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WWFOR seeks to replace violence, war, racism and economic injustice with nonviolence, equality, peace and justice. It links and strengthens FOR members and chapters throughout Western Washington in promoting activities consistent with the national FOR statement of purpose. WWFOR helps members and chapters accomplish together what we could not accomplish alone.

IT WAS 20 YEARS AGO TODAY....



N30: WTO Protests, 20 years later

by Stan Sorscher, Washington Fair Trade Coalition
abridged for the *Pacific Call*

Many of us were part of history in November and December 1999, when activists and workers came from around the country to protest the WTO meeting in Seattle.

The entire city was caught off guard by huge rallies, dramatic marches, and very effective direct action that blocked diplomats, negotiators, and corporate lobbyists from the buildings where they were supposed to meet.

Peaceful demonstrators were tear-gassed, dragged off, and arrested, and downtown Seattle was paralyzed for days.

This was not a fight between trade and protectionism, no matter how often we see that in the press. No one is against trade. This was a protest against corporate-centric undemocratic, unaccountable rules for the global economy that would go badly for workers, communities and the planet.

Trade policy is like any other policy. We can have good or bad policies for health care, education, transportation, and energy. Trade policy is no different.

We can have good trade policy that raises living standards generally, or we can have bad trade policy that weakens worker bargaining power, de-industrializes our economy, and moves millions of jobs out of our communities to low wage countries where workers have no power. Bad trade deals block legitimate public policies that promote public health and protect our water, air, food, and ecosystems.

That was the message of the WTO protests in Seattle in 1999. That message was right in 1999, and is still right today. It's time for a new approach to globalization.

We could start by saying the purpose of an economy is to improve economic well-being and raise living standards. To that end, government plays a legitimate role in dealing with the defining problems of our time, such as inequality, de-industrialization of our economy and climate change.

The President Can Order A Nuclear Strike Without Input From Anyone. Once They Are Deployed, There's No Way To Call Them Back.

No one deserves sole, unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack. Urge your WA legislator to prevent nuclear war by supporting SJM 8006 and HJM 4008.



Resolution from the People's Town Hall on Nuclear Weapons

Written up by Carly Brook, Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, edited for the *Pacific Call*

The following words were conveyed to: Senator Patty Murray and Senator Maria Cantwell on October 1, 2019

On September 29, 2019 Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility convened the People's Town Hall on Nuclear Weapons ([view the recording of the Town Hall here](#)), held at the newly refurbished Seattle Town Hall facility . We witnessed a graduate school-level review of many ways in which the nuclear age has undermined health. They are widespread - and ongoing - all this even without the actual use of these horrific weapons.

Over the 60 years we have lived precariously with the world's nuclear arsenals, on hair-trigger alert and poised to launch in minutes, we have to admit that we have been extremely lucky. As General Lee Butler, former Commander-in-Chief of the US Strategic Command for nuclear forces, has stated, our survival so far is attributable to sheer luck and divine intervention, rather than our nuclear policies, including so-called deterrence.

This is why we turn to you, our leaders in Congress. The mindsets and belief systems that brought into existence and have sustained the Cold War policies that continue to threaten the globe must be challenged, refuted and changed.

Below you will find a summary of the testimonies from the people's Town Hall, directly from the perspective of communities across Washington State.

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We recognize your roles are complex given the number of issues requiring your attention. But there are only two issues that threaten most or all of humanity: global warming and nuclear war. As constituents we have a right to expect that whatever other issues you need to confront, every member of Congress must speak out, take action and be fully engaged in efforts to confront these two horsemen of the apocalypse. This forum focused on the nuclear threat.

Both of you have demonstrated enlightened leadership on many issues of import to Washington residents. But we have observed that neither of you could be considered a leader or a spokesperson for policies that fundamentally address the stranglehold of our dangerous, frozen Cold War policies. Further, we argue that it does not take an expert on national security to speak out in favor of a number of policy initiatives currently under consideration, initiatives that would contribute to both reduced risks and costs. Therefore, we implore your support for the following:

1. Endorse No First Use, exhibiting common sense that under no conceivable circumstances would the US be the first to use nuclear weapons.
2. Oppose the development or deployment of any new nuclear weapons systems including so-called low-yield Trident warheads or cruise missiles. (Thank you Sen. Murray for signing on to Sen. Warren's letter to the SASC regarding deployment of the W76-2.)
3. Boldly and regularly speak out in support of renewed negotiations with Russia on arms control, especially the renewal of New START. (Again, thank you Sen. Murray for also supporting this issue in the above letter.)
4. Severe reductions in the proposed total rebuild and replacement of US nuclear arsenals, noting Rep. Adam Smith's position that current US arsenals far exceed what is necessary for our security. We specifically call for you to work to prevent replacement of the ICBM wing of the triad, an offensive weapons system only.
5. Address the demands of the Spokane Tribe for both consultation and justice in confronting residual issues from the Midnite Mine.
6. Support for the Washington Marshall Island community and Marshall island residents in their demands.
7. Support establishment of a policy to remove our nuclear weapons from hair-trigger alert and launch-on-command.

To again quote General Butler, "We cannot at once keep sacred the miracle of our existence and hold sacrosanct the capacity to destroy it. We cannot sit in silent acquiescence to the faded homilies of the nuclear priesthood [the military/industrial/political complex]. It is time to reassert the primacy of individual conscience, the voice of reason and the rightful interests of humanity."

What we declare we need from each of you, in this period of renewed nuclear peril, is bold, proactive and public leadership in addressing this continuing and growing threat to humanity. Further, we are confident that the great majority of Washington residents would not only support but herald this level of visible, articulate leadership in helping lead Congress to break the hold of our dangerous and dated Cold War policy framework.

Senators, We look forward to meeting with each of you to further discuss these proposals. Thank you,



Many People Support The Abolition of Nuclear Weapons

Testimony from the People's Town hall on Nuclear Weapons

Recovering from the production of nuclear weapons and consequences of nuclear weapons on climate, community, workers and ancestral indigenous land:

Twa-le Abrahamson Swan, a Spokane Tribal member, representing SHAWL (Sovereignty, Health, Air, Water, Land) Society) shared [documentation](#) indicating that the Spokane and Yakama nations are among the most radioactively toxic regions in the world due to the presence of Hanford and the Midnite Mine uranium mining site along with abandoned uranium ore piles and acid mine drainage that flows into the Spokane river, exposing tribal members to contamination and health risks. They seek a comprehensive health study and resources to address increased cancers, kidney, heart and neuro-cognitive disorders. They ask that members of the Spokane Tribe be consulted and provided ongoing access to technical assistance and resources to support independent monitoring during the duration of cleanup of the Midnite Mine superfund site.

Kara Sweidel, organizer with 350 Seattle, noted that the Department of Defense is the world's largest institutional user of petroleum and responsible for 1.2 billion metric tons of greenhouse gasses of US military emissions since the beginning of the Global War on Terror in 2001, according to a [Brown University Study](#). It also noted that "even a small-scale war would quickly devastate the world's climate and ecosystems, causing damage that would last for more than a decade" and that "detonating between 50 and 100 bombs – just .03% of the world's arsenal – would throw enough soot into the atmosphere from firestorms] to create climatic anomalies unprecedented in human history."

Tom Carpenter, executive director of Hanford Challenge, [called attention to the highly-radioactive, chemical sludge produced as a byproduct of the plutonium from the Hanford Reactors](#). This radioactive pollution escaped into the air and water around the site. The inventories of radioactive and chemical wastes are still subject to dispersal through fire, flood, volcano, acts of terror or simple human error. They demand that the federal government honor its clean up obligations.

The devastating consequences of use of nuclear weapons:

Phoenix Johnson, a veteran and president of the Seattle Veterans for Peace Chapter #92, testified to the personal costs of war on our military and denounced our threat to use nuclear

BAN THE BOMB

Phoenix also addressed the lack of attention and support the atomic veterans have faced, veterans who have also been exposed to radiation and chemicals in clean up and testing. As a former member of the armed service, she denounced the use of nuclear weapons and called for a reduction of spending on weapons of mass destruction

David Anitok from the Marshall Islands, representing "Compact of Free Association" Alliance National Network, told the story of his wife's uncle, who recently died of cancer and kidney complications after surviving the 67 nuclear weapons tests conducted by the US military during the Cold War on the Marshall Islands. He noted that the total yield of nuclear weapons tested in the Marshall Islands equated to a Hiroshima-sized atomic bomb detonated every day for twelve years. Marshallese communities demand compensation and investment in health care as their communities continue to suffer high rates of cancer and other diseases since the nuclear testing.

Dr. Tsukasa Namekata from the Seattle Hiroshima Club shared the recorded testimony of Gene Fujita, a hibakusha (survivor) of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, who describes the horrors of the destruction and loss of life after that attack including bodies with skin hanging off them, burned people, and bodies floating in the river. He lifts up the memory of the bombing of Hiroshima with the hope that there will never be another nuclear strike again.

Risks of accidents and consequences of current nuclear weapons arsenals:

John M Repp, a former Boeing employee, identified the elements of the nuclear system that Boeing produces, including maintaining the Minuteman III nuclear weapon carrying intercontinental ballistic missiles, producing the guided tail kit for the new B61-12 nuclear gravity bomb and making key components for US and UK Trident II (D5) nuclear weapons. This indicates Boeing continues to participate in the production of weapons of mass destruction. John also said after the energy crisis of the 1970's, Boeing manufactured wind turbines and very efficient solar cells when contracted by the Federal Government to do so. Another Boeing is possible.

Dr. Dave Hall with the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action and WPSR addressed weapons of mass destruction deployed from Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor on Hood Canal, 20 air miles from downtown Seattle, constituting the largest concentration of deployed weapons of mass destruction in the US nuclear arsenal. Eight Trident submarine warships are based there, half on patrol throughout the Pacific and Indian Oceans at any one time threatening to launch a thousand Hiroshima atomic bomb equivalents on targets up to 4000 miles away. He calls for a rollback of the nuclear modernization program, for Congress not to spend \$1.7 Trillion dollars over the next 30 years rebuilding our entire nuclear arsenal.

Jeanelle Sales, Member Relations Officer of the Beyond the Bomb, UW Chapter testified to the ongoing psychological harms of having a "government prioritize extremely expensive weapons of mass destruction while socially we experience deep debt from loans for school and medical expenses, unemployment and homelessness, continuing discrimination of marginalized communities, and communities deprived of infrastructure." She called for leadership from our Senators on this issue.

U.S. Supreme Court v. Democracy

by John M Repp

A review of Thom Hartmann's book The Hidden History of the Supreme Court and the Betrayal of America (Oakland: Berrett-Koehler, 2019)

This short book in the Hidden History series was published in October 2019. The author, Thom Hartmann, is a progressive talk radio host who can be heard weekdays in the Seattle area on KBCS, 91.3 FM from 9 am to noon. Sadly, the political talk show radio format is dominated by right-wing hosts nine to one over progressive hosts, according to a page on the Center for American Progress website from 2007. I suspect the overwhelming dominance of conservative over progressive talk shows remains today.

In the recent (late 2019) news coverage on the impeachment of Trump, many older people are learning things we may have heard in high school civics class but have forgotten. An example is that the three branches of our Federal government, the executive, the legislative and the judicial are coequal. Hartmann makes the case that the Supreme Court has put itself above the other two branches by taking the power of judicial review. Judicial review is when the Supreme Court takes a case and decides that a law made by Congress is "unconstitutional." Hartmann quotes none other than Thomas Jefferson in a letter to Abigail Adams, that if "judges [have] have the right to decide what laws are constitutional...[that] would make the judiciary a despotic branch." (p.26)

There is nothing in the Constitution that gives the Supreme Court the power of judicial review. The Founders wanted the Supreme Court to be the final court of appeals, the highest court of the Federal Court system. Hamilton, Madison and John Jay, all under the pseudonym "Publius" wrote a series of essays in 1787-1788, now called the Federalist papers, to promote the ratification of the Constitution. In the Federalist paper no. 81, Hamilton said in effect that the Supreme Court could not make or strike down laws, and if it attempted to do that, the legislature could simply write a new law. (pp. 17-18) In direct contradiction to himself, in Federalist paper no. 78, Hamilton essentially endorsed the idea of judicial review, "It belongs to them (i.e. the Supreme Court) to ascertain it's (i.e. the Constitution's) meaning, as well as the meaning of any particular act proceeding from the legislative body." (p.20). In this new experiment with three branches of government, the Supreme Court decided the issue. With its 1803 ruling in Marbury v. Madison the Court grabbed the power of judicial review and became the dominant branch.

Hartmann is very critical of the Supreme Court in this book. I will quote him directly: "corporate personhood and money as speech were simply invented by corporate-friendly Supreme Court rulings (in the 1819-86 era for corporate personhood, and in the 1976 -2013 era for money as speech) Their combined effect has been to hijack America's democratic experiment, concentrating power into the boardrooms of faceless corporations and the summer homes of reclusive billionaires." (p. 8)

Currently one of the main problems with our political system is the massive amount of corporate money in our election campaigns which corrupts our elected officials. In the dissenting opinion in the Citizens United (2010) case, John Paul Stevens wrote: "Money is property; it is not speech...." (p.49). Quoting

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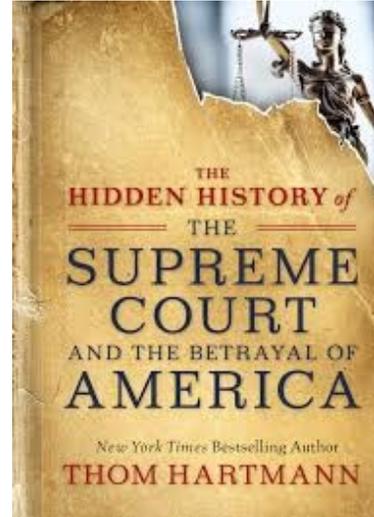
Stevens again: "Corporations, it was feared, could concentrate the worst urges of whole groups of men. Thomas Jefferson famously fretted that corporations would subvert the Republic." (p.49) Hartmann writes that because of these doctrines and rulings of the Supreme Court, our political system is the most corrupt of any advanced industrial country in the world.

The Republican Party seems very aware of the power of the Supreme Court in our system. Their political strategy has been to do whatever is necessary to win the Presidency so they can control the appointments to the Federal Courts and the Supreme Court. Hartmann writes that Nixon committed treason to get elected in 1968 (p.115) and Reagan committed treason in 1980 (p. 116ff). Bush and Trump committed election fraud to get elected. (p.131). This book does not mince words.

What is to be done? The last part of the book tells us what must be done to give the people in our country a chance to have a democracy. The Constitution explicitly gives the Congress the power to do what Hartmann suggests. First, he proposes an 18 year term limit for the Supreme Court. Second, he suggests we install a camera in the Supreme Court room. Third, he suggests "court-stripping" This means that when Congress passes a law that they think will be challenged by the Court, they attach the phrase that specifically prevents the Court from ruling on the constitutionality of the law. "Court-stripping" is based on Article III, Section 2 of the Constitution which says "[T]he supreme [sic] Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make." (p.142). Ironically, court-stripping was investigated and written up by the current Chief Justice John Roberts, before he was on the Court, when he was searching for a way to overturn Roe v. Wade.

There is a bit of hope at the end of the book that the U.S. Supreme Court can salvage its reputation among knowledgeable progressives and do the right thing. As I write in December 2019, there is a case the current Court will hear in June; Juliana v. United States. A group of 21 young people (one of whom lives in West Seattle) with the help of Our Children's Trust has sued the Federal Government, claiming it is the Government's responsibility to protect the commons i.e. all humans and the environment, from climate change and that currently, the Federal Government is facilitating the harm. The ruling is expected to come down at the end of the current term, which will be the late summer of 2020. If the young people win this case, the subsidies the fossil fuel industry receives will be declared illegal and the Federal Government will be committed to use incentives and programs to promote clean and renewable power (pp. 101-102, 104-108). (cont. next column)

In conclusion, Hartmann's book on the U.S. Supreme Court explains how democracy has been betrayed through the political manipulation of the legal system. Consider this book a graduate level course in civics.



Bolivia: US-backed Coup

Bolivia currently has an un-elected president, Jeanine Anez. This is because of a US-backed coup on November 10, 2019 that overthrew elected President Evo Morales. Under Morales, three million Bolivians rose out poverty. When it became clear that Morales would win re-election, the losing opposition claimed electoral fraud.

Morales was then forced out by the military. Several of the coup generals were trained at the infamous School of the Americas (SOA) at Fort Benning, Georgia.

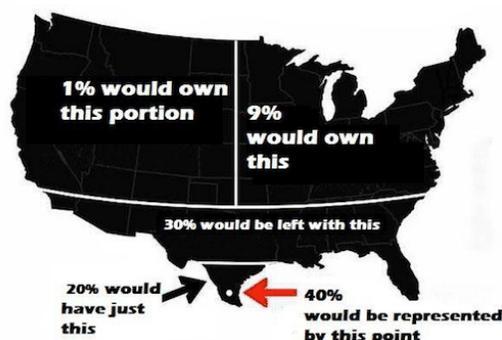
The Indigenous majority of Bolivians are outraged. Thousands marched across the country on November 18, 2019 to demand the resignation of Anez. This US-backed fringe candidate was polling at only 4% when she declared herself president after the coup. Thousands continue to be in the streets, where many have been killed by repressive police action.

Evo Morales incurred the wrath of North American corporations when he nationalized the gas industry. Now he wants to nationalize the mining of lithium, a vital element for cell phone batteries.

We demand the US government reverse course and restore democracy and bring back the rightfully elected president of Bolivia, Evo Morales.

Leaflet written by Kim Loftness,
Veteran's for Peace

If the territory of the United States were divided in the same way as its wealth:



SEATTLE ANTI-WAR COALITION

WWFOR and Seattle FOR are members of Seattle Anti-War Coalition

Join us on the 1st Tuesday of every month at the Federal Bldg 11 am to 1pm

