

PEOPLE

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY, 1975

Editor: K. Michael Benfield.
New Buildings.
Trinity St.
COVENTRY.

COST 10p.

TIME TO SET A LEAD.

Have you noticed more and more people complaining of tiredness, lack of purpose, being fed up? "Where's it all going to end?" is the question to which they seem really to seek no reply. Perhaps they believe there isn't one, or are secretly afraid to face the answer. Rather like children who still pretend about father Xmas because otherwise they might not get any presents.

At such times basic security and confidence are threatened. The elusive element in each case being, of course, dependence. From cradle to grave most of us need an extra dependence to fall back on when independence fails us. The love and encouragement of a Mother for the child learning to walk, the reassurance of Father or Teacher in taking that first job or the comfort and security found in religion. Particularly, since the end of world war 2 our ever increasing state paternalism has progressively replaced the latter, its largess, unfortunately often undermining or obviating the need for self reliance. Cocooned from everyday natural stimuli; good or bad harvests, loss or gain of livestock, or generally the "rough & tumble" of real life; people have turned to such extra-ordinary activities as Bingo and Television for their necessary excitement. Along with independence the role of intradependence within the community has been absorbed and taken over by the

state.

Now the complex communal security which has developed is threatened our confidence and "extra-dependence" placed in question.

As society becomes increasingly shaken by ongoing onslaught we can expect to see the religions as people look for something else upon which to depend. The search for a new code, a new ethic a new "extra dependence" the need it will not only have to provide also hope, something which many feel PEOPLE manifesto lacks. Yet hope comes from within. We in PEOPLE must provide the inspiration, relations, and associates and through them at large.

It is time for each one of us that MEANS a lead. They need to depend on us.

K.Michael Benfield. (editor).

HUMAN ECOLOGY : the extremities of the phrase "we either take risks or we lose all" Extracts from an article by Professor John professor of Public Administration, Victoria Wellington associated with the environment in New Zealand.

"We can identify throughout the history a division into two kinds of political systems I shall call the 'great' and the 'small' the great society is the one with the greatest

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it seems to me that the heart of this
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Relationships of man threatened - That the network
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serious manner, may be taken as read. Perhaps
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To ensure the continuity of the goals set by the functional
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can be plain hostile to them"....."When someone in my
trade is made critically aware of those processes that
we call the environmental crisis, his mind automatically
throws up two questions: 'Why have the long established
controls failed, and what must be done to reform them'.
I must admit that a good deal of my time has been spent
in the last few years on what I now believe is a
fruitless quest for specific environmental standards
universally applied.

It would be easy to reject the great society out of hand,
and turn to the small in a kind of embattled last-ditch
stand to save the world. But this would be nonsense. In
the first place, the great systems are absolutely essential
to the maintenance of modern society. In the second
place, they are often benevolent in their effect upon
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fundamentally one of conflict between the great and
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penetrate each other the result is humane, life enhancing
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Two tasks. I believe that we shall have to do two things
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given political power, really effective community power
ideally in the context of community planning action.
Second, the great society must accept the responsibility
of supplying expertise to the small society - expertise
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st principle of social change when dealing with societies. That is inveterate suspicion, the force for social change is so great, and so little understood, that counter-forces to slow down the impact on viable small communities is, I believe scientific and a political duty for the ecologists."

Advantages of Corporate society. We should be aware of the advantages of corporate society. The variety of services and goods even when the standardized is better than the inequitable distribution system of industrial capitalism. But the argument is whether or not we can have the great society of lords fulfilling their essential marshalling and allocating resources and a society of neighbourhoods interacting with diversity and to adapt the allocative to individual need. I do not know. But perhaps that we have one more chance to try to go down under the remorseless advance of big irresponsible systems. One cheering and one dismal note about the future for what I call 'neighbourhood communities'. It is cheering that experiment is being tried everywhere in the field, but it is dismal that many have ended in failure. I am prepared to be optimistic and suggest that only where an intensive community political interaction programme is established will it be successful". It might be 'damned dangerous'! It is a difficult job. I must add that it might be damned difficult. I need not reiterate the extremities of

the problem of human ecology. We either take the risks or we lose all.

In this business there is no room for the quite false dichotomy that great societies are evil, small societies are good. The small society is as likely to be without regulation and, in the present climate of obedience to the public interest, selfish and tyrannical. Therefore, in the interaction between great and small the responsibility is on the great to prescribe ^{the requirements} that constrain the small society to respond to real social need."

SCHUMACHER IN YORKSHIRE. by Peter Allen.

On Saturday 18th. January. Dr. E.F. Schumacher visited Farnley Hall near Otley as a guest of Mr. & Mrs. Horton-Fawkes. He was the focal point of the meeting of about 200 people in whom it was hoped to rouse sufficient interest in the idea of Intermediate Technology for a group to be set up in Yorkshire. Dr. Schumacher talked for an hour then we split up into groups to discuss such subjects as unemployment, education, wastage of resources and the constitution of a Yorkshire I.T. Group. Afterwards Dr. Schumacher was questioned for an hour; then the chairman of the discussion groups presented their reports prior to arranging a working committee (successfully) to set up the I.T. group.

Both the aware and the unaware, the committed and the uncommitted were represented at the meeting. Some were there because it was fashionable and others because the horse had gone lame. The result was that Schumacher, who delivered an excellent account of the problem we are faced with, was not preaching only to the converted. In the discussion groups there was a marked division between

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businessmen who were obsessed with short term, quick remedies, and those who believe that the long term objectives have to be defined before correct short-term steps can be taken. In the discussion groups that I was able to check on, the feeling was that nothing had been achieved, in fact, something important had been done. Imaginative, profit-conscious businessmen had been forced to contact the radical eco-conservationists and had had to listen to them. Hopefully something of what we said will be remembered by them.

The way Dr. Schumacher was a disappointment as all questions were directed at him by people who wanted to know how we should set about changing society and industry to fit the requirements of eco-conservationalism. Specific criticisms referred to an impending crisis caused by overpopulation, food shortages and resource scarcity inflation. In all these, Dr. Schumacher either evaded the issue, or he did not know, or, once that he did not know, I felt very strongly that he, like so many others in his field, had not made the necessary commitment to finding a way to bring about the changes he wishes to see. He has ideas and vision, but either has no idea how to make it a reality, or no wish to involve himself in the necessary action.

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ARE MOTORWAY INQUIRIES ILLEGAL?

The suggestion that all motorway inquiries since 1959 have been illegal threw the Epping M16 public inquiry into such turmoil that the inspector F.H.Clinch, was forced to adjourn the meeting twice on the first day (3 December) and call the police to eject two objectors on the second day.

John Tym, an environmental lecturer at Sheffield Polytechnic, told the inquiry that it was illegal because the Highways Act 1959 required publication in a local newspaper of "a notice stating the general effect of the scheme", something that the DoE has apparently never done for a motorway.

Tym, representing nine conservation groups, declared that the rules outlined by the inspector were entirely arbitrary and offered the objectors and the public no legal protection. The DoE admitted that this was so, but that it was better to permit the maximum flexibility. In any case, the inspector had a kind heart and impartial nature.

The crucial ruling, however, came when the inspector ruled that the inquiry could not discuss the merits of government policy. This excluded many objectors, who had come to argue that the road was not needed at all. The frame-work for the inquiry, laid down by the DoE booklet Public Inquiries into Road Proposals, only allowed for objections to the proposed route.

This was too much for the 300 people packed into St. Andrew's Hall, Epping, when combined with the inspector's decision that Tym's point should be taken up with the High Court, not the Inquiry. The feeling was so strong that the Inspector had to adjourn the inquiry after lunch on the first day. The public stayed behind in the hall and what amounted to a sit-in. They passed a resolution with only five dissentients "that the inquiry was being

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conducted".
issues involved were discussed at a conference
icator's Ecology Group held at the same
ne inquiry.

T OF INTERVIEW WITH RICHARD BURT OF THE
ONAL INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES:
AT ONE" RADIO 4 1325 MONDAY 30th. Dec.74.

.and now we learn that enough plutonium
make 5 crude nuclear bombs has been stolen
om the American nuclear plant at Creseent in
lahoma. Apparently, between 44 and 66 lbs.
plutonium has disappeared - perhaps smuggled
t in workmen's lunch boxes. When R.B. of
I.S.S. came into the studio to talk about
I suggested it was like a nightmare come
ue. Could a bomb actually be made from this
terial?

probably wouldn't be too difficult - not
man in the street, but a trained physicist,
man out of college? In fact, last year,
ne American Atomic Energy Commission hired
vo young physicists out of college and asked
nem to design a bomb on their own, and 6
onths later they came back with what the
gency said were workable plans.
ow would a terrorist organisation, if one
ad one, handle a nuclear device likethis
hough?

t wouldn't necessarily have to be terrorists.
t could be a criminal group, to use black-

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mail for instance. Often the Mafia has been seen as
a possible group who might obtain use of a weapon
like this; or a single demonic individual who has
a grudge against a Company or against the country
for instance, but I think the most likely
scenario is possibly a terrorist group that want
to use it in terms of a blackmail. Let's say a
group who wanted to have prisoners released. It's
the blackmail attribute of the weapon which would
be useful.

Int:It seems to me though that this is still in the
realms of fantasy. Would it ever happen?

R.B:Well, it has, in fact happened, I believe it was in
Georgia in the United States. The Police Depart.
received a note - a message through the mail - askin
for 100,000 dollars and attached to it a crude
drawing/blueprint/plan for a bomb. The plan was
flown to authorities in Washington, and the
authorities, after looking at the plans, said that
the ransom should be paid. It was only later that
they found that the note had been drawn up by an
eleven year old boy from his science class at school

Int:You are making it all sound so simple to make. Are
you saying that actually getting hold of nuclear
material is the only substantial difficulty in
making a crude nuclear device?

R.B:In the long run. Yes! I think that because the
authorities are faced with the possibility that when
a group holds substantial nuclear material, you
have to presume that they possess some capability
of building a device after stealing the materials
either plutonium or enriched uranium, is the most
important level one has to pass.

Int:That being the case, it is surely staggering that
this nuclear plant allowed people to get away with
between 44 and 66 lbs of this stuff?

R.B.: Well, it sounds staggering, but the clever employee by perhaps putting very minute bits of material in his lunch box for instance, every day, could get away unnoticed, and in any process of handling any of these kinds of materials there is always some to be lost and then, this is the problem. This is what worries people. It isn't great pounds of Uranium disappearing over a matter of weeks. It is just minute amounts over a great period of years.

Int: What about the dangers to the people who steal the plutonium?

R.B.: The dangers are really fantastic. I think it would be very difficult for a terrorist group, or a group that did not possess the capabilities to handle the substance to steal plutonium or enriched uranium and build a bomb without possibly bringing great danger to themselves and others they came in contact to.

Int: Like Radiation
R.B.: Radiation primarily, and, the dangers of plutonium are fantastic. The amount of plutonium which presently exists on the planet for the last 20 years has grown dramatically as countries throughout the world have built reactors.

Int: ^{the} prospect really is quite frightening isn't it?

R.B.: I think it is frightening, Yes."

Well, What are your opinions ? Ed.

A HUMAN ENERGY CRISIS LIES BEHIND THE WORLD'S PROBLEM - BUT THE OUTLOOK NEED NOT BE GRIM.

Extracts from an article in "Commonwealth" by Brian Meredith, a U.N. official for over 20 years he is Canadian, who served in New York, Korea, West Africa, Washington, Tunisia and L is now a journalist and broadcaster.

"Official documents, particularly those joint of the expertise of both UN and its affiliate FAO are soberly phrased and scientifically ca but there is no doubt about the concern that the 'Preliminary Assessment of the World Food issued by the preparatory committee to the Wo Conference in Rome. It says plainly that 'his records more acute shortages in individual co but it is doubtful whether such a critical si has ever been so world-wide'.

In defining the dimensions and causes of hung malnutrition in the world it states that 'an proportion of the world's population suffers malnutrition deficiencies which adversely aff health, physical growth and working capacity' poor, whose numbers are increasing, are the sufferers, but so too suffer the rural poor them especially the small land holders and a labourers. In all, roughly 400 millions of p today simply do not get enough to eat. Iron many of these are themselves food producers capacity to grow more food would increase wi betterment of their own nutrition.

Undernourished Children.

Half of the child deaths in the world are at to malnutrition - and there are about 200 mi children who are undernourished. The percent

developing world subject to food deficiencies range upto 25 per cent and more, and the deductions from this are deemed 'consistent and forbidding'

"...Daunting facts and opinions emerge. For instance to meet the current population and income growth rates by 1985 alone, annually there is a need for 240 million tons of cereals, 40 million more of sugar, 110 million of vegetables, 60 million of meat, 140 million of milk and 90 million of fruits. And animal feeding stuffs must go up from 420 to 600 millions of tons.

'In essence' says the Preliminary Assessment 'farm producers are the world's most precious resource' and to help them first should come programmes reaching 'down to the level of the farm producers themselves. Without their willing and active collaboration and more effective mobilization, no progress can be accomplished'

"....Need for 'World Food Authority' His main recommendation is that there should be a 'World Food Authority' The present pressures and politics of world food agencies over food call for 'supremo' action. But if governments as well as world agencies do not support an 'authority' it will have little authority"

".....Insecurity in food arrests growth and engenders bitterness"

".....And so must the community that is the Commonwealth. With wheat and sugar and coffee we are all vitally involved as producers and consumers. And the warnings on rural deprivation and the need for

agrarian reform do not just apply to others but ourselves as well. There is an urgent need now for a putting of individual houses in order but for collective action through world organization to do what commonsense and expert counsel say must do.

The alternative is a disgraceful and appalling to recognize the imminence and inevitability increased human suffering, and of disaster. While the Rome conference was in progress the ugly reports from Bangladesh coming in about shortages there. There was, and there remains lack of reminders of the realities of famine the need, long term, to prevent it.

FORESTS POLICIES.

Forestry experts from more than twenty countries part in the tenth Commonwealth Forestry conference held in Britain in September. Most of the conference was carried on in Oxford, with the final session in Aberdeen. The eminent ecologist, Sir Frank Fraser Darling, set the theme with an opening address 'Forest and Global Environment'. Then, for the next few weeks there was a programme of plenary sessions, committee meetings and visits to places of interest. The discussions showed that in many countries there is an awareness - sometimes belated - of the importance of forests to the environment. For instance, in India, the Inspector-General of Forests in India, that India's National Development Council had decided that no further forest land is to be used or reserved for other purposes and utilized land is to be used to make good the losses of forest land over the

to 15 years.

Dr. G.P.Thomas, Director General of the Canadian Forestry Service, told delegates that demand for exports of Canadian wood was expected to treble by the year 2000 and to supply this would mean exceeding the allowable cut under present standards of forest management.

Several countries were taking part in the conference for the first time. Among them was Hong Kong which has only 15,000 acres of forest but has followed an environmental forestry policy since 1870.

THE EARTH ENTERPRISE PROJECT.

For nearly two years now, Joan Pick, a leading management consultant, has been advising the world on forward planning, on Energy Conservation in particular. Her complete "report to the Board" will be published eventually

Meanwhile those who would like to be kept informed of progress, or to help in any way, are invited to get in touch with her at : 23 Maybourne Grange, Turnpike Link, CROYDEN CRO 5NH. Tel: 01 -686-5089.

BIG UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE.

CHEC (The Commonwealth Human Ecology Council) has its eyes at this time on the next big United Nations Conference on the environment. This is the exposition on Human Settlements in Vancouver, Canada, in June 1976. It will be a large Stockholm-type conference, and there is

of course little question of a coordinated Co governmental contribution as such, but CHEC is to encourage an interdisciplinary approach on non-government professional plane with a view influencing the thinking of Commonwealth gover the problems of human settlements.

The preparatory committee for the conference has identified a large number of issues, of which following are only a few:

Is Urbanization a necessary compliment of deve
What are the uses and abuses of using land val
What are the advantages and disadvantages of r
in a developing society?

Why do large cities tend to get larger and wha
be the cost of urban diffusion in developing c

In what ways can the economic advantages of la
be combined with the social advantages of smal
Are current modes of mass transport the only e
to private transport? (Your opinions please -

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir,

I read with horror the extract from a privat i
bulletin in the last newsletter. Not only did
the suggestion that now - just before the fina
is the time to make money by outrageous specul
revolting as the idea of raping a dying woman,
seriously question the writer's qualification
advice to anyone. A person who recommends layi
stocks of dehydrated food against the day when
be a breakdown in the water supply; and buying
generator to use at a time when petrol might l
gallon is no ordinary fool.

Yours faithfully,

P.Allen. 16 West Park Rd. LEEDS 8.

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Dear Sir,
Thank you for your PEOPLE newsletter, The People Party and Mr. Devenport have my best wishes, You may know that I stood for parliament myself in 1968 on Population etc, and know a little about these things. There might or might not be a Walsall by-election on Feb 20th. I predict another PEOPLE trouncing, but see no other way. I am a bit disabled now and v. busy. Could you please send me the name and address of the best Walsall newspaper to write to, Neither have I kept the last election figures. A line might be the The Crisis is not primarily one of morals and confidence but of something much graver (we know what). Here are some possible campaign lines:
"Help Britains population to fall, by all acceptable means, from 60 million to 30 million in 2075"
"Things will get better when people are fewer"
(ad men call this 'the positive approach') "The Oil Price Rise is a Blessing in Disguise" (The Biblical note pp7-8 is good - puts the clergy and the Royals on their mettle.)
North Sea Oil is Moonshine /nuclear Power is Moonshine.

Yours sincerely,

S.S. EUSTACE. THE ECO MOVEMENT

11 First St. LONDON SW3

The EM may be able to donate £5. Who to send to?
(ALL subs and donations to National Treasurer please. Thank you Mr. Eustace. Ed.)

Your suggestions to me please - Ed.

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~~THE~~ LONDON MEETING.

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Produced 3 groups, Twickenham, Islington & plus organisers for Guildford and Greenwich is now needed for Ilford. More details from Steve Fagg. 29 Laurel Rd. LIVERPOOL 7.

NEXT 'PEOPLE' MEETINGS.

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15th. March in Leeds: 17th. May in Manchest
Note the dates in your diary now.

FUND RAISING.

Two ideas are in hand:

1. Straightforward appointment of a fund ra approach people directly and ask for money.
2. The establishment of a seperate Company shares held by the N.E.C. as trustees for P Company to operate independently e.g. as pu organising pilot schemes to make use of the wolunteers etc.

Yours comments and suggestions to Steve Fag
NAMES AND ADDRESSES.

CHAIRMAN - A.M.(Tony) WHITTAKER 69 Hertford
SECRETARY- C.L.(Clive) LORD. 44 Upper Batle
Batley Yorks.

TREASURER - A.L.(Lesley) WHITTAKER 69 Hertf
POLICY REVISION - P.M.(Peter) ALLEN 16 West
LEEDS.

STRATEGY - K.M.(Michael) BENFIELD New Build
FUND RAISING - S. (Steve) FAGG LIVERPOOL,
St. Coventry

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to supply the great with their capacity to maintain order. The great society has changed its form throughout history to suit whatever the prevailing technology of power. The small society, on the other hand, changes little. Its characteristics of neighbourhood, the preoccupation with work, shelter and food, with survival, and the maintenance of a close community reality, the nature of its political presence in the body politic, does not materially alter with the changes in other social organization, in technology and in impact of science upon human ecology.".....

"If I were to be forced into a corner and asked which great political act constituted the greatest practical advance in the people's struggle for political control of their destiny, it would be the Municipal Corporations Act of 1834, for it seems to me that the heart of this matter will be found in effective political representation at the level that touches the small society in all its aspects.".....

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Tym, representing nine conservation groups, declared that the rules outlined by the inspector were entirely arbitrary and offered the objectors and the public no legal protection. The DoE admitted that this was so, but that it was better to permit the maximum flexibility. In any case, the inspector had a kind heart and impartial nature.

The crucial ruling, however, came when the inspector said that the inquiry could not discuss the merits of government policy. This excluded many objectors, who had come to argue that the road was not needed at all: the frame-work for the inquiry, laid down by the DoE booklet Public Inquiries into Road Proposals, only allows for objections to the proposed route.

This was too much for the 300 people packed into St. John's Hall, Epping, when combined with the inspector's decision that Tym's point should be taken up with the High Court, not the Inquiry. The feeling was so strong that the Inspector had to adjourn the inquiry after lunch on the first day. The public stayed behind in the hall and held what amounted to a sit-in. They passed a resolution with only five dissentients "that the inquiry was being

The legal issues involved were discussed at a conference of the Solicitor's Ecology Group held at the same time as the inquiry.

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH RICHARD BURT OF THE
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES:
ON "WORLD AT ONE" RADIO 4 1325 MONDAY 30th. Dec.74.

Int : "...and now we learn that enough plutonium to make 5 crude nuclear bombs has been stolen from the American nuclear plant at Creseent in Oklahoma. Apparently, between 44 and 66 lbs of plutonium has disappeared - perhaps smuggled out in workmen's lunch boxes. When R.B. of I.I.S.S. came into the studio to talk about it I suggested it was like a nightmare come true. Could a bomb actually be made from this material?

R.B.: It probably wouldn't be too difficult - not a man in the street, but a trained physicist, a man out of college? In fact, last year, the American Atomic Energy Commission hired two young physicists out of college and asked them to design a bomb on their own, and 6 months later they came back with what the agency said were workable plans.

Int : How would a terrorist organisation, if one had one, handle a nuclear device like this though?

R.B.: It wouldn't necessarily have to be terrorists. It could be a criminal group, to use black-

(10)

mail for instance. Often the Mafia has been seen as a possible group who might obtain use of a weapon like this; or a single demonic individual who has a grudge against a Company or against the country for instance, but I think the most likely scenario is possibly a terrorist group that want to use it in terms of a blackmail. Let's say a group who wanted to have prisoners released. It's the blackmail attribute of the weapon which would be useful.

Int: It seems to me though that this is still in the realms of fantasy. Would it ever happen?

R.B: Well, it has, in fact happened, I believe it was in Georgia in the United States. The Police Dept. received a note - a message through the mail - asking for 100,000 dollars and attached to it a crude drawing/blueprint/plan for a bomb. The plan was flown to authorities in Washington, and the authorities, after looking at the plans, said that the ransom should be paid. It was only later that they found that the note had been drawn up by an eleven year old boy from his science class at school.

Int: You are making it all sound so simple to make. Are you saying that actually getting hold of nuclear material is the only substantial difficulty in making a crude nuclear device?

R.B: In the long run. Yes! I think that because the authorities are faced with the possibility that when a group holds substantial nuclear material, you have to presume that they possess some capability of building a device after stealing the materials either plutonium or enriched uranium, is the most important level one has to pass.

Int: That being the case, it is surely staggering that this nuclear plant allowed people to get away with between 44 and 66 lbs of this stuff?

employee by perhaps putting very minute bits of material in his lunch box for instance, every day, could get away unnoticed, and in any process of handling any of these kinds of materials there is always some to be lost and then, this is the problem. This is what worries people. It isn't great pounds of Uranium disappearing over a matter of weeks. It is just minute amounts over a great period of years.

Int: What about the dangers to the people who steal the plutonium?

R.B: The dangers are really fantastic. I think it would be very difficult for a terrorist group, or a group that did not possess the capabilities to handle the substance to steal plutonium or enriched uranium and build a bomb without possibly bringing great danger to themselves and others they came in contact to.

Int: Like Radiation
R.B: Radiation primarily, and, the dangers of plutonium are fantastic. The amount of plutonium which presently exists on the planet for the last 20 years has grown dramatically as countries throughout the world have built reactors.

Int: The prospect really is quite frightening isn't it?

R.B.: I think it is frightening, Yes."

Well, What are your opinions ? Ed.

A HUMAN ENERGY CRISIS LIES BEHIND THE WORLD'S FOOD PROBLEM - BUT THE OUTLOOK NEED NOT BE GRIM.

Extracts from an article in "Commonwealth" by Brian Meredith, a U.N. official for over 20 years he is Canadian, who served in New York, Kashmir, Korea, West Africa, Washington, Tunisia and London. He is now a journalist and broadcaster.

"Official documents, particularly those jointly born of the expertise of both UN and its affiliate, the FAO are soberly phrased and scientifically cautious, but there is no doubt about the concern that infuses the 'Preliminary Assessment of the World Food Situation' issued by the preparatory committee to the World Food Conference in Rome. It says plainly that 'history records more acute shortages in individual countries, but it is doubtful whether such a critical situation has ever been so world-wide'.

In defining the dimensions and causes of hunger and malnutrition in the world it states that 'an important proportion of the world's population suffers from malnutrition deficiencies which adversely affect health, physical growth and working capacity' The urban poor, whose numbers are increasing, are the chief sufferers, but so too suffer the rural poor, and among them especially the small land holders and agricultural labourers. In all, roughly 400 millions of people today simply do not get enough to eat. Ironically many of these are themselves food producers whose capacity to grow more food would increase with a betterment of their own nutrition.

Undernourished Children.

Half of the child deaths in the world are attributable to malnutrition - and there are about 200 million children who are undernourished. The percentage in the

upto 25 per cent and more, and the deductions from this are deemed 'consistent and forbidding'

"....Daunting facts and opinions emerge. For instance to meet the current population and income growth rates by 1985 alone, annually there is a need for 240 million tons of cereals, 40 million more of sugar, 110 million of vegetables, 60 million of meat, 140 million of milk and 90 million of fruits. And animal feeding stuffs must go up from 420 to 600 millions of tons.

'In essence' says the Preliminary Assesment 'farm producers are the world's most precious resource' and to help them first should come programmes reaching 'down to the level of the farm producers themselves. Without their willing and active collaboration and more effective mobilization, no progress can be accomplished'

"....Need for 'World Food Authority' His main recommendation is that there should be a 'World Food Authority' The present pressures and politics of world food agencies over food call for 'supremo' action. But if governments as well as world agencies do not support an 'authority' it will have little authority'

".....Insecurity in food-arrests growth and engenders bitterness"

".....And so must the community that is the Commonwealth. With wheat and sugar and coffee we are all vitally involved as producers and consumers. And the warnings on rural deprivation and the need for

ourselves as well. There is an urgent need not only for a putting of individual houses in order but for collective action through world organizations to do what commonsense and expert counsel say we must do.

The alternative is a disgraceful and appalling failure to recognize the imminence and inevitability of increased human suffering, and of disaster.

While the Rome conference was in progress there were ugly reports from Bangladesh coming in about food shortages there. There was, and there remains, no lack of reminders of the realities of famine and of the need, long term, to prevent it.

FORESTS POLICIES.

Forestry experts from more than twenty countries took part in the tenth Commonwealth Forestry conference held in Britain in September. Most of the conference was carried on in Oxford, with the final session in Aberdeen. The eminent ecologist, Sir Frank Fraser Darling, set the theme with an opening address on 'The Forest and Global Environment'. Then, for the next two weeks there was a programme of plenary sessions, committee meetings and visits to places of interest.

The discussions showed that in many countries there was an awareness - sometimes belated - of the importance of forests to the environment. For instance, Mr. K. Lahiri, Inspector -General of Forests in India, explained that India's National Development Council had decided that no further forest land is to be used or released for other purposes and utilized land is to be developed to make good the losses of forest land over the last

Dr. G.P.Thomas, Director General of the Canadian Forestry Service, told delegates that demand for exports of Canadian wood was expected to treble by the year 2000 and to supply this would mean exceeding the allowable cut under present standards of forest management.

Several countries were taking part in the conference for the first time. Among them was Hong Kong which has only 15,000 acres of forest but has followed an environmental forestry policy since 1870.

THE EARTH ENTERPRISE PROJECT.

For nearly two years now, Joan Pick, a leading management consultant, has been advising the world on forward planning, on Energy Conservation in particular. Her complete "report to the Board" will be published eventually

Meanwhile those who would like to be kept informed of progress, or to help in any way, are invited to get in touch with her at : 23 Maybourne Grange, Turnpike Link, CROYDEN CRO 5NH. Tel: 01 -686-5089.

BIG UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE.

CHEC (The Commonwealth Human Ecology Council) has its eyes at this time on the next big United Nations Conference on the environment. This is the exposition on Human Settlements in Vancouver, Canada, in June 1976. It will be a large Stockholm-type conference, and there is

of course little question of a coordinated Commonwealth governmental contribution as such, but CHEC is working to encourage an interdisciplinary approach on the non-government professional plane with a view to influencing the thinking of Commonwealth governments on the problems of human settlements.

The preparatory committee for the conference has identified a large number of issues, of which the following are only a few:

- Is Urbanization a necessary compliment of development?
- What are the uses and abuses of using land values?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of rural life in a developing society?
- Why do large cities tend to get larger and what would be the cost of urban diffusion in developing countries?
- In what ways can the economic advantages of large cities be combined with the social advantages of smaller cities?
- Are current modes of mass transport the only alternative to private transport? (Your opinions please - Ed.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir,

I read with horror the extract from a private investment bulletin in the last newsletter. Not only did I find the suggestion that now - just before the final collapse - is the time to make money by outrageous speculation as revolting as the idea of raping a dying woman, but I seriously question the writer's qualification to give advice to anyone. A person who recommends laying in stocks of dehydrated food against the day when there might be a breakdown in the water supply; and buying a diesel generator to use at a time when petrol might be £100 a gallon is no ordinary fool.

Yours faithfully,

P.Allen. 16 West Park Rd. LEEDS 8.

Thank you for your PEOPLE newsletter, The People Party and Mr. Devenport have my best wishes, You may know that I stood for parliament myself in 1968 on Population etc, and know a little about these things. There might or might not be a Walsall by-election on Feb 20th. I predict another PEOPLE trouncing, but see no other way. I am a bit disabled now and v. busy. Could you please send me the name and address of the best Walsall newspaper to write to, Neither have I kept the last election figures. A line might be the The Crisis is not primarily one of morals and confidence but of something much graver (we know what). Here are some possible campaign lines:

"Help Britains population to fall, by all acceptable means, from 60 million to 30 million in 2075"

Things will get better when people are fewer"

(ad men call this 'the positive approach') "The Oil Price Rise is a Blessing in Disguise" (The Biblical note pp7-8 is good - puts the clergy and the Royals on their mettle.)

North Sea Oil is Moonshine /nuclear Power is Moonshine.

Yours sincerely,

S.S. EUSTACE. THE ECO MOVEMENT

11 First St. LONDON SW3

The EM may be able to donate £5. Who to send to?

(ALL subs and donations to National Treasurer please. Thank you Mr. Eustace. Ed.)

Your suggestions to me please - Ed.

THE LONDON MEETING.

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Produced 3 groups, Twickenham, Islington & Nottingham plus organisers for Guildford and Greenwich. Support is now needed for Ilford. More details from Steve Fagg. 29 Laurel Rd. LIVERPOOL 7.

NEXT 'PEOPLE' MEETINGS.

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15th. March in Leeds: 17th. May in Manchester.
Note the dates in your diary now.

FUND RAISING.

Two ideas are in hand:

1. Straightforward appointment of a fund raiser who will approach people directly and ask for money.
2. The establishment of a separate Company with the shares held by the N.E.C. as trustees for PEOPLE. The Company to operate independently e.g. as publishers; organising pilot schemes to make use of the unemployed volunteers etc.

Yours comments and suggestions to Steve Fagg.

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