



# Peace Tax Fund

## Quarterly Update

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

### Lobby Day ~ May 16 ~ Everyone Welcome! Will Conscience be Honored by the 107th Congress?

BY TOM KIERANS

**P**erhaps it would more fashionable to call it the “Million Conscience March”, if the image of marching consciences weren’t so difficult to conjure up. We’re not about being fashionable, and conscience is not subject to the trends of popular opinion. That, in a way, is the whole point.

We are delighted to witness the increasing momentum as our lobby day nears; for instance, we recently learned that a busload of activists will be coming to D.C. from Philadelphia, and we were send copies of a mountain of cards and signatures organized by Kansas-based activists who are lobbying Senator Brownback. We’re very much looking forward to welcoming you all to Washington

conscience and no amount of attempted persuasion will change that.

Though it will be a long time before a majority of people hear their consciences dictating to them as ours do to us, almost every politician has experienced being in a minority. Every legislator is entitled to the respect and accommodation that accompanies the assumption that he or she is bound by his or her conscience; we want to remind them that so is every voter, citizen and taxpayer. To set our lobbying in those terms allows the conversation to rise above the ideological mud.

(continued on page 8)

#### “Here I stand, I can do no other”

Together, we will remind Members of Congress that, whatever way the political winds blow, conscience remains stubbornly immovable. Members of Congress are motivated by ideology and political perspective, but they also understand that some of their own positions are dictated by

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### Dedication to a Cause

**R**ubin “Hurricane” Carter, the subject of several books and the recent movie entitled *The Hurricane*, was a prizefighter who spent over twenty years in prison for three murders that he did not commit. He, like many others who are wrongly imprisoned, had a right to be bitter. Nevertheless, he grew from a bitter man to one who would not let his experiences imprison him any longer. Despite the unjust treatment he received because of his race, he managed to overcome his hatred of those who had put him in prison. There is a valuable lesson in that

BY JENNIFER BEALL

for all of us. The film inspired various emotions in me, including anger (that our justice system can be and is abused in this way), embarrassment (on behalf of all European-Americans), and admiration for Carter’s strength of character. Certain events were modified for the movie portrayal, so I have relied upon James S. Hirsh’s biography, *Hurricane: The Miraculous Journey of Rubin Carter*, for most of the facts in this article. I think Carter’s triumph can be a source of inspiration and instruction for supporters of the Peace Tax Fund. (continued on page 4)

# Web Wisdom

If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, it would look something like the following:

57 Asians  
21 Europeans  
14 from the Western Hemisphere, both north and south  
8 Africans

52 would be female  
48 would be male

70 would be non-white  
30 would be white

70 would be non-Christian  
30 would be Christian

89 would be heterosexual  
11 would be homosexual

6 people would possess 59% of the entire world's wealth and all 6 would be from the United States.

80 would live in substandard housing

70 would be unable to read

50 would suffer from malnutrition

1 would be near death; 1 would be near birth

1 (yes, only 1) would have a college education

1 would own a computer

When one considers our world from such a compressed perspective, the need for acceptance, understanding and education becomes glaringly apparent. The following is also something to ponder: If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week. If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, then you are ahead of 500 million people in the world. If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, then you are more blessed than three billion people in the world. If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, then you are richer than 75% of this world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish some place, then you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy. If your parents are still alive and still married then you are very rare, even in the United States and Canada. If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because most who can, don't. If you can hold someone's hand, hug them, or even touch them on the shoulder, You are blessed because you can offer healing touch. If you can read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read at all.



*The above thought-provoking piece was e-mailed to us by several supporters. Thanks!*

## New Tax Day, New Headlines



*When will this headline be true?*

It might be 2005, or perhaps 2050. It's up to you. Right now, all U.S. citizens are required to pay for war through their taxes. The Peace Tax Fund would allow people opposed to war because of deeply-held moral or religious beliefs to stop paying for it; they would pay their full taxes into a fund that would be used for non-military purposes only. As you prepare your taxes this year, give a thought to the fact that around half of those federal taxes goes to war-related spending. If your conscience tells you it should go to peace, we think you should be allowed to ensure that it does. When you file your taxes, contact us too!



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

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



Executive Director: Marian Franz  
Outreach & Development: Tom Kierans  
Administrative/Editorial Assist.: Jennifer Beall  
Intern: Greg Reagle  
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: [info@peacetax.com](mailto:info@peacetax.com)  
Web: <http://www.peacetax.com>  
Legislative Update Hotline (24 hr): (800) 550-6039

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# Go Ahead, Scream!

**S**uddenly a woman interrupted my presentation. “Shouldn’t we all just stop and scream? We need time and an outlet to respond to this horrendous news.”

I had said, “In the US nuclear arsenal, even with down-sizing, there remains the fire power equivalent to 300,000 Hiroshimas, yet there are only 3,000 cities in the world that size.....”

We didn’t scream. She lay on the floor. I came to understand the need to scream in response to the calm, calculated insanity of these facts. A member of Veterans for Peace spoke up. She recalled a demonstration at the Pentagon where she and a group of others dressed entirely in black. They did nothing but stand there and wail. The exercise, she reported, had affected the participants and the on-lookers deeply.

**Two things continually shock** and surprise. One is the ungodly size of that military budget. The other is the seeming lack of outrage by citizens. The Old Testament prophets obviously did not have a ho-hum-so-what-else-is-new attitude. They remonstrated, “Be shocked! Be utterly appalled, O heavens, at this!”

US military spending accounts for 41% of the world’s military expenditures; the US has only 5% of the world’s population. Shockingly, we lag behind other industrial nations in human services, health, and education. Not to scream is to be guilty of indecent composure, isn’t it?

The prophet Jeremiah said, “They have healed the wounds of my people lightly saying ‘peace’ ‘peace’ but there is no peace.” The pain of the victims of violence prompts and informs the conscience. Even if the arms are never fired, they maim in their storage silos by draining resources that could be used for those who suffer wretchedly. What sane person wouldn’t scream? In 455 BC Thucydides called for rage. “When will justice come to Athens?” He answered, “Justice will not come to Athens until those who are not injured are as indignant as those who are.”

**OK, so I considered a good wail.** Immediately I ran into problems of logistics. If I did it in the office, I’d have to prepare the staff and promise a time when silence would resume. Wait, there’s a pre-school next door – might traumatize the kids. A wail at home would send my neighbors running (and risk having them consider me kooky for letting this get to me, God forbid). So I wailed in a closed room with the sound turned down. Even that

is profound. Religious people, I think, would find this the deepest form of prayer. Let me know if you try it.

## **Where do we go with our Rage? ....**

... The Military? Scott Ritter, the former Marine and UN inspector in Iraq who resigned his post in Iraq had this advice: “Keep the military out of it. The military doesn’t formulate policy. The peace movement should be talking to the formulators of policy, the people who put the military in the situation.”

... The President : It’s springtime; every tender shoot needs to be nourished. President Bush indicated some interest in “de-alerting” the 2,500 nuclear missiles on hair-trigger alert (which can be fired within three minutes notice). De-alerting could remove warheads from missiles and store them separately or lock their triggers, thus lengthening launch time to hours or even days. He’ll work with Russia to reduce nuclear stockpiles, he says, and even suggested he might take some steps unilaterally.

... Congress: There are three important reasons we go to Congress: 1) for the sake of the victims of military violence, 2) for ourselves — our own integrity and conscience, and, 3) don’t forget this one: for the sake of people who may *not want to bear* what we have to say. We do them a *favor* by humanizing data, and personalizing stories which depict the human dilemma. We help them imagine the difference when swords are converted into services.

**Scream, but don’t get mad.** We do well to weigh carefully whether anger *at* the policy maker is productive. Assessing blame and pronouncing judgement may only close listening ears and trigger the need to strike back. Thich Nhat Hanh, a Buddhist monk and activist, has an interesting observation: “Members of the peace movement can write a very good protest letter, but that is not enough. They must learn to write a love letter.” Love letters foster open-minded questioning and non-judgmental moral witness.

“My mind was changed,” said one member of Congress, “by those who did not polarize the debate on the issues into ‘us’ and ‘them.’ Instead, these people helped to transform my attitude because they helped me to see the facts and decide for myself without being made to feel like the enemy.”

statistics are from Center of Defense Information.

See also [www.backfromthebrink.org](http://www.backfromthebrink.org)



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

On the surface, Rubin Carter seems to have little in common with supporters of the Peace Tax Fund. An African American, Carter did not support the nonviolent resistance advocated by Martin Luther King, Jr. and others. He owned quite a few guns. His family and friends, when asked whether they thought Carter had committed the triple murder of which he was accused, said no. This was not because they believed he would not kill three people; it was because he would have done it for revenge, not against “innocent bystanders,” and would have done it with his bare hands, not with a gun, because he would have considered that cowardly.

On Thursday, June 16, 1966, Rubin Carter and John Artis were taken into custody in connection with several shootings that had taken place earlier in the evening in a bar neither of them had ever visited. Three people had been killed and a fourth seriously injured. Even though this fourth victim said that Carter and Artis were not the ones who had committed the crime, they were taken to the police station and interrogated. Both were released after passing a lie detector test. In a grand jury hearing 11 days later, Lieutenant Vincent DeSimone, Jr. testified that neither man fit the descriptions of the murderers and that both had passed their polygraph tests. Nevertheless, in October of that year, both men were indicted for the murders.

The state based its case upon the testimony of two witnesses, Alfred Bello and Arthur Dexter Bradley, who had been robbing a warehouse near the Lafayette bar at the time of the shooting. Not only were the witnesses of questionable integrity, but Bello didn't keep his story consistent in even the smallest detail; in his testimony during the trial, he contradicted what he had given as his address the first time he made a statement. He changed various parts of his description of the night's events, including the description of the two perpetrators. Years later, after the statute of limitations for perjury had expired, both witnesses recanted their testimonies. Bello, though, later changed his testimony again, saying that Carter and Artis had been the murderers.

“The question invariably arises, it has before and it will again: ‘Rubin, are you bitter?’ ‘And in answer to that I will say: After all that’s been said and done—the fact that the most productive years of my life, between the ages of twenty-nine and fifty, have been stolen; the fact that I was deprived of seeing my children grow up—wouldn’t you think I would have a right to be bitter? Wouldn’t anyone under those circumstances have a right to be bitter? In fact, it would be very **easy** to be bitter. But it has never been my nature, or my lot, to do things the easy way. If I have learned nothing else in my life, I’ve learned that bitterness only consumes the vessel that contains it. And for me to permit bitterness to control or infect my life in any way whatsoever would be to allow those who imprisoned me to take even more than the twenty-two years they’ve already taken. Now, that would make me an accomplice to their crime...”  
~ Quote from Rubin Carter press conference in 1988 after murder charges against him were finally dropped

Because he had been unjustly imprisoned, Carter refused to wear a prison uniform; for this he was put into “the Hole” for ninety days. He did not follow the routines of the prison; he slept during the day and was awake at night. He did not let himself desire or depend upon anything of which he could be deprived. Therefore, he did not leave his cell when given the opportunity to do so, and he refused the prison food; other prisoners helped him out by giving him soup, canned food, etc. He eventually divorced his wife and told her to stop visiting him, as he believed he would never get out of prison.

# Colombian Citizens Invite Taxpayers to Transform Tax Dollars

BY RACHEL BETH MILLER

OF MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

**A**s part of the recent U.S. \$1.3 billion aid package to Colombia, \$870 of U.S. taxpayer money covered the cost of a submachine gun. The same amount of money sent to Colombian Mennonites could pay for job training for a family driven from their land by violence.

As a symbolic stand against war taxes and a concrete way to help Colombians working for peace, Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) U.S. invites taxpayers to redirect money from their 2000 income taxes to MCC's Taxes for Peace fund. The fund will go to support Colombian Mennonite peace work. Alternatively, those who do not want to withhold tax dollars can also contribute a percentage of their income to Colombian peace initiatives.

A War Taxes for Colombia packet with background information on the situation in Colombia, the work of Colombian Mennonite churches and the biblical basis and practical considerations for war tax resistance is available from MCC U.S. To request a packet, contact Titus Peachey, MCC U.S. Peace Education Director at (717) 859-3889, e-mail [tmp@mcc.org](mailto:tmp@mcc.org), or write to the address below.

The decision to direct withheld taxes to Colombia stems in part from a letter sent in July 2000 from Colombian Mennonite pastors to the churches in North America. In it, the pastors plead with North Americans to speak out against U.S. military aid and policies that feed the cycle of violence in Colombia. "We ask you for support to transform this vicious cycle of death and destruction that military aid produces, into a virtuous cycle of abundant life and peace," the letter states. Taxes paid by church members in the United States, the letter continues, "are economically supporting ... the annihilation of the Colombian nation and people."

About 80 percent of the \$1.3 billion U.S. aid package, the stated purpose of which is to combat cocaine production, is military aid. This aid has had an immediate effect on Colombia. As the Colombian military prepares for its newly financed push into guerilla-held territory, guerillas are securing their positions while they still can.

"Taxes" from drug growers in guerilla-held areas are becoming less reliable, and guerillas are turning increasingly to kidnapping to raise money. A third party in the conflict, the paramilitaries, largely believed to be given free reign by the Colombian military, also collect income from drug growers. They have increased their attacks and massacres.

Nearly two million people have been displaced in Colombia over the years, and the recent increased violence has sent

thousands more streaming into cities and across international borders. Meanwhile, Colombians say, the aid package does little to address the complex roots of their country's fragmentation — economic injustice, oppression of minority groups and a culture of mistrust.

In the midst of the violence, Colombian Anabaptist churches work to build peace and celebrate signs of hope. Justapaz, the peace and justice organization of the Mennonite Church is creating Sanctuaries for Peace; neutral spaces where all are welcome. Justapaz is also involved in national peace negotiations.

Mennonite Brethren churches in Colombia sponsor a peace education program in their congregations and school. Mencoldes, the relief and development agency of the Mennonite and Mennonite Brethren churches, helps people displaced by the violence.

MCC plans to open a country office in Colombia in 2001. Currently, Armando Hernandez and Eunice Vilorio are serving a one-year term in Riohacha. In their pastoral work, they meet many Colombians displaced by poverty and war. Church members continue to work for peace despite tapped phone lines and death threats. Colombian Mennonite Hector Mondragan said he knows Christians may have to witness to Jesus' message of peace with their own lives. "But we know this is the way to eternal life, and it is the way by which the will of God may be done on earth, on this earth, in Colombia as it is in heaven," he said.

Peachey suggested that congregations or other groups look for creative ways to support Colombians. "Some may want to join together by withholding enough war taxes to equal the cost of a submachine gun or other weapon. Others may want to reduce their tax liability by giving an additional contribution to the work of peace-building in Colombia," he said. Rachelle Schlabach, of the MCC Washington Office, encouraged tax resisters to write to their government representatives to explain why they have withheld taxes. "If people do write letters, it could be a powerful advocacy tool, letting policymakers know just how strongly Mennonites feel about war taxes and Colombia," she said.

In previous years, MCC's Peace Tax Fund has gone toward cluster bomb removal projects in Laos and MCC work in Iraq.



Checks for Taxes for Peace may be sent to MCC at PO Box 500, Akron, PA 17501. Checks should be made out MCC, with "Taxes for Peace" noted on the memo line.

## Colman McCarthy at Shalom Conference 2001, Lancaster, PA

BY JOBIE E. RILEY

**“Alternatives to violence exist and, if individuals and nations can organize themselves properly, nonviolent force is always stronger than violent force.”**

This statement represents the key element upon which Colman McCarthy bases “Alternatives to Violence,” a course he has taught for more than twelve years to more than 5,000 high school and college students.

McCarthy expanded upon this theme during a two-day conference during January, 2001, in First United Methodist Church, Lancaster, PA. The Washington Post columnist and peacemaker delivered two lectures with talkback periods and led two separate discussion sessions. He is an advocate of simple living, which he puts into practice by riding his bicycle to work in his D.C. newspaper office. He expresses alarm that ninety percent of all lawyers work for twenty percent of the people. He deplores the huge amount of tax money spent on armaments.

In his courses he always stresses personal responsibility and individual thinking, encouraging expressions of doubt. He sometimes gives nonsensical assignments, such as having the students stand on a corner and count yellow cars, then chides them for their uncritical acceptance of useless requests. He notes that violence has been an unmitigated failure. He cites the killing of eighty million people in wars since 1900, a 500 percent increase over the 1800s, and the more than 10,000 persons killed each year by handgun homicide.

McCarthy emphasizes that pacifism must be active, involving both prayer and service. It must operate on all levels, from international and national to schools and neighborhoods and into homes and families. As evidence of the failure of violence as a solution to conflict, he cites the increase in teen suicide, spouse and child abuse, and the rampant wars and conflicts worldwide.

One of the highlights of McCarthy’s Friday night lecture was his introduction of a former student, Stephanie Schaudel. She and her parents, Suzanne and Otto Schaudel, are members of the Lancaster [PA] Church of the Brethren. While a student at American University, she took McCarthy’s Literature of Peace class. She would have majored in Peace Studies, but American offered only a concentration, which one took through the international studies curriculum.

Stephanie was active at the university, organizing students regarding economic globalization, the School of the Americas, biotechnology, the growing prison-industrial complex, poverty, and, more recently, sanctions against Iraq. She was involved in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program, primarily among Central American custodial workers. During four months of study at Cuernavaca, Mexico, she focused on environmental issues and community organizing, especially among women.

Stephanie’s intense interest in peace studies was the result of Church of the Brethren summer camp experiences, the influence of peace-minded parents, and Colman and other stimulating professors in the field. She has just completed a three-week orientation session in Brethren Volunteer Service and is volunteering on a project location in Chicago.

Colman McCarthy circulated a copy of his latest book, *Solutions to Violence*, published by and available from the Center for Teaching Peace, 4501 Van Ness Street, NW, Washington, DC 20016. The book of sixteen chapters contains more than seventy-five articles on various aspects of peacemaking by McCarthy and dozens of other authors.



*This article was written by Jobie E. Riley, Professor of Communication (retired), Elizabethtown [PA] College. Appreciation is expressed to Wayne and Pat Judd and to Faith Reigle for providing information and stimulating the writer’s thoughts.*



### Real (voting) people

The lobby day on May 16 is also an opportunity to remind Congress that supporters of these conscience-based initiatives are real, ordinary, voting Americans. Helping your legislator understand that, and even just showing up at his or her office with your smiling face, has greater influence that you might expect.

It is very helpful to remember that the politician you are lobbying is a real person too. For many, these issues are massively overshadowed by more high-profile political debates. This is a time to look your Representative or Senator in the eye and explain that to you, this issue dominates how you live your life and how you vote. Into which of the following categories do your Representative and Senators fit? Each category includes the typical response from such a politician and remember, every type of politician needs to hear you:

1. Those who are cosponsors and need to be thanked. *"I appreciate the thanks. Perhaps I can make suggestions of how you can proceed with other members of Congress."*
2. Those who waver – they might be supportive if they are lobbied. *"I had not really thought about it that way until your visit."*
3. Those who can be persuaded to "stand aside." *E.g., "I won't cosponsor the bill and give it open support, but because of your visit I will not oppose it or obstruct its movement."*
4. Those who are determined **not** to cosponsor or support us. *These members of Congress are apt to have misguided notions of who we are (naive, insincere). Think how much worse it would be if they hadn't met us or heard us interpret who we are and what we believe. They may work against us, but will at least have an appreciation for our deeply held beliefs.*

### Freedom IS bipartisan

Courage is required for a politician to support a measure which can be easily misrepresented; that is why it is important to lobby both Republicans and Democrats. There are facets of these matters of conscience with which anyone can agree. Before you lobby, reflect on the best way to explain your position with respect to the known position of your Representative or Senator. We can help you to discover his or her stated position and to figure out the most productive approach to take.

### All or nothing?

Even if you only get to meet a staffer who tells you that his or her boss would vote to cancel Christmas sooner than support this issue, will it all have been pointless? Certainly not. Unless you happen to be a very wealthy corporation, lobbying is a long process; we are the tortoise to those corporate hares. Lobbying is all about having your voice and conscience heard. Even if a politician is committed to opposing these issues of conscience, your voice reminds him or her that there is a reasoned opposition in his or her constituency and the more effectively you present your case, the more it might prompt the politician to reconsider. If it does not convince the politician to cosponsor the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund bill, perhaps it will instead persuade him or her to decline to actively oppose it.

If you can't be here in person, please write, call, e-mail or fax your Representative or Senator, or visit him or her in his or her local office on May 16. If you are able to join us here, come to the Methodist Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, NE, Washington DC, at 9:30am on May 16 for a briefing and some refreshments.

Lobbying by individual citizens is the oxygen of democracy. Take a deep breath and knock on that door.

**Spread The Word!**



*You can make copies of the press release on the next page, or download it from [www.peacetax.com](http://www.peacetax.com)*



NATIONAL CAMPAIGN  
FOR A  
PEACE TAX FUND

**FOR THE SAKE OF CONSCIENCE**

2121 Decatur Place NW, Washington, DC 20008-1923

Phone: (202) 483-3751

Fax: (202) 986-0667

Toll-free: 1-888-PEACE-TAX



**The Center on Conscience & War/NISBCO**

1830 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20009

Phone: (202) 483-2220

Fax: (202) 483-1246

Toll-free: 1-800-379-2679

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Will Conscience Be Honored by the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress?

On May 16, 2001, citizens from around the United States will test the U.S. Congress's commitment to faith, bipartisan politics, peace and freedom.

During that single day, as the culmination of a nationwide letter writing campaign, individuals will press their Representatives and Senators 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 repeal or deep stand-by of draft registration. Members and supporters of both organizations will participate in this joint lobby day on May 16.

"We hope that many more Members of Congress will embrace these ideas during the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, since they cost nothing and will facilitate the freedom of conscience and religion of all citizens," said Marian Franz, Executive Director of NCPTF.

"This President and Congress have indicated that they strongly support matters of faith," said J.E. McNeil, Executive Director of CCW. "Both of these bills deal with matters of faith which have been long neglected by Congress."

Individuals wishing to join in the lobby day should come to the Methodist Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, NE Washington DC, at 9:30 am on May 16 for a briefing and some refreshments. Those who can't come are encouraged to write a letter to their Representative and Senators.

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

**Marian Franz**  
Executive Director, NCPTF  
(202) 483 3751  
[marianfranz@peacetax.com](mailto:marianfranz@peacetax.com)  
[www.peacetax.com](http://www.peacetax.com)

or

**J.E. McNeil**  
Executive Director, CCW  
(202) 483-2220  
[www.nisbco.org](http://www.nisbco.org)

# Military Budget Continues to Increase

## An analysis of the recent budget numbers

BY JOHN ISAACS

**P**resident George W. Bush's recent announcement that he will use the outgoing Clinton Administration's fiscal 2002 Defense Department budget request has sparked a wave of controversy. An OpEd in the February 7 Washington Post blasts President Bush for failing to provide a significant increase, while a New York Times editorial praises his decision not to provide new funds.

However, few in the debate acknowledge that the request still represents a sizable increase.

In fact, the \$310 billion figure represents a \$19 billion increase from the original fiscal 2001 request presented to Congress in early 2000, and about a \$14 billion increase from the fiscal 2001 level after Congress added about \$4.5 billion to the Clinton budget.

The \$310 billion request for fiscal 2002 referred to in all the articles does not include Department of Energy nuclear weapons activities. The fiscal 2001 request for DOE defense programs was \$14.3 billion; the fiscal 2002 figure has not yet been released.

Using the official Office of Management and Budget definition of military spending, which includes both Pentagon and Department of Energy military activities (plus some smaller amounts), the total for military budget authority fiscal 2001 at this point is about \$310 billion. If the Department of Energy military activities budget authority for fiscal 2002 stays roughly even at \$14 billion, the total military budget request for next year will be \$324 billion (before any congressional additions or supplemental requests).

Thus despite talk of "holding the line," military spending will continue to increase significantly. Meanwhile the U.S. is spending more than the next 12 biggest defense spenders combined. We spend more than three times the amount of all our potential enemies combined.

The increase projected for next year is more than four times greater than the State Department's \$3 billion budget. Just the research budget of the Pentagon is greater than all federal education expenditures. Military spending has reached almost 95 percent of the Cold War average. In fact, the Pentagon budget is greater now than it was when Mr. Rumsfeld finished his first term as Secretary of Defense.

Massive investments in defense are not necessary to fulfill President Bush's promise to strengthen national defense:

❑ Simply eliminating billions in unneeded Cold War era weapons could free funds for other priorities such as readiness and advanced weapons research.

❑ Fixing the Pentagon's accounting problems would save billions while solving spare parts problems.

❑ Closing unnecessary bases will save \$3-5 billion annually and removing "Buy America" provisions that require the procurement of products made in the U.S. could save \$5-7 billion a year.

❑ According to Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), the Senate's top pork buster, Congress added \$7 billion in unrequested spending to the fiscal 2001 defense spending bill.

❑ Revising the Pentagon's unrealistic two-war strategy, which defines the size of the military and its procurement needs, would also alleviate many readiness problems and save money.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW MILITARY BUDGET REQUEST

1. The military budget continues to rise, from \$293 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2000 budget authority to the requested \$305 billion in FY2001, an increase of \$12 billion. Republicans say they will add more this year. The Administration projects an increase to \$368 billion in FY 2009.

2. The five-year Pentagon request from FY 2001 - 2005 comes to \$1.6 trillion.

3. Despite the controversy last year over the F-22 fighter jets, when the House initially cut out procurement funds, it is full speed ahead in FY 2001, with the President asking for \$4 billion for 10 planes plus continued research.

4. The Pentagon recently added \$2.3 billion for National Missile Defense deployment over the next five years, bringing the total over that period to \$12.7 billion -- with an anticipated deployment decision scheduled this summer. The FY 2001 request for National Missile Defense is \$1.9 billion; all forms of missile defense \$4.7 billion.

5. The Pentagon is asking Congress to authorize two more rounds of base closings in 2003 and 2005, even though Congress refused the request the last three years. The Pentagon estimates \$3 billion annual savings if the bases are closed.

6. The Pentagon has reached its long-stated goal of \$60 billion for procurement of new weapons systems. However, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that DOD will need \$90 billion a year to fund all its weapons programs. The new budget makes no attempt to cut back unaffordable weapons: current Pentagon plans call for spending \$440 billion for five new aircraft programs: Joint Strike Fighter (\$250 billion), F-22 (\$63 billion), F/A-18 E/F (\$47 billion), Comanche helicopter (\$43 billion), and V-22 (\$36 billion).

*by John Isaacs  
Council for a Livable World  
www.clw.org*

## 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 PTF, represent CPTI at the United Nations in New York. Quarterly Update will carry Rosa's regular 'Letter from New York' column.

**J**ohn Randall and I went to the UN's first non governmental organization (NGO) briefing of the year on January 25, 2001. Conscience and Peace Tax International is a NGO with consultative status at the United Nations. We are welcome at the UN Department of Public Information (DPI) briefings as well. There are 1,672 NGOs with DPI status and their responsibilities include education and advocacy within and without the United Nations.

The briefing, in the Dag Hammerschold Auditorium, was on "Tracking Global Persistent Organic Pollutants." Although not directly connected with our own concern of conscientious objection to military taxes, we have learned we can find links to most other urgent work at the UN without losing our own focus and we learn from the work of others.

John Buccini, Chairman, United Nations Environmental Program and a member of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) spoke of the terms and progress of the Stockholm Convention which will provide methods of limiting and monitoring POPs.

Barry Commoner summarized current research on the problem and others told of financial studies that showed that changing from incinerators to autoclaves would save hospitals money rather than be prohibitively expensive.

Sheila Watt -Cloutier, President, Inuit Circumpolar Conference Canada described how the Inuit had made the issue visible. The Inuit are vulnerable to carcinogenic pollutants disseminated by burning waste into the air and that eventually lodge in whale, seal and walrus meat, the mainstay of the Inuit diet, and are transmitted to Inuit babies through their mother's breast milk.

We learned that at the first Earth Summit the Arctic was not even mentioned, and that the Inuit are only 150,000 people world wide in Alaska, Canada, Greenland, and Russia. Now with the first global agreement in place, the Stockholm Convention, the Inuit are the ones who have put a human face on the problem of pollution. Their native land, the Arctic region, is on the front burner of research and problem solving. As an Inook, Sheila Watt-Cloutier grew up with dog sleds as her only means of transportation and now, as a voice of her people, she travels by jet all over the world working with international groups for the Inuit.

Like the Inuit, conscientious objectors to paying for the military, are an often ignored minority, but we can learn from them of the many ways that cooperation with others can build toward a solution.

During the question period, I would have asked about the contribution of the military to pollution if I had been recognized. Being present, identifying ourselves and asking questions, helps conscientious objection to paying for the military become visible and leads to opportunities for forming allies.

In the afternoon we attended a meeting of the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief. (NY) which is organized under CONGO (Conference of Non Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relation with the United Nations.)

The Speaker was Sue Nichols, the secretary of the Committee and one of its founders. I was able to introduce us as newcomers in the NGO community at the United Nations seeking to learn and form partnerships with others. Sue Nichols warmly welcomed us and emphasized that conscientious objection was a concern of the Committee on

(continued on page 14)




(continued from page 4)

Carter began to correspond with Lesra Martin, an intelligent, but poorly educated, African-American teenager from New York. Lesra had been “discovered” by some people from Canada who subsequently invited him to live and study with them. Carter’s book *The Sixteenth Round* was the first book Lesra ever read in its entirety; it inspired him so much that he wrote to Carter. He (and, later, the Canadians) visited Carter in prison. In 1983, several of the Canadians moved to New Jersey in order to be better able to assist Carter’s legal case. Carter was released from prison for the last time in 1985; the Canadians had been instrumental in securing his release. All charges against Carter and Artis were finally dismissed in 1988.

Carter reminds me, in a way, of someone who lives below the poverty level in order to avoid owing war taxes. These war tax resisters deprive themselves of luxuries that others enjoy so that the government will not take their money and use it for the military. This is similar to Carter doing without many things other prisoners had (television, a radio, etc.) so that the prison officials could take nothing from him. As Carter was,

these war tax resisters strive to be true to themselves, carrying on even though there seems to be little hope that the time will come when they are free to live their lives as they wish.


We all need to try to act as ambassadors for the Peace Tax Fund. Many of the people we encounter every day do not know anything about the Campaign, nor have they probably ever thought about the issue of conscientious objection to military taxation. We may be the ones, like the Canadians were for Lesra Martin and Rubin Carter, who show them new possibilities. Maybe the people we tell about the Peace Tax Fund, like Carter, may show a capacity to change their points of view in ways that we cannot imagine. It will do no good for us to dismiss them out of hand and assume they will never understand us. When lobbying, we should not go into the Congressional offices with an “us vs. them” attitude. We must try, as Marian suggests in her column, to be non-adversarial in our discussions of the Peace Tax Fund with others. Only then will it be possible for them to truly listen to us. 

Jennifer Beall

## Peace Tax Foundation Launches New Fundraising Initiative

Thanks to the generous gift from an anonymous contributor, the Peace Tax Foundation (PTF) is moving forward with a plan to expand its 'Major Donor' base. The organization recently approved a decision to hire Stephen Serafin, a fundraising consultant, to facilitate this effort.

The goal of this initiative will be to raise additional support in the form of individual gifts to fund the expansion of existing programs and new initiatives. In the coming year, Steve will be visiting and communicating with the PTF constituency in an effort to get to know more about your interests and concerns. Although seeking funds from a variety of sources, he will be focusing primarily on individual contributors. The plan is to gather information, network, and capitalize on opportunities to help bring the work of PTF to fruition.

If you have any questions, information, or wish to assist this effort, please contact Steve at (215) 842-9574 or e-mail him at [Serawaz@gateway.net](mailto:Serawaz@gateway.net). 



Stephen Serafin (above) has agreed to help the Peace Tax Foundation to expand its Major Donor base. This should help broaden and deepen the foundation's reach in its efforts to educate the public about the need for a Peace Tax Fund.

**Indianapolis Church Seizure**

On February 13, 2001, federal agents seized the Indianapolis church (mentioned in the last newsletter) for millions of dollars in back taxes and removed five members who refused to leave.

The Indianapolis Baptist Temple had been involved in a years-long dispute with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service for refusing to withhold employee income, Social Security and other taxes, the IRS said. It claimed the church owed more than \$6 million in back taxes and penalties.

The IRS got a court order in 2000 allowing it to seize the property but members staged sit-ins and other protests. Two days later U.S. Marshals moved on the building, carrying out five church members who refused to budge. A U.S. Marshal's Service spokesman said the operation took place without incident.



**Senator Brownback inundated**

If something is worth doing, it's worth doing like Hesston College, Kansas! We were delighted to receive copies of lobbying letters, cards and petitions collected from Hesston College students who are helping to persuade Senator Sam Brownback to consider sponsoring the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund bill in the 107th Congress. We counted 116 postcards and many more petition signatures. We really appreciate all the work that went into collecting them and the huge momentum it helps create as we approach our May 16th Lobby Day.



**Star Wars Resources**

Project Abolition has compiled information you may find helpful in your work to stop Star Wars. Using information from the Center for Responsive Politics, they put together a profile of the campaign contributions and lobbying expenses of the Big Four Star Wars contractors: Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, and TRW. They also compiled a list of these contractors' plants and offices around the country. Find them both at <http://projectabolition.org/projects.html>.



**Action Alerts via E-mail**

The National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund now has an announcement email list. This list is for action alerts and other announcements from the National Campaign for A Peace Tax Fund. This is a one-way list from the NCFPTF to the subscribers, so it is not for discussion (we're planning a separate area on our web site for discussions). It is expected to have relatively low activity. To subscribe, send a BLANK email to: **ptf-announce-subscribe@topica.com**. To unsubscribe, send a BLANK email to: **ptf-announce-unsubscribe@topica.com**. The list can also be accessed through the World Wide Web with your favorite WWW browser at **http://www.topica.com/lists/ptf-announce**.



“Dear Friends,

*I was happy to see you listed "Why I Am A Conscientious Objector" in your summer release. A slightly revised and enlarged (\$5.95) copy is now available from Masthof Press, 220 Mill Road, Morgantown, PA 19543. e-mail: mast@masthof.org. I'm happy to report also that it was recently published by a second publisher in Germany. Scottdale no longer publishes this book. God bless your good work. John M. Drescher”*



**The Four-Step Lobby Dance**

We hope you're planning on participating in the lobby day on May 16. Before making the trip to Washington, follow these simple instructions for making your own appointment:

1. Telephone the main capitol switchboard - **(202) 224-3121;**
2. Ask for your Representative or Senator;
3. When that office answers, ask for the appointments secretary (if you hope to get an appointment with the member her/himself). You will have to be flexible regarding time. Or, ask for the aide who works on the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund (RFPTF) bill and agree on an appointment time with the aide.
4. Tell us when you're coming and who you're visiting.



# Conscientious Objection to Paying for Death Penalty

**A**wareness about the religious and moral questions of imposing the death penalty has heightened because of Gov. George Ryan's moratorium on executions in Illinois. As a result, a member of the Illinois legislature has introduced a bill that would establish conscientious objector status for people who oppose capital punishment.

The legislation would call on the state to redirect income taxes paid by people who hold religious, ethical or moral objections to the death penalty by putting the money into the common school fund.

The Chicago Sun Times, in writing about the legislation, noted that Quakers have traditionally been opponents of capital punishment. A spokesman for a local Friends Meeting, commented that Quakers believe killing a person is like killing a part of God. As a result, they oppose executions. "As a Christian, it is a terrible violation of my conscience that I am required to pay for this through my taxes."

Arguments against the measure make points that are familiar to those of us who lobby for the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill:

(continued from page 11)

Freedom of Religion or Belief - and that the rights are not limited to those of formal religions alone.

The Special Rapporteur on the Question of Religious Intolerance, Professor Abdofath Amor of Tunisia, a constitutional lawyer, has a mandate from the UN Commission on Human Rights and the UN General Assembly to monitor the implementation of the United Nations 1981 Declaration On The Elimination Of All Forms Of Intolerance And Discrimination Based On Religion Or Belief.

Amor has organized a consultative international conference on school education about freedom of religion or belief in Madrid, Spain November 23-25, 2001. The first focus of action is on developing curricula and textbooks and educational programs - all religions - all beliefs -all states. Participants will be representatives of state, intergovernmental

It would be too costly to carry out; the Illinois Department of Revenue cannot assume the unusual duty of certifying a person as a capital punishment objector (they could set up something that would make it easy); It can be very difficult to determine the sincerity of someone's belief, says a revenue spokesperson (why not let them self-select since they don't pay any less in taxes. Why would someone falsely claim to be a conscientious objector since there is no financial benefit for them). It would set a precedent (the floodgates argument!) that could open the door for other groups to set their own priorities for how they would like their income taxes spent. (Erasing the life of a fellow human being is an issue of greater moral magnitude than other issues and so stands separate from others).

Rep. Mary Lou Cowlshaw, the bill's sponsor says, "The proposal does not call for the objectors to pay less in taxes but gives them the comfort that taxes they do pay will be spent on something else." That, I thought, is called religious freedom.



organizations, major religions and other communities in the field of religion or belief, non-governmental organizations and experts. There will be preparatory consultation and discussion.

Following this meeting John Randall and I attended the monthly meeting of the Religious Caucus which was discussing participation in the upcoming conference on racial discrimination in South Africa this summer.

It seems that one important way to raise consciousness on our issue is to join with the current efforts on education for peace and tolerance. We must make conscientious objection visible in curricula and educational programs and conferences to make sure it is understood, mentioned, included, and held up.



**Rosa Covington Packard**

## 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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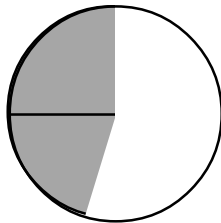
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*The National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund advocates for legislation enabling conscientious objectors to war to pay their federal taxes without violating their beliefs about not participating in the military. Contact us at the address above or at (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 i/2001

## Tired of paying for war?

Past Military: 24%  
(\$334 billion)



Fiscal Year 2001  
U.S. Federal Fund

All Other:  
53%  
(\$735 billion)

Current Military: 23%  
(\$325 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

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Representative \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Senate

U.S. House

Washington, DC 20510

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

