore Conscience and Peace Tax International turns to the Commission on Human Rights to request full legal recognition of our right not to pay for war and not to be made accomplices in killings.

I thank you for listening, Mr. Chairman.



*Delivered by Bart Horeman, CPTI
4 April 2001*

Letter from the UN

BY ROSA COVINGTON PACKARD

The National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund (NCPTF) is the U.S. member of Conscience and Peace Tax International (CPTI). Marian Franz, Rosa Packard Covington, and John Randall, who are board members of the NCPTF, represent CPTI at the United Nations in New York. Quarterly Update carries Rosa's regular 'Letter from the UN' column.

Today was the first visit in a few weeks because of time spent in Washington with the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund and the Center on Conscience and War and with meetings in New York and at the UN for Friends Peace Teams Coordinating Committee. John Randall and I attended the morning and afternoon sessions of NGO's (non-governmental organizations) Working with Permanent Missions to the UN: The observations of some participants were as follows;

Stella Arthur, Programme Officer of the NGO Liaison Service. Ms Arthur reaffirmed the Millennium Statements by Kofi Annan saying that all member states are giving greater attention to civil society, noting also that member states support this cooperation in varying degrees. NGO's need current accurate information and need to attend open meetings to stay *au courant*. She advised studying the roles of members of government delegations and how they divide up their work so as to address our concerns to the appropriate person. There are increasing numbers of web sites of different missions with contact information and their latest positions. If an NGO provides information with a high quality of analysis and research this can lead to a strong partnership but it is unwise to speak beyond your authority. NGO's are now working with the Security Council for the first time. Copenhagen and Beijing include NGO representatives in their official delegation with the right to speak on behalf of the government on certain issues.

Mehmet Levent Bilman, counselor from Turkey to UN. Mr. Bilman is chair of the ECOSOC Committee on NGO's that gives and takes away that status. The committee has an 800 backlog of NGO applications for ECO-SOC status. He reminded us that group approaches are more influential and that accurate information and seasoned wording is particularly helpful to small delegations. He noted that a new form of global governance is developing. In the past, international norms were created by governments. Now there are examples of NGO's setting norms: drafting agreements, conventions, and documents such as the Law of the Sea Treaty, the Landmine Convention and the International Criminal Court. It is important for NGO's to understand the rules of procedure that governments must abide by in the UN setting.

Jack Patterson, Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers). He opened his remarks by saying that "where you stand often depends on where you sit; we are captives of our experience and it is important to be clear as NGO's about who we are and who we are not. Mr. Patterson described the problem some NGO's experience with government delegations, since there are so many unfamiliar NGO's lobbying each country. " You can't always tell what an NGO is by its name, or for that matter a government: A republic may be dictatorship. A kingdom may be a democracy. So missions may have a problem knowing who you are. They must distinguish between credible groups and incredible groups. NGO's that are clear about their identity and mission can better assess their access points to missions. Many missions are small and need thoughtful attention that is useful and doesn't overburden a very small staff. Sharing information that is credible may be very helpful to them. Quakers try to offer grease (facilitation and connecting people) heat (plain language that is clear and relevant) and light (education and standing for moral and spiritual principles.)"

I also attended many other events, including a session as part of the program for the PrepCom for the Special Session on Children. Conscience and Peace Tax International held the panel presentation and discussion on "Educating Children About Their Right to Conscientious Objection. The program was also supported by the Peace Caucus at the United Nations and the Fellowship of Reconciliation and was held during June. Panelists were: Michael Hovey (Pax Christi International and the Center on Conscience and War); Douglas Hostetter (The Historic Peace Churches and the Bosnian Student Project); Ibrahim Ramey (The Muslim Peace Fellowship and The Center on Conscience and War); Janet Chisholm (The Episcopal Peace Fellowship and the Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Sake of the Children of the World); Betty Reardon (New Profile (Jewish Peace Fellowship) and the Global Campaign for Peace Education). Marian Franz (NCPTF) made welcoming remarks and I moderated the session. A two part tape recording is being transcribed and edited will soon be available.



Every Church a Peace Church

Recently Marian (NCPTF's Executive Director) and I attended a meeting of the organization called "Every Church a Peace Church" (ECAPC). ECAPC, founded by John Stoner, suggests that "The church could turn the world toward peace if every congregation lived as Jesus lived and taught." ECAPC tries to involve not only the historical peace churches, but Christians of different denominations and traditions. A major emphasis is "to encourage personal and congregational decision to act positively for peace." To this end, they offer suggestions and resources to individuals and congregations that wish to support and promote peacemaking in the world.

I have an idea for the Peace Tax Fund: a Congregational Contact Program, which could operate on a similar principle for any religious group (as some Mennonite congregations are doing). Congregational Contacts would agree to represent the Peace Tax Fund to their individual congregations, keeping the issue fresh in members' minds, answering questions about the Peace Tax Fund, and encouraging support of the Campaign. If you are interested in becoming a Congregational Contact (or just want to discuss the possibility), please email me at jenbeall@peacetax.com, write to me at 2121 Decatur Place, NW, Washington, DC 20008, or call me at 1-888-PEACETAX (732-2382). If you are interested in finding out more about Every Church a Peace Church, visit them on the web at <http://www.ecapc.org> or call them at 717-859-1958.

BY JENNIFER BEALL




Your Mission, Should You Choose to Accept It..

...is to spend the next 4 weeks eating all the food you'll need this year.

Well, OK, perhaps your time is better spend writing a letter to Congress about the need for a peace tax fund bill, but did you know that the majority of our income is received in December every year? We are always delighted at the financial equivalent of a giant hamburger every year but by the time summer comes the idea of a regular snack is very appealing.

We really appreciate the very generous support you give us every year and you know that without your help there would be nobody campaigning for the rights of conscientious objectors to military taxation. Before every December comes, though, we have to guess what our income will be and make tentative plans accordingly.

If you think that instead of a large annual donation, you could give a smaller monthly donation, please contact the office. We have established a simple new facility to accept monthly donations by either check or credit card.

However you support our work, thank you very much! 



Click Here for Non-violence

On 15 May 2001 -- International Conscientious objectors Day -- the European-based War Resisters' International launched <http://wri-irg.org>. This is a new version of their earlier site and is well worth a visit.



Attn: IRS

Enclosed is my 2001 tax return & payment. Please take note of the attached article from USA Today newspaper. In the article, you will see that the Pentagon is paying \$171.50 for hammers and NASA has paid \$600.00 for a toilet seat.

Please find enclosed four toilet seats (value \$2,400) and six hammers (value \$1,029). This brings my total payment to \$3429.00. Please note the overpayment of \$22.00 and apply it to the Presidential Election fund," as noted on my return. Might I suggest you the send the above mentioned fund a 1.5 inch screw." (See attached article...HUD paid \$22.00 for a 1.5 inch phillips head screw.)

It has been a pleasure to pay my tax bill this year, and I look forward to paying it again next year.

Sincerely,
A satisfied taxpayer

*Received by e-mail.
Original author unknown.*



From www.sinkers.org, "A DANCING GAGGLE OF FLAT WARHEAD PLACARDS" flocks together (outside the White House) as the rally gathers for its "class picture", so that in a few years, when this rally draws twenty or thirty thousand people, these folks will know they were the cool ones" that came out the first year.



Hiroshima-Nagasaki Observance

An annual observance in Hiroshima always centers on 8:15 AM Aug. 6, the time when the atomic bomb exploded over that city. When it is 8:15 AM in Hiroshima, it will be 7:15 PM Sunday, Aug. 5, on the U.S. east coast. We are centering our observance at Kings Bay on that time, so that we will be in real time solidarity with those in Hiroshima. For more information, contact Robert Randall at 912-262-1274 or Sam Marshall at 478-452-9540. For more on the Aug. 4-5 actions in Oak Ridge, go to www.stopthebombs.org



One Person, One Vote

How to have politicians ask “What Can I Do For You?”

BY JENNIFER BEALL

Harold Guetzkow, at 85, is perhaps an unlikely lobbyist. Actually, the Peace Tax Fund bill is the only legislation for which he has ever lobbied. Thanks to him, Mike Honda of California's 15th congressional district has agreed to cosponsor the bill. Harold proves that ordinary people can influence members of Congress; as he points out, they get into office because of our votes!

Harold is also an unlikely pacifist. His parents were not pacifists. In fact, when asked, he was unable to name any pacifist role models in his life. When he was a child, his parents, who were not particularly interested in religion, sent him to a Presbyterian Sunday school. He figures they just wanted to get rid of him on Sunday mornings. Pacifism was not part of the curriculum.

Still, Harold says he was in a “pacifist groove.” One theory he offers is that pacifism is in his genes (I guess those genes must have skipped at least one generation to get to him). A World War I picture book with very graphic drawings that he was given as a child helped to establish his position. Upon looking at these drawings, Harold decided that he would never kill.

Harold was a Conscientious Objector in World War II. After the war he became a professor of International Affairs at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Of his two sons, only one was a Conscientious Objector; the other never had to face the question and, as he is more conservative, is not sure whether or not he would have sought CO status.

Harold, who lives in San Jose, California, believes in the value of getting to know one's member of Congress. He is in California's 15th congressional district, represented by the newly elected Mike Honda. Honda, a Japanese-American, who was put in an internment camp as a child. Later, he joined the Peace Corps, which sent him to El Salvador.

Harold liked what Mike Honda had done as a California state senator and decided he would make a good Congressman; he also figured he might be willing to become a cosponsor of the Peace Tax Fund bill. About six months before the November 2000 election,

he began to work for Honda's campaign one day a week. After a day of campaign work, Harold often stood outside the campaign headquarters waiting for his ride home. On occasion, Honda came out and “comforted” him. In this way, they got to know each other. (Harold points out that, as the only 85-year-old with a walker who worked on the campaign, he was easy to notice!)

Months after the election, Harold received a thank-you letter from Mike Honda which asked if he could do anything for Harold. The answer, of course, was that he could cosponsor the Peace Tax Fund bill! As a follow-up, Harold, who was on the East coast for his son's graduation from Columbia University, took part in our May 16th lobby day. He and Marian Franz lobbied an aide in Mike Honda's Washington office. Then Harold arranged to meet with Honda in his office in California. Before the scheduled date of the meeting, the appointment secretary in Honda's office called Harold and suggested that the meeting take place at Harold's home. During this visit, Honda agreed to cosponsor the bill, then took some time to speak individually with about thirty other people who live in Harold's community.

Harold used to live in California's 14th congressional district, which is Anna Eshoo's district; Eshoo is a former cosponsor of the Peace Tax Fund bill who has yet to sign on in this Congress. and she is the current focus of Guetzkow's lobbying. True to his pattern, he got to know Anna Eshoo on a personal level while he lived in her district; they have had a long-term relationship. She has called him “the conscience of her district.” During his visit to Washington, DC, Harold dropped by Eshoo's office and left her a note; in her response, she asked what she could do for Harold. As he had with Mike Honda, he asked that she cosponsor the bill. He took a copy of the bill to her California office and we just learned that Rep. Eshoo has decided to cosponsor the bill!

Why not follow Harold's example and get to know your Representative and Senators? Convince them of the strength of your beliefs. Then you, too, may be able to tell your family and friends that you have influenced national legislation!



Books

<i>Seeking Peace</i> , a new book from the Bruderhof, \$15.00.....	_____	_____
<i>Communities of Conscience: Collected Statements on Conscience and Taxes for Military Preparation</i> , 2nd edition, \$7.95.....	_____	_____
<i>War Tax Resistance: A Guide to Withholding Your Support from the Military</i> , 4th edition edited by Ruth Benn, \$12.00.....	_____	_____
<i>Questions that Refuse to Go Away</i> , by Marian Franz, \$5.95.....	_____	_____
<i>The Tax Dilemma: Praying for Peace, Paying for War</i> , by Donald Kaufman, \$4.95.....	_____	_____
<i>Why I Am a Conscientious Objector</i> , by John M. Drescher, \$4.95.....	_____	_____
<i>Handbook on Military Taxes and Conscience</i> , produced by Friends Committee on War Tax Concerns, \$2.00.....	_____	_____

Tools for Peace Tax Fund Activists

Basic Questions and Answers about the PTF Bill brochure (new) \$0.10 each...	_____	_____
<i>Activist Guide: Speaking for Conscience</i> , \$9.95.....	_____	_____
Text of the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill, \$.20 each.....	_____	_____
Peace Tax Fund Basic Brochure, \$.10 each	_____	_____
<i>What would you do if your beliefs were declared illegal?</i> Penny flyer, \$0.03 each.....	_____	_____
<i>Conscientious Objector</i> . Poem by Edna St. Vincent Millay, \$0.25.....	_____	_____
<i>Paying for Peace</i> . Peace tax campaigns throughout the world, \$5.00.....	_____	_____
<i>Stages of Conscientious Objection to Military Taxation</i> , \$0.20 each.....	_____	_____
Buttons: "Taxes for Peace Not War" or Dove with Leaf (circle one), \$0.50.....	_____	_____
NCPTF Poster: Dove and Planet Earth, \$1.00.....	_____	_____
Back issues of the Quarterly Update newsletter (\$1.00).....	_____	_____
Bibliography/ Contacts relating to the Peace Tax Fund and War Tax Resistance - compiled for the VIII International Conference, July, 2000 - (\$0.50)	_____	_____

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Guest writers are invited to contribute to this publication. If you are interested in writing an article (particularly on an international theme) please contact the NCPTF office.



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The National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund advocates for legislation enabling conscientious objectors to war to pay their federal taxes without violating their beliefs about not participating in the military. Contact us at the address above or at (202) 483-3751; toll free: (888) PEACE-TAX; Fax: (202) 986-0667; Email: info@peacetax.com; Website: www.peacetax.com. Printed on recycled paper.

Issue ii/2001

NCPTF Board Changes

Elected to the Board of NCPTF this spring were new members Duane Grady, of Anderson, Indiana, and Steve Ratzlaff, of Lincoln., Nebraska. Re-elected to another two-year term were Rosa Packard, Ben Richmond, Kim McDowell, and Jeff Heie. The Board regretfully received the resignation of Mary Miller and thanked outgoing officers and members. Officers for the coming year are Herb Myers (Chair), Steve Ratzlaff (Vice-Chair), Ann Wilcox (Secretary), and John Randall (Treasurer.)

The Nominating Committee of the Board welcomes both informal suggestions for new members, and nominations (by signature of at least five NCPTF members) for the ballot in the coming year. We would like to add diversity to the Board, and invite your ideas.



Peace Tax Fund Fact Sheet

The Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill would allow conscientious objectors to pay their full federal taxes into a separate fund which could not be used to support the military.

Conscientious objectors are people whose consciences forbid participation in war in any form, because of their deeply held religious or moral beliefs.

In the 106th Congress, the Bill was introduced to the **House** by Rep. John Lewis (D-GA-5th) and had 28 cosponsors. The Bill is expected to be introduced to the House soon and we will publish the number for the 107th Congress as soon as it is available.

Contact Points

Senator _____

U.S. Senate

Washington, DC 20510

Representative _____

U.S. House

Washington, DC 20515

Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

President George W. Bush

The White House

Washington, DC 20500

White House Comment Line: (202) 456-1414

White House Fax: (202) 456-2883

