



NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR A PEACE TAX FUND

Update

Quarterly

Conscientious Objector to Be Court-martialed

The U.S. Air Force has decided that Lt. Dennis Lipton - whose application for discharge as a Conscientious Objector was turned down in late December, 1998, after an 18-month process - will be court-martialed for failing to follow orders. Those orders were to wear the uniform and participate in training, activities which Dennis Lipton cannot do because of his beliefs and convictions which prevent him from participating in any way in the mission of the air force.

Dennis Lipton first became involved with the Air Force in April, 1993, as a way to help pay for medical school. After months of struggling with his beliefs, he became a conscientious objector (CO) while attending medical school in Houston, Texas. His convictions grew from his experiences treating patients who were victims of violence and war. He questioned whether he could participate in and sanction war when, as a physician, he was bound by the Hippocratic Oath.

In June, 1997, he submitted his application for classification and discharge as a conscientious objector, along with an offer to repay all the money the Air Force had spent on him, or to work in an unarmed branch of government such as the public health service. The investigating officer set up for his case recommended disapproval of his application for discharge as a CO, and Dennis was notified in January, 1999, that his application was rejected. The Air Force concluded he was not a conscientious objector because of a brief disappointment when he wasn't selected for a pathology residency. They believed that his application was simply a maneuver to get out.

Dennis then received orders to report to Gunter AFB in Alabama for four weeks of military training. He did report, not wanting to undermine a Habeus Corpus appeal of his case that was underway in the court system. However, his convictions were stronger than ever and he knew his conscience would not allow him to

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Success Happens Every Day

In a conversation with a recent addition to our Board of Directors, Jeff Heie, I was reminded of how important relationships are to any work for peace and freedom. Jeff is a young adult completing his Master's degree in Conflict Transformation at Eastern Mennonite University.

Jeff says that serving on the Board of NCPTF can sometimes make him feel distant from his constituency. He strives to connect his work with the centralized office to his grassroots activism; he frequently talks to people in his hometown of Harrisonburg, Virginia about the Bill and its recent

progress. "People in Harrisonburg need to stay aware of the long-term effort," he says.

Jeff has noticed that the staff's Washington lobbying, for a local activist like him, can seem disconnected from grassroots initiatives. This may be because we associate lobbyists with powerful people trying to wield influence for their own direct or indirect gain. Our strength comes from the fact that we are not just a constituency working for our own gain. COs are not soothing their consciences, but activating them.

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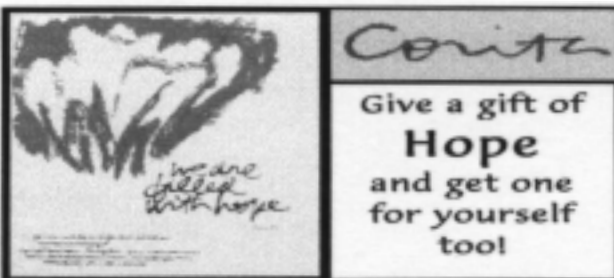
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Peacemaker Congress , December 27-30

Peacemaker Congress V, December 27-30, will be on the theme "From 'Redemptive' Violence to Active Nonviolence." Participants will have the opportunity to engage in nonviolence training and a faith-based public witness at office of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) calling for a Jubilee forgiveness of third world debt, to hail the dawning of the new millennium. Sponsored by Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) and New Call to Peacemaking, this fifth Congress will be held at the Luther Place Memorial Church at 1226 Vermont Avenue NW (14th and N Streets) in Washington, DC.

Long-time peace workers Kathy Kelly and Anne Montgomery will address the gathering. Kelly is a tireless nonviolent activist and educator who has participated extensively in international and domestic peace team efforts including CPT. She currently coordinates the Chicago-based Voices in the Wilderness campaign to end the UN/US sanctions against Iraq. Montgomery, editor of "Swords into Plowshares," has lived her commitment to nonviolence through years of active peacemaking from her base in New York. She has served with Christian Peacemaker Teams full-time in Hebron, West Bank for the past four years.

Registration and the cost of simple, vegetarian meals at the Congress are \$85 per person for those pre-registering prior to November 15; \$100 after that date. If you bring your own towel and bedding, you can sleep on a mattress and take showers at the National Christian Church, where Congress registration will take place, for \$10 per night., or at another local church without a mattress or shower facilities) for \$5/night. Alternatively, stay at the nearby International Youth Hostel includes showers and bedding on bunk beds (@ 15-20 per room) for \$20 per night, or with a local host family (donation to family). For further information, contact John K. Stoner, 728 Fulton St., Akron PA 17501, phone: (717) 859-3388 or 859-1958 (answering machine), or E-mail: jkstoner@ptd.net



(C) Corita Art Center, Immaculate Heart Community. "hope"

Silk screen reproductions of Sister Corita Kent's "hope" with a dedication by the artist:
"for our world and our children the Plowshares Eight.
Daniel Berrigan, Philip Berrigan, Dean Hammer, Father Carl Kabat, Elmer Maas, Anne Montgomery, Molly Rush, John Schuchardt"

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16"x20" 3 color serigraph, lilac, green and black
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The National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund The Peace Tax Foundation



Executive Director: Marian Franz
Outreach: Tom Kierans
Admin. Assist.: Shayla Mills
Intern: Rachel Harrison
Chair: E. William Galvin
Honorary Chair: David Bassett

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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.

2121 Decatur Place, NW
 Washington, DC 20008-1923

Phone: (202) 483-3751
 Toll-free: (888) PEACE-TAX
 Fax: (202) 986-0667

E-mail: peacetaxfund@igc.org

Web: <http://www.nonviolence.org/peacetax>
 Legislative Update Hotline (24 hr): (800) 550-6039

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Congressional Hearing Aides

You might be interested in a recent conversation I had while lobbying for the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill. As we sat down for the appointment the congressional aide scanned the Bill. “Interesting!” he said. “OK. Is Jane Fonda lobbying for this?” I said we had not engaged her help and did not know what her feelings might be. (One can easily be distracted by extraneous subjects.)

“Would the Bill affect the military budget?” he wondered. I said it wouldn’t. His reply, “Unless there were so many conscientious objectors (COs) that it would actually cut into the military budget.” Then a surprise, “So far there aren’t that many COs. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if there were?”

He mentioned a poster he had seen and would like to own. It had the message “Wouldn’t it be wonderful if the schools had all the money they need and the Air Force had to have a bake sale to raise funds.” (If you know where I can locate the poster, I’d like to give him one.)

Asking questions can help the listener think creatively. “What are essentials the Bill should contain?” I asked. He said it would be important to verify where the funds in the Peace Tax Fund Bill were actually placed. We noted the Bill calls for such verification.

“Congress regards issues on the basis of their cost-benefit ratio,” he said. “When COs weigh the costs of obeying their conscience, that is such a question and therefore should attract some congressional attention.”

He mused that if a majority of citizens were to use the provisions of the Peace Tax Fund Bill, it would reduce the cost of government as well. “How?” I asked. He said that citizens have a slew of beliefs: family planning, welfare, which are attempts to shift power away from the system. “Why not let taxpayers decide?” (Another opportunity to stray from the point. Such legislation is distant and is not what our Bill is about).

“Conscientious objectors,” he observed, “would actually have more power than other taxpayers because the percentage of tax money which goes to welfare, for example, is so much smaller compared to the percentage which goes for military use. Therefore fewer citizens could make a difference on the budget and the system.

“To set the Peace Tax Fund apart from other issues which people bring to Congress,” he said, “it needs to be framed as a religious issue.” Good, he saved me the trouble of making the case for the uniqueness of this issue. He sees it as possessing a greater moral magnitude than most issues. Then he said, “I wish we would receive more letters from the congressman’s home district.”



*Marian Franz is
Executive Director of
the Peace Tax Fund*

Photo: Marge Schier

In any conversation it is important to support the positive instincts of the aide or member of Congress. One can do so by defining and re-defining conscience. What are your favorites? One of mine is from the Virginia Bill for Religious Freedom, originally written by Thomas Jefferson: “Almighty God hath created the mind free and thereby exempted it from coercion.”

Additional points we can make: The International Declaration of Human Rights calls for the freedom of thought, conscience and religion. An increasing number of religious and civil rights bodies support the legislation. Do not forget the power of a story...about the treatment of COs in previous wars, about your own struggles of conscience and war; about experiences of property loss of yourself and your friends.

A good way to focus and engage the listener is to ask this basic question: *Is there a way to permit sincere conscientious objectors to pay their full tax obligation without violating deeply held religious or ethical beliefs?*

In summary:

- 1) Focus. Don’t let yourself be side-lined or distracted from your main purpose.
- 2) Ask specifically what makes or does not make the Bill acceptable.
- 3) Clarify the uniqueness which sets this apart from other issues.
- 4) Support positive instincts and comments.
- 5) Help people in your district to write letters. Remember we’re available help.
- 6) Don’t give up after one or two tries. Remember that minds are changed by repeated exposure to an idea.
- 7) Humanize the issue by telling stories.
- 8) Define conscience, and
- 9) Ask: “Is there a way.....?”

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

The US Senate recently rejected the treaty, and you've heard American reactions. The following two op/ed extracts are from leading centrist newspapers in Europe.

The Irish Times, Dublin

It would be difficult to imagine a more irresponsible decision than the US Senate's recent vote against the Comprehensive Nuclear Ban Treaty. This means it has been rejected by the US, the very power which argued for many years that it was essential to maintain order and stability among the main nuclear states and in the wider military balance around the world. Together with changes in several other bulwarks of the international nuclear weapons control regime, the decision signals a dangerous weakening of resolve to regulate them.

In the wake of the decision there have been disturbing indications that US credibility as the world's leading power has been damaged by a vote that has been compared to the refusal of the congress to ratify the Versailles treaty and endorse US membership of the League of Nations after the first World War. It certainly did not help that the decision coincided with the coup in Pakistan, which puts a military finger directly on the new nuclear button there.

The Independent, London

An eminent colleague has been warning for some time that the United States is becoming a rogue state, an irresponsible and untrustworthy power that has little respect for international norms. We should no longer laugh at him after the US Senate's rejection on Tuesday of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). This deplorable decision will be interpreted around the world as confirming that the US Congress no longer cares for arms control or the interests of other states, including America's closest allies.

Although the Clinton administration has fought hard for this Treaty, American policy is increasingly being shaped by people with isolationist, or, even worse, a supremacist agenda. They want to expand military programmes, weaken international institutions, and run the world by flaunting power. If Republican antagonism towards Clinton has been behind the decision, that only heightens the irresponsibility of the Congressional vote.

Without US support, the CTBT cannot enter into force. That can only happen after ratification by 44 states identified for their abilities to acquire nuclear weapons. Around half those states (including Britain and France) have already ratified, and the international community has been looking to the US government to lead the effort to bring Russia, China, India and others fully into the Treaty. Until Tuesday, that seemed feasible if still difficult. Today, its ability to respond to any resumption of testing, has been gravely weakened.

The US has no good reason for testing again. This is patently an attack on arms control, and not just on the test ban. America conducted more than 1,000 nuclear tests between 1945 and 1992 and has manufactured tens of thousands of warheads.

It needs no more information and experience to retain confidence in its arsenal (if Britain and France have decided they can do without testing, why not the US?). The CTBT's opponents in Washington claim that explosive testing is necessary to ensure the safety of warheads, and that the Treaty's seismic networks will not prevent states from cheating by disguising explosions. Both arguments are specious. Britain and France opposed the CTBT when the US, backed by Russia, sought its negotiation in the early 1990s. Britain was forced to change tack when the Clinton administration forbade testing in the Nevada desert in 1992, much to the chagrin of the Ministry of Defence (the testing of Trident warheads was incomplete). France was shamed into accepting the CTBT by the outcry that followed its resumption of testing at Mururoa in 1995. Both countries have since made amends. They alone among the nuclear-weapon states have ratified the Treaty (they did so on 6 April 1998). Indeed, the whole European Union is now bound by the Treaty.

The depth of European commitment was evident in last Friday's unprecedented letter of support from Chirac, Blair and Schröder to the New York Times. Britain has also been one of the main architects of the Treaty's verification system and has been prominent in setting up the organisation in Vienna charged with its management – an organisation that is headed by a German. American trust in arms control has been dented by the frustrations of dealing with Iraq, Russia, China and other recalcitrant states in recent years, and by concerns about new security threats.

The list seems to grow longer by the day. The common factors are an increasing disregard for international law and opinion, disdain for international institutions, an obsessive pursuit of self-interest, resistance to outside verification on its territory, and a desire to exploit America's technological supremacy to the full. When the world's leading power grudges its support, the whole edifice of arms control is bound to be shaken. The danger is that respect for the Non-Proliferation Treaty and other international agreements will diminish, and that it will again be open season for nuclear zealots. More than that, the co-operation between the five weapon states inside and outside the UN Security Council that has been such a feature of the post-Cold War order is in peril.

fully comply with the orders. He reported to Alabama and informed his supervisors of his pacifist beliefs and intentions not to participate in any form of military training. He refused to be involved in war training exercises and classes and refused to wear the uniform that identified him as a soldier.

In May, 1999, after several weeks of uncertainty he was told that he could submit a letter of "resignation in lieu of" (RILO) trial by court-martial, along with a cashier's check for over \$63,000, the debt he owed the government. Dennis also indicated his willingness to accept an "Other Than Honorable" discharge. He was given a job in the civil service that he could do in good conscience while waiting in Alabama. On October 10, Dennis was informed that the Secretary of the Air Force would not accept his resignation, and that he would be court-martialed. There is a strong possibility of conviction, with Dennis getting a jail sentence up to 12 years because of his CO beliefs.

Dennis Lipton has, for reasons of conviction, broken orders and the response by the Air Force appears to be motivated by a punitive mentality. However, prior to breaking orders, he stated that he would pay back the money spent on his education and would willingly serve out his commitment in civilian government service. After reporting to Alabama, he indicated that he would willingly write a letter of resignation, accept a less than honorable discharge, and submit a certified check for \$63,000. Dennis Lipton has acted in good conscience and good faith, and has tried to accommodate the Air Force and be responsible. In response, despite Dennis's base commander approving Dennis's resignation letter, higher ups in Washington have decided that Dennis needs to be punished.

The Air Force needs to take a second look at Dennis Lipton's application for CO status in light of his obvious and deep beliefs. The Air Force, at minimum, should accept Dennis's letter of resignation as a fair way to close this case with justice.

Dennis now faces potential jail time, as well as expenses of a court-martial. He has had to put up his own funds for a civilian lawyer, and he may have other expenses. Dennis does not have this money. If you would like to help by making a contribution to Dennis's defense fund, please make a check payable to Shalom Church of the Brethren [Dennis Lipton Fund,] and send it to 601 E. Highway 54, Durham, NC 27713.

“Non-cooperation with evil is as much a duty as cooperation with good.”
Mohandas K Gandhi

Letters requesting that Dennis Lipton's actions as a CO be recognized, and that his letter of resignation be accepted, should be sent to:

President Clinton
The Whitehouse
Washington DC

Representative David Price, 315 E. Chapel Hill Street, Suite 202, Durham, NC 27701
(919) 688-3004 - phone
(919) 688-0940 - fax
liaison Ms. Tracy Lovett
(Tracy.Lovett@mail.house.gov)

Senator John Edwards, 301 Century Post Office Building 300 Fayetteville Street Mall, Raleigh, NC 27601
(919)856-2425 phone
(919)856-4408 fax
liaison: Ms. Marilyn Dixon
senator@edwards.senate.gov

Office of Senator Specter
600 Arch St., Suite 9400
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Ms. Mary Clark

This article was prepared by Quaker House, 223 Hillside Ave, Fayetteville, NC 28301

The 1600 (Pennsylvania Ave) Killers

Politics can be a brutal business, and Machievelli has nothing to teach those who have engaged the military in unnecessary and unconstitutional conflicts for short-term domestic political ends. This is the charge leveled at recent US presidents by Andy Jacobs, former Democratic US Representative, in his new book *The 1600 Killers*. Mr. Jacobs describes incidents during every presidency from President Kennedy to President Clinton where soldiers have been sent into conflict unjustifiably and without congressional authority. Beginning with Mr. Jacobs' famous criticism of the Vietnam War. "Never mind whether the wars politicians drummed up had the remotest relationship to American security or even prosperity. The politicians had to show their willingness 'to protect America,' even if they had to fake the threats to America," he writes.

This criticism does not come from your average citizen. Mr. Jacobs was a marine in the Korea War and narrowly escaped death several times. Perhaps his greatest danger was when he and three colleagues were carrying an injured soldier back for medical treatment and found themselves face-to-face with Chinese soldiers; luckily the soldiers waved them on, respecting the rules of war which would become a part of international law in the form of the Geneva Conventions. Mr. Jacobs' congressional career included his membership of the Ways and Means Committee in the House, and his very welcome lead sponsorship of the Peace Tax Fund Bill.

Mr. Jacobs examines the speeches and actions of many Presidents, observing that President Johnson said, "I'm not going to let them do to me over Vietnam what they did to Harry Truman over China," and that President Nixon insisted, "I'm not going to be the first American President to lose a war." Mr. Jacobs follows the trail of blood from administration to administration, punctuating his commentary with extracts from his own speeches in the House: "How easy it is to be heroic on the House floor, but that means 'being a hero on somebody else's time.' When the call for war is made by a member of Congress in the future, let that member decide if he would be willing to give his own life in such a war."

Mr. Jacobs remembers the *USS Mayaguez* incident, which led to President Ford ordering a high-profile attack to free the U.S. ship's captured crew from Cambodian troops, de-



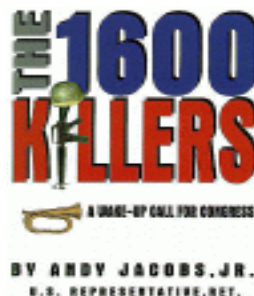
Rep. Jacobs with his family and Marian Franz

spite the fact that the crew had actually already been released. Mr. Jacobs notes that Mr. Ford had previously been struggling to compete with the militarism of then Governor Reagan. Similarly, President Carter ordered a military attack in Iran, supposedly to help release hostages, despite advice that it was likely, even if successful, to lead to the deaths of one third of the hostages. President Carter's standing in the polls was weak at the time. The theme returns again and again, president after president. *Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose* (the more things change, the more they stay the same).

The 1600 Killers is subtitled "A Wake-up Call for Congress", and Congress might do well to study this thesis. With the benefit of 33 years of congressional experience and Mr. Jacobs, as a respected thinker, makes a compelling case.

The broad message of this book is that rhetoric is cheap and can cost lives. Andy Jacobs does the reading between the lines for you, leaving you better informed and grateful that this is a better nation for his contribution.

Tom Kierans



The 1600 Killers, pp219, by Andy Jacobs Jr, is published by Alistair Press, Indiana. \$25

COs and non-COs alike lobby for NCPTF, and reach out locally in support of NCPTF, because the world will benefit when people demonstrate their convictions in their everyday life. It is the integration of belief and action that will end war.

Our belief in nonviolence is a gift to everyone around us; when we tell someone we are committed to nonviolence, we are showing him how much we value him.

When it is difficult for someone to accept our belief, part of his reaction is actually a resistance to the fact that others value his life—enough to do the difficult work of eliminating war so that he will not be forced to kill or be killed! If someone reacts antagonistically, the solution is to value that person even more!

When talking about a difficult issue to friends, we do them a service which they may not yet appreciate, but which will stay with them and become useful to them later. Jeff says he tries “to stay in conversation with people he tends

to disagree with,” which may include loved ones.

Every time you make a choice based on your long-term goal (whether it’s ending war or respecting people’s beliefs), you succeed—even if the choice is not to talk to someone about the Bill (yet!), but just to establish affinity. We don’t need to separate our message from our audience. We may think- “I could talk to that person about NCPTF,” but feel manipulative when we actually try to bring it up. It is easy to become frustrated by small talk, interactions with people that are difficult to deepen.

Listening to others will free up their attention so they can listen to us; it will create a space that’s safe for us to talk about what means a great deal to us. We aren’t risking as much as we think we are. In conversation, we can only gain.

Rachel Harrison

“Live in your beliefs and you can turn the world around.”

Henry David Thoreau

Ordinary Folks

Meet the Hall family from Alaska. Jim is a teacher, Chris is a librarian, and 4 year old Isaac “plays in rocket ships made out of scrounged refrigerator boxes”. Last April, like the last eight Aprils, they wrapped up their 1040 in a cover letter alerting the IRS that they’re redirecting half of their federal taxes to a Peace Tax Escrow Account managed by Quakers . The taxes they redirect approximate what would go to fund military debt and expenses, and they decided that voluntarily supporting the U.S. military establishment went against their deepest moral beliefs and religious teachings.

Jim was a conscientious objector during the Vietnam War and can’t understand why the same government that recognized his stance against war nevertheless forces him to pay for war. Chris strongly agreed but had wondered about the risk they would be taking in resisting war taxes.

“We carry on, waiting for the day when Congress will pass a Peace Tax bill, allowing individuals who consci-

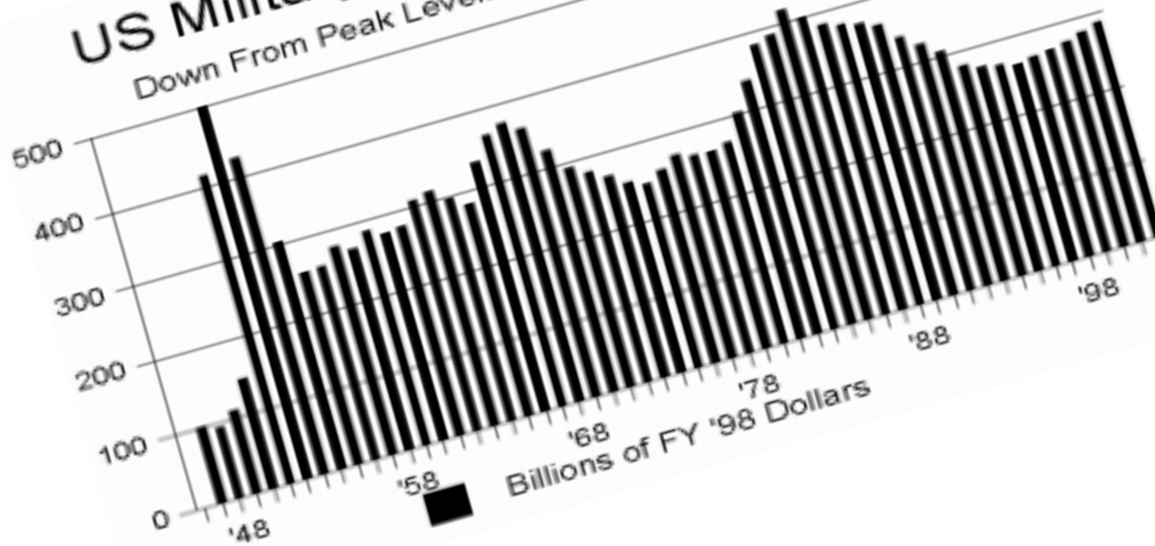


entiously object to paying for war to direct all of their federal taxes to life-giving causes,” says Jim. “ Many wonderful changes in our world - that we now often take for granted - have been started quietly by scattered individuals who acted on their beliefs in the face of overwhelming odds.”

Who are you? Please send us your story (including a picture) which we will collect in a folder and show members of Congress the faces of the consciences!

US Military Spending: 1946-2002

Down From Peak Levels-But Still at Cold War Levels



European defense budgets have dropped to an average of 2.2% of the continent's combined gross domestic product (GDP) despite a pledge by all NATO members to keep their defense expenditures at 3% of GDP (see table below). The two European allies with the highest spending in relation to the GDP — Greece and Turkey — are essentially arming to fight each other. More importantly, less than 16% of European defense spending goes towards buying new equipment (25% in the United States) while a hefty 60% of the average European military budget is spent maintaining existing troop levels (40% in the United States) (1998 figures).

NATO Defense Spending as A Percentage of the GDP (selected countries)

Belgium.....	1.5%
Denmark.....	1.6%
France	2.8%
Germany	1.5%
Greece	4.8%
Italy	2.0%
Spain	1.3%
Turkey	4.4%
Hungary	1.8%
Poland	2.4%
European average	2.2%
United States	3.3%

Sources: NATO, The Economist

	1996 World Force Levels						
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
NATO	5777	5592	5153	4903	4895	4700	4104
China	3500	3200	3160	3031	2930	2930	2935
U.S.	2181	2115	1919	1815	1715	1620	1483
USSR*/Russia	3400*	3000*	1900	1500	1400	1400	1270

(Numbers in thousands)

Sources: 1990-1995, World Military Expenditures and Arms Transfers, U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency; 1996 (through 8/1/96), The Military Balance 1996/97, The International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Congressional scrutiny of Kosovo war...

I was listening to the Senate hearings about the Kosovo War and I had expected to hear about the intimate details of the conflict, examinations of errors made and lessons learned - perhaps even addressing how NATO was a defense alliance which had acted offensively in spite of the United Nations. Instead, the conversation turned repeatedly to military spending. Were the senators and generals sheepish about the shockingly disproportionate amount of military spending? Not at all, though that should not surprise anyone. There was criticism of military spending, though; in fact it was unanimous criticism. The object of the criticism was not the grotesquely bloated U.S. military budget; it was that the Europeans should “catch up” with the U.S. and divert huge proportions of their public moneys from peace to war machines. The tough question and answer sessions went a little like this:

“Is the U.S. military simply wonderful, General?”

“Yes, Senator, and I would like to thank you for voting a huge increase in spending which was exceeded only by the President”.

“But, General (and I’m sorry to press you on this) but is the U.S. military the best in the world?”

“I understand the need for accountability, Senator, and it is my duty to report that indeed the U.S. military has more weapons than everyone else combined and that all of our weapons cost an absolute fortune and that they’re very bright and shiny indeed.”

“During the Kosovo war, were the NATO forces splendid? And if you could, General, I’d like in particular if you would address whether the U.S. forces themselves were splendid.”

“Certainly, Senator. NATO forces were splendid, but that was mainly because of the trillions of dollars the U.S. has spent for decades. The European personnel were very nice chaps, but their governments refuse to spend even a few paltry trillions of dollars.”

“Why is that, General, when they must surely see how shiny and nice their militaries could be, with so many lights and buttons and things?”

“Who can say with any certainty, Senator? All we know is that countries all over the world chooses to waste their money on education, health, and so on, instead of investing it in weaponry made in the United States.”

“Well the very least we should do for our allies must be to pressure them to increase their military spending to approximate ours, General, is this not so?”

“Without any doubt, Senator, the sooner we can persuade other countries to increase their military spending to our lunatic levels, the sooner we can all rest assured that every nation can at last achieve the ability to destroy other nations effortlessly, despite their increasingly ill and ill-informed peoples.”

“Thank you, General, for your time and your sacrifices for the greatest nation in history. Your helicopter is waiting to take you home.”

“All in the line of duty, Senator.”

Tom Kierans

What Is the *Point* of Pacifism?

War is bad. There, that's the controversy out of the way. Our hawkish friends believe that war is best avoided by intimidating other countries into submission or, failing that, inflicting sufficient horror that we will be yet more intimidating the next time a country does something of which the USA disapproves. It's a coherent strategy when couched in Orwellian terms of "defense", "security", "freedom" and "rogues", but it does tend to leave preventative diplomacy and proactive peacemaking paddling on the shore of an ocean of death threats.

So then there are pacifists who believe that there is never a good reason for war. Militarism is ugly enough to drive any thinking person to pacifism, but what would be the point? Less war? In *A Theory of Justice* (1971), John Rawls argues that "[w]hat is needed, then, is not a general pacifism but a discriminating conscientious refusal to engage in war in certain circumstances. States have not been loath to recognize pacifism and to grant it a special status. The refusal to take part in war under any conditions is an unworldly view bound to remain a sectarian doctrine. It no more challenges the state's authority than the celibacy of priests challenges the sanctity of marriage."

Indeed, he believes that pacifism can help militarism! "By exempting pacifists from its prescriptions the state may even seem to display a certain magnanimity. But conscientious refusal based on particular conflicts is another matter. For such refusal is an affront to the government's pretensions, and when it becomes widespread, the continuation of an unjust war may prove impossible."

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

If pacifism is an ineffective political tool, particularly when compared with conscientious refusal to participate in certain wars, we are left with pacifism as a personal choice arising from one's fundamental beliefs. Worthy, certainly, but of what benefit to someone under gathering storm clouds of war? If pacifism is neutral in its effect upon the prospect of war, who does it serve?

The world met Rawls' theory when it was published in 1971, and it met the idea of a Peace Tax Fund when it was first introduced as a Bill to Congress in 1972. It is momentous as a legislature's further acknowledgement of the importance of conscience to the individual, but it also addresses Rawls' concern about the conflict between the essentially private position of pacifism and the public political act of conscientious refusal. The Peace Tax Fund, which would be the sum of taxes collected from individuals who cannot pay for the military, would be announced annually. There, in the cold light of day, would be an amount of revenue destined to be spent on non-military matters for the benefit of humanity; a political act, the conscience of a nation, the vision of an attainable utopia.

How far in the future need we look to see this political act happen? Only you can answer that, because it is determined by the amount of work you are willing to do to persuade your members of Congress to support the Peace Tax Fund Bill (HR 1454), and the support you are able to give this campaign. For more information, please contact NCPTF.

Tom Kierans

Books

<i>Seeking Peace, a new book from the Bruderhof, \$15.00</i>	_____	_____
<i>Communities of Conscience: Collected Statements on Conscience and Taxes for Military Preparation, 2nd edition, \$7.95</i>	_____	_____
<i>War Tax Resistance: A Guide to Withholding Your Support from the Military, 4th edition edited by Ruth Benn, \$12.00</i>	_____	_____
<i>Questions that Refuse to Go Away, by Marian Franz, \$5.95</i>	_____	_____
<i>Downwardly Mobile for Conscience Sake, ed. Dorothy Andersen, \$10.00</i>	_____	_____
<i>Why I Am a Conscientious Objector, by John M. Drescher, \$4.95</i>	_____	_____
<i>Handbook on Military Taxes and Conscience, produced by Friends Committee on War Tax Concerns, \$2.00</i>	_____	_____
<i>What Belongs to Caesar? and The Tax Dilemma: Praying for Peace, Paying for War . Classics by Donald Kaufman, \$4.95 each or \$7.95 for both</i>	_____	_____

Tools for Peace Tax Fund Activists

The Peace Tax Petition, FREE.....	_____	_____
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Text of the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill, \$.20 each.....	_____	_____
Peace Tax Fund Basic Brochure, \$.10 each	_____	_____
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<i>Conscientious Objector. Poem by Edna St. Vincent Millay, \$0.25</i>	_____	_____
<i>Paying for Peace. Peace tax campaigns throughout the world, \$5.00</i>	_____	_____
<i>Proceedings of The Sixth International Conference on Peace Tax Campaigns and War Tax Resistance, \$6.95</i>	_____	_____
<i>Stages of Conscientious Objection to Military Taxation, \$0.20 each</i>	_____	_____
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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: peacetaxfund@igc.org; Website: www.nonviolence.org/peacetax.
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FALL 1999

Shriek!!!

The holidays are approaching, and you've just realised that you have no idea what to get for your friend? Think big and don't worry..

How many people do you know? If you were to ask them to think about their greatest ambition for the next century, would the idea of world peace be high up there? Welcome to the Every-Member-Get-A-Member program!

You know how important it is to work for peace. You know that conscience should be respected by governments. You know people who see things from your perspective but who are too busy to "join things".

Perhaps you know someone who could write a letter in support of the Peace Tax Fund Bill to their member of Congress, if only they felt confident about the facts. Why not give them a gift of membership so that they can be better informed and empowered?

If you wish to give a gift of membership to someone you know, send us the membership fee and your friend's address and we'll send them a card telling them that you wish them peace in the next century and that you have given them a gift of membership.

So that's the deal. Avoid the holiday shopping mania with a clear conscience - simply send us the \$25 membership fee and the name and address of your friend, we'll do the rest.

Enjoy the holidays!

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 **House**, the Bill was introduced by Rep. John Lewis (D-GA-5th) in the 106th Congress on April 15, along with 24 cosponsors. The new bill number is HR 1454.

In the **Senate**, we are seeking a prominent Republican lead cosponsor to join Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA) before the Bill is introduced in the 106th Congress.

Contact Points

Senator _____	Representative _____
U.S. Senate	U.S. House
Washington, DC 20510	Washington, DC 20515

Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

White House Comment Line: (202) 456-1414
White House Fax: (202) 456-2883

