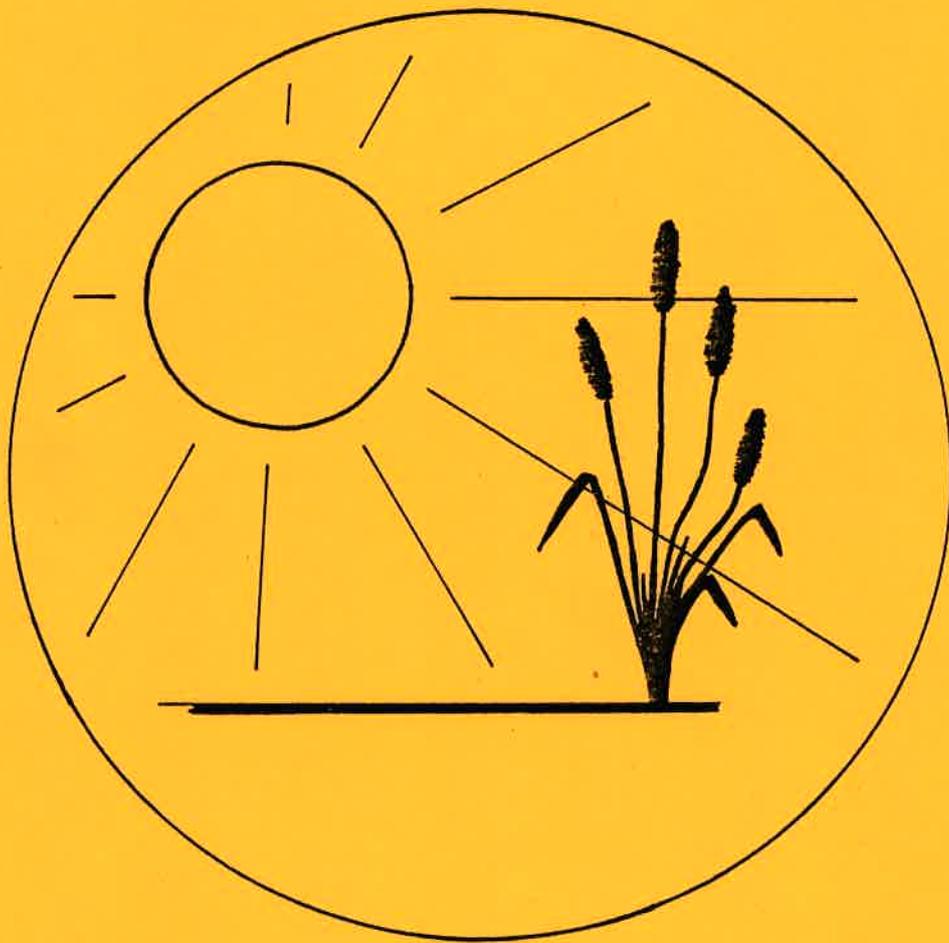


OXFORD ECOLOGY MOVEMENT

MANIFESTO

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1. Nature of the OEM

The OEM has been formed specifically to contest Oxford constituency in the next General Election. It has no formal connection with any other environmental or political body.

The founding group of the OEM consider that none of the main political parties offer policies which are satisfactory on ecological principles. They further consider that at this point in the development of ecological politics it is appropriate that many local groups seek independently for an appropriate political philosophy.

The future activities of OEM and its co-operation or amalgamation with other bodies will be considered after the next General Election.

This manifesto is to be considered as a first draft only and therefore open to discussion by future members of the OEM.

2. The Need for an 'Ecological' Politics

2.1 The Meaning of 'Ecology'

The word ecology literally means : 'the study of house or habitat'. As commonly applied in biology, it is the study of the way in which animal or plant communities live, with an emphasis on the relationships between and within species and between living organisms and their environment.

Ecology is thus a science whose philosophy is essentially one of looking at the whole, rather than of seeing particular phenomena on their own.

This philosophy can and should be applied when one attempts to understand the behaviour of our complex modern societies. These societies embody elaborate technical and social structures (eg transport networks, administrative hierarchies) which can be viewed as organisms. Thus the ecological approach can readily be extended from its traditional use in the biological arena to the realms of politics and technology.

Such an approach yields a new perspective on political issues. From this perspective one inevitably derives a new and distinctive set of priorities for the direction of society.

2.2 The Global Resource Imperative

It is becoming increasingly recognised that the combination of rising population and economic growth is straining the resources of the planet.

The pressure on resources is manifested in many ways. For instance, at the global level, scientists are concerned about potential climate changes arising from present rates of fossil fuel burning. At the local level, people are increasingly aware of pressures on clean air, clean water and unspoiled natural environments.

Resource limits also increasingly affect our economies, both directly and by highlighting distributional problems. Examples are the oil crisis of 1973/74 and the frequent famines in poor countries.

It is sometimes stated that vast energy reserves are available through the creation of plutonium from uranium in fast breeder reactors and that this energy can be used to mine low-grade metal ores. This, it is claimed, would greatly defer resource depletion dates, despite continuing growth. We doubt that the necessary rate of investment can be sustained and that the natural environment can tolerate such disruption. Furthermore, we believe that such an economy, even if sustainable, would be so unpleasant as to outweigh any of the supposed benefits of increased production.

Ecology
party
Expand
"on
multipin
duality"

In regard to agriculture, it should not be assumed that production can continue to expand indefinitely. The expansion to date has required a substantial increase in a range of inputs such as fertilisers and machinery. Large areas are planted with single species of highly bred and possibly vulnerable strains. Severe health problems may well arise from the extensive use of chemicals on crops or as feed additives. Soil structure is already suffering from this highly technical approach and the problem may become more severe. A large part of the world's food is wasted by inefficient conversion to animal protein. Attempts to open up new areas (eg the Amazon basin) to agriculture raise many serious problems of environmental degradation.

It follows that Britain should not depend to its present extent (approx 50 %) on imported food. Such dependence puts the country in a vulnerable position and the financial burden will in any event become increasingly heavy.

2.3 The Social Imperative

Economic policies over the last 2 centuries have led to a massive migration of people from rural areas to towns. This, combined with population growth, has led to the huge and unwieldy cities we know today.

In these cities, many people live and work in impersonal environments. They often do not fully understand the functioning of the society within which they live and they frequently feel powerless to influence its course. This leads to alienation and thus to violence towards people and property or to breakdown of social cohesion.

Furthermore, people have become progressively out of touch with many of the fundamental facts of their existence such as the production of food.

Many of the supposed benefits of this modern society are illusory. For instance, on the pretext of saving time we actually waste it. Most people spend more time travelling to work now than they did in the 1930's and in the USA (no British data exists) it has been found that, although 'convenience foods' have reduced cooking time by 30 mins/day, time spent shopping has risen by 36 mins.

It is clear that there are social limits to growth as well as material limits.

2.4 The Industrial Imperative

At the same time as we are facing, on a broad front, the material and social limits to growth outlined above, we are entering an age in which modes of employment will change. Firstly, improved technology (especially electronics) will allow substantial increases in productivity in the manufacturing and service sectors. Secondly, technology transfer will increasingly allow lower-wage countries such as S Korea to compete successfully in the manufacture of a growing range of products.

Countries such as Britain will therefore find it increasingly difficult to generate sufficient exports to sustain their current imports. They will not be able to maintain existing patterns of employment. Investment in 'information-rich' technology will be necessary to produce exports sufficient to sustain even a reduced level of imports. Such technology can improve working conditions but it will need to be carefully applied and controlled if it is not to cause social disruption.

REQUIRES
more
on quality
of life,
"growth"
within

2.5 The Peace Imperative

The exponential nature of population increase and economic growth means that both scarcity of resources and social disruption will become progressively more severe as this century draws to a close. This will occur at a time when the world stock of armaments is greater than ever and when nuclear weapons capacity has spread to many countries.

The survival of Britain, and indeed much of the Western world, therefore requires that international tensions be minimised. Conflict over access to raw materials or markets must be kept in check and the aspirations of the 3rd World must be respected.

Section
on
the 3rd
world?
(p 15)

Britain can play a significant world role if it provides an example of a conserving and non-exploitive society.

2.6 The Ethical Imperative

Man frequently acts as if he were the only significant species on the earth, turning all that he can find to his own advantage. However, looked at in terms of the planet's history, man's part in that history is tiny. The human species has only existed for a fraction of the 3500 million years during which life has existed, and has lived in complex societies for only the past few thousand years.

Man shares the earth with a vast range of species of plants and animals. These organisms depend for their existence on the maintenance of complex webs of interaction. All this has taken many millions of years to evolve to its present state, multitudes of species having arisen, changed and in some cases become extinct during the unimaginably long process.

Now, in a matter of a few thousand years, but especially in recent decades, man has attacked and often destroyed this wealth of life due to his greed for land and lack of understanding of the careful balances of nature.

Man, a newcomer on a very old planet, has no right to destroy life in this way. Our brain has given us the power to manipulate and destroy but we should use it also to protect and perpetuate the natural riches of the planet, not only out of care for our own future, but also out of respect for that which we did not create and still hardly understand.

2.7 Summary

It is clear that attempts to maintain growth on the traditional basis will fail. If such attempts continue to be made, natural environments will be destroyed and conflict promoted both within and between nations.

There is thus a vital need for government policies which promote resource conservation, greater self-sufficiency both locally and nationally, environmental preservation, careful use of new technology, population stabilisation and creation of fulfilling lifestyles.

3. The Philosophical Basis of OEM Policies

3.1 Democracy

A stable, ecologically balanced and civilised society cannot exist unless most of its members understand the basis of decisions and participate in their formulation and implementation.

The society must therefore be democratic to a greater degree than at present. Decisions must be decentralised such that they are never taken at a higher level than is necessary.

3.2 Distribution of Goods

Unequal distribution promotes dissatisfaction and envy when the total quantity of goods is not growing. Indeed, one of the motives for growth has been that it diverts attention from inequality.

A stable, democratic society must therefore distribute its goods relatively equally. This applies particularly to 'free' or shared goods ('the commons'), such as clean air and water or access to the countryside.

3.3 Incentives

We consider that limited but significant incentives should exist to encourage effort. Furthermore, we consider that a free market in goods can both encourage effort and optimise welfare.

The essence of a successful free market and incentive system is that it be carefully controlled and limited in its scope. 'Laissez-faire' policies rapidly lead to a loss in freedom as the strong and aggressive become dominant.

3.4 Science and Technology

It is clear that science and technology have improved mankind's lot in many respects and that they retain the potential to improve it further.

Nevertheless, misplaced technology represents the greatest present threat to mankind, through environmental hazard, war or alienation.

Therefore, science and technology must in future be applied with greater sensitivity to mankind's needs and the ecology of the planet.

We do not believe that there can be a 'value-free' science, as is often maintained. Ideology determines our basic research priorities as well as our priorities for investment in the development of new technology.

In future, our education must seek to synthesise the objectivity and curiosity which epitomise good science with a sensitive approach to human issues.

4. The Policies

4.1 Introduction

We do not regard the following set of policies as fixed. They should be seen as suggestions for what are, after all, substantial changes in the course of our society. In certain instances we can do little more than state our aims.

We welcome any comments or suggestions.

All of the following policies are intended to be compatible with the philosophical basis outlined in Section 3 above.

In most cases, the policies are categorised as Short-term or Longer-term. These categories are not intended to represent specific time periods, rather they relate to the future capacity of the ecology movement to influence government.

In the short-term, we envisage that a small number of MP's of the ecology movement will be elected and that some MP's of other affiliation will to varying degrees support ecological policies. Such MP's can support the policies categorised here as Short-term, these measures having in many cases an existing basis of support.

In the longer term, we envisage that the ecology movement will control Parliament either directly via election of its own MP's or via the transformation of one or more of the existing main parties. Complete introduction of the policies can proceed.

4.2 Welfare

Short-term

- (i) Replacement of most welfare allowances by basic national income (see Taxation).
- (ii) Supplement to basic income provided in cases of special need (eg handicapped people).
- (iii) Child allowances to differ in form with increasing family size (see Population).
- (iv) Accent to be put on community care rather than institutional care.

How? this will emerge naturally. explanation

Longer-term

- (i) District government to take over most welfare activities. This will entail different welfare provision in different districts but inter-district income transfer (see Taxation) will ensure approximate equality.
- (ii) Voluntary insurance and pension schemes to be permitted but national schemes will be replaced by the basic income.
- (iii) Charities to be permitted (but given no tax privileges because in general their functions will be fulfilled by local communities).
- (iv) Basic welfare provision to be guaranteed by the Bill of Rights (see Law).

order of priorities altered. taxation should come sooner

iii the question of overseas aid. (p 15)

4.3 Health

Short-term

- (i) Change of emphasis to preventive medicine.
- (ii) Severe restriction of all kinds of pollution.
- (iii) Improvement of education regarding nutrition and the cultivation of a sensible attitude to bodily functions.
- (iv) Restriction of the use of anti-biotics, sedatives and stimulants.
- (v) Publicity regarding the effects of drinking to excess, smoking, use of deodorants etc.
- (vi) Ensure that tobacco and alcohol taxes continue to cover costs of resultant health care and of preventive education.
- (vii) Encouragement of a holistic approach to medicine, whereby mental and physical illnesses are treated as being inter-related.
- (viii) As regards medical records, mental illness to be treated as for other illness, in that it shall be considered cured after an appropriate interval.
- (ix) Ban on smoking in enclosed public places.
- (x) Reduction of food additives such as colouring and preservatives.
- (xi) Requirement for complete labelling of all products to show all ingredients of the product and potential health hazards.
- (xii) Encouragement of the study and practise of alternative medicine.

i. how? explanation of preventive medicine, e.g. in dentistry

viii ix where it is hard to see the "ecological" reasoning this should be painstakingly spelled out ie mental illness provides society with scapegoats, etc. (Szasz)

Longer-term

- (i) Reduced stress and pollution should lead to improved health.
- (ii) Responsibility for health care to be transferred from area health authorities to districts as regards eg cottage hospitals and to regions as regards eg large hospitals (see Government).
- (iii) Creation of community therapy centres for a broad range of therapy.
- (iv) Remuneration of doctors and dentists to be weighted towards disease prevention.
- (v) Continuation of education and incentives to promote individual health maintenance via nutrition and lifestyle.
- (vi) Phasing out of high-technology medicine.

xii definition and considerable explanation required

iii definition

e.g.? and what is the position re. kidney machines, etc.

4.4 Population

Short-term

- (i) Free issue of all contraceptives.
- (ii) Increased R & D on improved contraceptive methods, especially mechanical methods as opposed to hormonal.
- (iii) Abortion to be available on demand.
- (iv) Increased education on the need for population restraint and on means of contraception.
- (v) Announcement that the national aim is a replacement birthrate in the short-term, followed by gradual reduction to 20 million in Britain, achieved through education and with popular consent.

preface on the world population situation & that of Britain since this appears nowhere else

time-scale

Longer-term

- (i) Child allowance (administered by districts) to be such that parents lose control progressively when the family exceeds 2 children. For 1 or 2 children, the allowance is paid to the parents. For more than 2 children, the allowance is progressively administered directly on behalf of the child (free school meals etc). Thus the children do not suffer but the parents are made aware that they are not considered fully responsible.
- (ii) Education to be continued on the need for population restraint. It is hoped that this will be sufficient.

omit?

4.5 Housing

Short-term

- (i) More effort to be made to make use of empty houses. A national census of houses to be undertaken.
- (ii) Restoration of houses to be encouraged in place of new construction.
- (iii) Mass housing (eg tower blocks) to be phased out and replacements to draw their inspiration from terraced housing. Each dwelling to have its own open space.
- (iv) Derelict city land to be used for allotments or housing rather than for offices.
- (v) Land prices to be controlled to prevent speculation.

intended SRA RES, etc.

Longer-term

- (i) Personal ownership of 1 house to be permitted. This ownership to be transferrable.
- (ii) Ownership to be encouraged but some public housing to be provided.
- (iii) Co-operative housing schemes to be encouraged.
- (iv) Gradual rural resettlement to be undertaken : houses to be clustered around shops, schools etc and surrounded by allotments.
- (v) The distinction between town and country will be gradually broken down by rural resettlement and more cultivation within cities. It is not intended, however, that cities should vanish.
- (vi) Planning policy to reduce need for long-distance commuting to work.

v. more on village settlement pattern so this suggests countryside too will disappear

4.6 Education

Short-term

- (i) Age group 0-5 to be given access to playgroups with guided play. These groups to be run on a local basis, ideally by the community but with some professional expertise available.
- (ii) Age group 5-18 to have a good deal of formal education but this to be linked with the community via work experience. Some teachers to be professional full-timers but members of other professions (eg doctors) also to undertake teaching.

experts?!

what is taught. this needs a preface on the whole question of what education is.

must make plain that there is a difference between schooling and education. Institutions are the enemy, is it?

- (iii) Specialisation to be delayed longer than at present. However, rigour in thinking and working is very important and this can be cultivated by intensive project work.
- (iv) Private schools can be allowed when income redistribution is fully established. A voucher system can also be introduced. It should thus be possible to have the benefits of private schools (experimentation, stimulation of state schools) without the class division which arises from the present system. iv
divisive and competitive omit
- (v) Some streaming to be done but this to be carefully applied at the discretion of the school, possibly by ability grouping rather than age grouping. omit
- (vi) The nominal school leaving age to be 18 but work experience outside school will increase towards this age. vi school should be optional
- (vii) Formal school qualifications to be phased out together with specialisation. Higher education establishments to decide their own entrance criteria. vii No criteria
- (viii) First degrees to have a general element and not to be vocation-oriented. viii phase out?
- (ix) Encouragement to be given to continuous education through life : school premises to be used for this purpose for both day and evening study. ix
in general this section is not nearly radical enough.

Longer-term

- (i) As the 3 new tiers of government are set up, schools will be run by the districts and higher education (eg universities) by the regions.

4.7 Employment

Short-term

- (i) Introduction of the basic national income (see Taxation and Welfare) will make full-time employment less compelling.
- (ii) People to be encouraged to take part-time employment and to engage in craft work, cultivation of allotments etc.
- (iii) An increasing portion of transactions will occur by barter or gift, thereby lessening the current obsession with the state of the national economy.
- (iv) People to be encouraged to take different jobs at the same time (eg doctor and teacher) and at different stages in their life (NB that politicians and senior managers will retire from those jobs relatively early).
- (v) Production-line work to be phased out by a combination of careful use of automation and group working. Longer-lived products will in any event permit more labour-intensive working.
- (vi) Many jobs to be shifted from manufacturing in large plants to reconditioning in smaller plants.

again a preference delineating the difference between jobs and work.

Longer-term

- (i) As ownership of larger industry and services passes to regions and districts, employment strategies will come to be determined within those groupings.
- (ii) Employment will increasingly become more flexible as rural resettlement proceeds. People will not spend all of their time digging allotments. There will be craft work together with sophisticated industrial activity and a highly developed telecommunication system.

elitism, beware!

4.8 Food and Agriculture

Order of
Injections
no logic here.

Short-term

- (i) Penalisation of battery animal-rearing and grain-feeding of stock.
- (ii) Encouragement of the use of upland areas for grazing and a phasing out of the use of such areas for sport, eg as grouse moors.
- (iii) Phasing out of food additives including those added via animal feed and phasing out of unnecessary food processing and refinement (eg white flour).
- (iv) Introduction of high taxes on sugar and spirits and a ban on their advertising.
- (v) Encouragement of organic farming.
- (vi) Encouragement of small-holdings both individually and co-operatively held.
- (vii) Encouragement of local breweries, bakeries etc.
- (viii) Encouragement of non-chemical food preservation using renewable containers.
- (ix) Encouragement of non-meat or low-meat cuisine using vegetable protein.
- (x) Investigation of freshwater fish-farming (eg of carp).
- (xi) Demands made for rights over fish-breeding areas off coasts to ensure optimal fish population. Maintenance of a 200 mile limit for that purpose. Support for international restrictions on overfishing.
- (xii) Support for a moratorium on whaling and discouragement of the importation of whale by-products.

Elimination

Longer-term

- (i) Limitation of the size of farms.
- (ii) Farm-land to be held by individuals on a lifetime lease. A district tribunal to be responsible for administering these leases. Children to be given preference in taking over a lease but not an absolute right. Leases not transferrable.
- (iii) Co-operatives to be allowed to hold farms on a similar lease to that of individuals.
- (iv) Sewage system to be rebuilt so that domestic sewage can be separated from industrial effluent and used on land after processing.
- (v) Encouragement of district or regional production for local needs where possible.
- (vi) Farm produce to be sold on a free market (note the income limits described under Taxation, which would apply to farmers).
- (vii) Foreign trading in food will continue but at a much lower level than today.
- (viii) Encouragement of tree and hedgerow growth along field boundaries : this used for fuel (coppicing) and food (berries).
- (ix) Encouragement of food-yielding trees.

4.9 Forestry

Short-term

- (i) Substantial planting of hardwoods (preferably mixed) to be encouraged.
- (ii) A more sensitive approach to be taken to landscaping of softwood plantations.

Longer-term

- (i) Encouragement of coppicing for fuel and light timber : this to be done near the point of use to permit nutrient recycle.
- (ii) Softwood and hardwood plantations to be encouraged but to be of limited size and intermingled with other agricultural uses.

4.10 Water Supply

*Pitifully
inadequate*

- (i) Full information to be provided on the contents of mains water.
- (ii) Encouragement of increased collection and treatment of rainwater for household use.

4.11 Recreational Drugs

*Omit this
section, put
in health
section on law
for
decriminalisation*

Short-term

- (i) Marijuana and alcohol to be regulated similarly.

Longer-term

- (i) Growth of hemp to be permitted for its excellent fibre and oil-seed as well as for marijuana.
- (ii) Experimentation with more powerful drugs to be permitted for adults in supervised centres. An insurance premium to be payable in advance to cover possible later treatment.

*ii Omit.
be-institutionalised*

4.12 Energy

Short-term

- (i) All further construction of nuclear power facilities to be stopped and existing facilities to be shut down, with the exception of those facilities necessary for the handling of existing waste.
- (ii) All further construction of large fossil-fired power stations (eg Drax B) to be stopped.
- (iii) R & D to be further increased in the area of alternative energy sources and energy conservation.
- (iv) Incentives to be increased for the introduction of energy conserving techniques.
- (v) R & D to be increased in the area of improved coal utilisation techniques.
- (vi) Safer and more congenial coal-mining methods to be developed.
- (vii) Small combined heat and power stations to be encouraged.
- (viii) Insulation standards for new buildings to be further increased.
- (ix) Building regulations to be re-written to allow greater innovation in energy conservation and the use of alternative sources.
- (x) Schemes for orbiting solar power stations to be opposed.

Longer-term

- (i) In the longer-term, Britain will use progressively less energy than at present, despite rising living standards, as a consequence of greater efficiency in energy use.
- (ii) Coal will have a significant initial role, but it will gradually be replaced by solar energy used directly or indirectly (eg wind).
- (iii) CEBG to be broken up into regional power generation boards linked by a national electricity distribution board.
- (iv) The AEA to be run down gradually by transferring its personnel to other areas. These skilled people can make an important contribution to alternative energy sources and conservation.
- (v) Fusion R & D to be abandoned.
- (vi) Investigation to occur of long-term trading links with desert countries (eg in N Africa) for import from them of solar-derived fuels in exchange for manufactures etc.
- (vii) Assistance to be given to international efforts to understand and manage the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
- (viii) Safe methods to be established for the ultimate disposal of the nuclear waste remaining after all nuclear installations have been shut down and dismantled.

4.13 Transport

Short-term

- (i) All motorway building to be stopped.
- (ii) Private car fuel consumption to be progressively restricted, regardless of engine or body size.
- (iii) Concorde to be abandoned.
- (iv) Public transport to be encouraged.
- (v) Encouragement to be given to progressive transfer of freight from road to rail.
- (vi) Redundant movement of freight to be discouraged.

Canals ?

Longer-term

- (i) Design of most vehicles to be restricted to a maximum speed of 30-40 mph. This will make the improved rail system more popular for longer journeys.
- (ii) Continuation of transfer of long-distance freight from heavy lorries to an expanded rail and canal system.
- (iii) Buses to be allowed to travel between towns at speeds up to 50 mph. Storage space to be provided for bicycles and luggage.
- (iv) Internal flights to be phased out.
- (v) No further attempt to be made to increase rail speeds but attempts to be made instead to improve safety, efficiency and comfort.
- (vi) Continuation of development of more economical aircraft for international flights.
- (vii) Light lorries to be used for local distribution of goods.
- (viii) Cycle and pedestrian routes to be separated from motor-roads.
- (ix) New train technologies to be investigated (eg magnetic levitation, liquified coal-powered locos, regenerative braking systems).
- (x) Investigation of re-opening of old branch railways or of new, more relevant local lines.
- (xi) Investigation of road/rail vehicles.
- (xii) Investigation of advanced sail-assisted ships for international freight.
- (xiii) Planning policies to be altered to reduce need for freight movement and for the movement of people for business purposes. Movement of people for personal reasons not to be restricted.
- (xiv) Encouragement of improved telecommunications as a means of reducing business travel and paper usage.

Intra-city transport. trams ?

4.14 Communications and Information Handling

Short-term

- (i) Post office to be broken up into 3 units :
 - Paper - letters etc
 - Wire - telephones, microwaves
 - Air - regulation of broadcasting
- (ii) BBC to retain its present independence.

De-centralize ?

Longer-term

- (i) Regions to take greater control of their internal communications but a national network to be maintained.
- (ii) Electronic data banks to be carefully controlled and individuals to be given access to their own files.
- (iii) Regions and districts will generate local broadcasting.

4.15 Industry and Materials

Short-term

- (i) Introduction of a standard system of marking components of finished goods to show the constituent materials : this to permit easier recycling.
- (ii) Introduction of standard recipes for plastics and metals to facilitate recycling.
- (iii) Encouragement of long-life products.
- (iv) Encouragement of reconditioning of components.
- (v) Encouragement of recycling of scrap.
- (vi) Introduction of a materials tax on a recoverable bond system (see Taxation). This would strongly encourage manufacturers to recondition or recycle their own products. Importers would be subject to this bond in the same way as local manufacturers.
- (vii) Adoption of standard sizes for packaging (eg glass containers) and encouragement of their re-use.

Longer-term

- (i) Restriction of private ownership of industry to firms not employing more than 25 people. Such small and diverse enterprises to be encouraged.
- (ii) Larger firms to be owned by one of the 3 tiers of government depending on size. Thus, many district-owned enterprises will be competing with each other.
- (iii) Employees to have certain guaranteed rights regarding selection of management in the case of larger firms.
- (iv) Encouragement of R & D on products which are safer, more convenient or more efficient in materials use.
- (v) Co-operative ownership to be allowed up to 100 employees and this form to be encouraged.

The Future for Specific Materials

- Steel - The amount of fresh steel made from ore will gradually fall to a small fraction of present output. Products will be longer-lived and more steel will be recycled. Therefore the steel industry will consist of 1 or 2 large plants and many small regional plants.
- Aluminium - Use for drink cans, bottle tops etc will be strongly discouraged. Maximum re-use will be encouraged and production from ore kept very low due to its energy requirement.
- Copper - Maximum recycling will be encouraged. Technologies such as fibre optics may reduce the need for wiring.
- Plastics - Standard recipes to be adopted with clear marking of products. Disposable plastic items will be discouraged : renewable substitutes (eg cellophane) to be used where possible. Plastics which cause pollution during manufacture or use to be phased out.
- Natural Rubber - As a renewable material this will be encouraged where it can substitute for non-renewable materials. Its use for vehicle tyres will be relatively low as both vehicle-miles and speeds will be low.
- Leather- Smaller quantities will be available due to the decline in grain-fed stock (see Food and Agriculture) but the quantity should be sufficient, especially if long-life products are encouraged.
- Wood - Local production (especially hardwoods) will gradually rise (see Forestry). Recycling banks will be encouraged to make maximum use of wood from demolition sites, offcuts etc. Paper recycling will be encouraged and improved telecommunications will reduce the need for paper.

- China - Its use will be gradually discouraged as it is not recyclable.
- Glass - This will be investigated as a substitute for china (eg in WC's) as it is recyclable. The quantity used in container production will decline due to container standardisation and re-use. Substantial quantities will be required for solar panels and double glazing.
- Asbestos - Its use will be discouraged. Use in vehicle brakes will decline due to fewer vehicle-miles, regenerative braking etc.
- Building Materials - Reinforced concrete will be discouraged. Flyash from coal to be used for building blocks while available. Note that the accent will be on restoration of old buildings rather than their replacement. All further road construction to use recycled material from existing roads. Stone and brick (the latter subject to fluoride pollution during manufacture) are acceptable, especially if made in a form suitable for re-use. Renewable materials (eg wood) should be used widely. *cobbling?*

4.16 Trade

- (i) The aim is to gradually reduce the need for national food and material imports and therefore for corresponding exports.
- (ii) Trade will continue, especially in high-value items (eg electronics) or items which are optimally produced in one location.
- (iii) A moderate amount of protectionism can be allowed, both inter-nationally and inter-regionally. Higher transport costs will in any event have some isolationist effect (note that transport costs will be biased against freight movement but in favour of movement of people).

4.17 Banking, Finance and the Economy

Short-term

- (i) Investigation of the introduction of a currency commission as a means of controlling inflation. This would require pay policy to be tackled directly.
- (ii) Introduction of the basic national income and the upper income limit will relieve pressure for higher pay.
- (iii) Nationalisation of large-scale private banks.

Longer-term

- (i) National enterprises to run foreign banking and insurance, also the clearing service and lending to regions and districts.
- (ii) Small local banks will be permitted (up to 25 employees). These banks to use the national clearing service.
- (iii) Direct debiting from terminals in shops will be discouraged - note that other policies will encourage small shops in any event.
- (iv) The aim is to make the economy less sensitive to fluctuations in trade. This will be done by greater self-sufficiency and by a rise in barter and gift transactions.
- (v) National government not to attempt to manage the economy in the way it does now. Inflation will be prevented by the currency commission and interest rates will be stable. Management of the economy will be done more by regions and districts, each planning its own investment and employment strategy, although with national co-ordination.
- (vi) The stock exchange will be redundant.

4.18 Government

Short-term

- (i) House of Commons to be renamed House of Representatives and elected by some form of proportional representation not involving party lists. This entails acceptance of government by shifting coalitions, which works satisfactorily elsewhere.
- (ii) Members of the government to be elected by the House of Representatives.
- (iii) The House of Lords replaced by a Senate and the power of hereditary "senators" peerages therefore removed. Senators to be partly elected and partly appointed by the House of Representatives.
- (iv) *abolish?* The monarch to retain the present constitutional position but the cost of the monarchy to be substantially reduced.
- (v) The retirement age for Representatives to be 55 and Senators 65.

Re-naming unnecessary by BR IF necessary a new name should be devised

"senators" the Romans were not v. ecologists v. limit terms of office rather than age of quitting

Longer-term

- (i) Government to be restructured into 3 tiers - national, regional and district.
- (ii) National government to be responsible for law, defence, foreign policy, currency and those industries and services which must operate at national level.
- (iii) Regional government to cover approx 1 million people and to be responsible for hospitals, higher education and those industries and services of appropriate size.
- (iv) District government to cover approx 20 thousand people and to be responsible for all local matters.
- (v) Tax collection to be undertaken by district government and remitted to higher tiers of government where appropriate.
- (vi) Each tier of government to be separately elected by direct public vote.
- (vii) It is hoped that Welsh and Scottish aspirations will be satisfied by the increased local autonomy provided by this arrangement.
- (viii) Subdivision into regions and districts to pay respects to historical boundaries.

4.19 Public Administration

Short-term

- (i) The accountability of civil servants to be increased via a Freedom of Information Act and the designation of individuals as responsible for actions.
- (ii) Decisions to be taken locally where possible.

Longer-term

- (i) Decentralisation of government will involve a substantial reduction in central bureaucracy.
- (ii) Under the decentralised government, administrators will become less specialised and in some cases they will be employed part-time only.

in all cases!

4.20 Taxation

Short-term

- (i) The personal tax structure to be reformed so that it is smoothly progressive (ie below an upper income limit it is always worth working harder but progressively less so at higher incomes).

- (ii) Welfare allowances to be largely replaced by a basic national income paid to all.
- (iii) The combination of (i) and (ii) to be such that the range of disposable incomes is approx 3 to 1.
- (iv) A materials tax to be introduced on manufactured items in the form of a bond - manufacturers would recover this bond when the product was returned to them for recycling, with a sliding scale to encourage longevity (see Industry and Materials).
- (v) Open publication of personal incomes before and after tax.

Longer-term

- (i) Tax collection to be transferred to the district level of government.
- (ii) Taxes to be remitted automatically by districts to higher tiers of government for agreed purposes (eg for defence to the national government).
- (iii) The raising of finance for new capital investment (eg a tidal power station) by higher levels of government to be from districts, the subscribing districts having the use of the new facility on appropriate terms.
- (iv) A national 'personal income tax distribution board' to be created which has supervisory powers to ensure that district tax authorities distribute income evenly.
- (v) An inter-district 'district income equalisation board' to be created which is administered by the national government and which ensures that districts have roughly equal incomes. This board not to influence the allocation of funds within districts.

4.21 Law

Short-term

- (i) A Freedom of Information Act to be introduced, whereby government must show cause why information should be withheld.
- (ii) Judges of higher courts to be approved by the House of Representatives.
- (iii) Judges to retire at 60.
- (iv) Liberal legal aid to be provided at all levels of justice.

Decriminalisation

Longer-term

- (i) A limited written constitution to be introduced at the same time as the new tiers of government are introduced. The constitution to define the respective powers of each tier.
- (ii) The new constitution to include a Bill of Rights based on the UN Declaration of Human Rights.
- (iii) Magistrates to be elected locally and to retire at 60.

iii this approaches from the wrong end. If the prestige of such positions disappears no such limitation is needed. If it does not, then what of the respect for the wisdom of age we find in all tribal societies

4.22 Foreign Policy

Global

- (i) Efforts to be made towards world government but without surrender of national and regional identity.
- (ii) Powers appropriate to world government include those covering global ecological problems, eg fisheries and the buildup of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
- (iii) Efforts to be made towards disarmament, with UN supervisory forces if required.
- (iv) Efforts to be made towards a fair distribution of wealth.

More on arms expenditure?

More here on N/S dialogue etc.

EEC

- (i) Britain to remain in the EEC but to work for many fundamental changes.
- (ii) These changes to include the scrapping of the Euratom treaty and the CAP.
- (iii) Efforts to be made to shift emphasis towards regional autonomy and away from centralisation.
- (iv) Efforts to be made to promote greater EEC self-sufficiency
- (v) Integration of defence forces to be supported provided EEC policies are in line with those of the UK.
- (vi) National sovereignty to be retained for use in exceptional circumstances.

Third World

- (i) These policies will benefit the 3rd world by creating social and technical systems appropriate to self-sufficiency.
- (ii) Aid to be mostly in the forms of education (preferably conducted in the recipient country) and information transfer.
- (iii) Full recognition to be given to the failure of certain past practises.
- (iv) Help to be given when phasing out UK-owned enterprises such as sugar plantations. Such plantations to be used for food-growing if possible.

4.23 Defence

- (i) Efforts to be made towards an integrated European defence force although ultimate national sovereignty to be retained (see EEC).
- (ii) The accent to be firmly on defence (surface-to-air missiles, anti-tank missiles etc). Offensive capacity will not be needed to secure markets and sources of supply (eg in Africa) as these will become less important with increasing self-sufficiency.
- (iii) Britain to disarm its nuclear forces unilaterally and to request the removal of USA nuclear weapons from Britain.
- (iv) Britain to withdraw from NATO unless other European countries take up a similar political and economic stance to that of Britain - in that event a unified European defence force can be created.

4.24 Northern Ireland

- (i) Britain to make a public apology for helping to create the problem.
- (ii) The problem to be treated as international rather than internal to the UK. An international commission to be created under the UN or the EEC, including Britain and Eire as members.
- (iii) British troops to be withdrawn and replaced by a security force from an uninvolved country. *with NO. full stop.*
- (iv) The primary aim to be the attainment of a unified Ireland with guarantees of security and some autonomy for Protestants.

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