

# ecology party

## newsletter

JANUARY 1979

No. 7 (New Series)

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** It now looks likely (and that is written even with our Jim's turnabout last October in mind) that the General Election will be called for some time between 1 March and mid-April.

IT IS VITAL that we gather all the money for the election fund - and all the members - to help that we possibly can; so renew your membership promptly (there is a form enclosed with this Newsletter), and persuade just one other person to join - badger shops and small businesses to donate money to us, for we may soon be the only political party left to represent them!

WE CAN AND WE WILL MAKE A THUNDERING IMPACT ON THE ELECTORATE OF THE U.K.

WITH YOUR HELP!

### EDITORIAL

There is a lot of good work going on within the Ecology Party, and many people are to be congratulated on the doing of it

It behoves all of us, however, to ensure that all this work is not wasted - there seems little of us on the media up among the big boys - which is the only place to be. National press statements from us seem few and far between - if any - and some people may have noticed that 'The Times' is not being printed at the moment, and so there is no chance of a letter to that august journal!

We need to know where we are going - we need to know more definitely than we do about what our policies are (perhaps 'The Reckoning' pamphlet - mailed separately to this Newsletter - might help in this direction)

We need the NEC to be a definite and impact-making body

(For personal and other reasons) this will be the last issue of the Newsletter which I edit. I enjoyed doing it - I hope you had a reasonable time reading it!

Au revoir!

Howard S Hoptrough



## THE QUEST FOR A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

This was an Ecology Party public meeting, and can only be regarded as a tremendous success. Over eighty people turned out to hear about the quest for a sustainable society. It was organised by Garth Mutton, the Somerset contact; he had plastered Taunton with posters and other local members had ensured that the rest of Somerset was well covered.

Teddy Goldsmith, the guest speaker, delivered an excellent speech. He examined the multitude of problems that we face from food - there are now only three countries that are substantial net food exporters - to the Third World where starvation is now inevitable, aid only prolongs and worsens the problem. Teddy produced, as usual, some outrageously provocative remarks. He told us that we would catch more fish if we all went back to rowing boats, that development is a recipe for starvation, and that a fusion nuclear power station would cost half the total GNP of the USA. By the time he had finished one could only agree. One fascinating statistic that he produced stated that the average English family spends £30 per week on social welfare and national income, compared with £17 on food - imagine that money being used actually to improve the quality and health of the family concerned.

David Taylor then spoke about the differences in philosophy between the growthist and the ecologist. Ecology shows that we are an interrelated part of the whole, our survival depends upon our recognition of this fact. He also explored the need for a balance between social structures; at present there is far too much emphasis placed upon the role of the nation. We need to develop a synthesis between these different elements in society.

During questions, one Labour councillor said that she would recommend to her voters that an Eco vote was second only to a Labour vote. Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal candidate for Yeovil, continually uttered sentiments that made one wonder why he was a member of the Liberal Party at all; he said that he had rarely heard such sense from a political platform.

Public meetings really can be a great success; I recommend that you all follow Garth's excellent initiative and organise your own.

David Taylor, S.W. Reg.Org.

## LETTER

Dear Howard Hoptrough

I was rather disturbed by the reference on page 8 of the October Newsletter to 'the issue of women's roles in an ecological society' reported by Richard Slaughter from the Ecology Party's 78 Conference. If Jonathon Porritt has been quoted accurately, I understand that he thinks this, so called, issue has not yet been properly tackled.

Such an issue does not exist for an ecological society, any more than men's roles, as such, will present themselves as a problem in any definable way. Artificial barriers of this kind - dividing one group of people from another - have been one of the most serious symptoms of the present exploitive society's malaise, and it is important NOW to understand how these divisions

distort and fragment our view of humanity

I hope that the Ecology Party is not going to perpetuate these divisions by raising irrelevant issues for discussion

Paula Williams

#### NOTICE

A conference entitled 'A future for rural communities' is to be held at the Peak National Park Study from Friday to Sunday, 9 - 11 February, 1979. There would seem to be quite a lot to interest ecologists generally, and Ecology Party members in particular. The inclusive cost is £33; for further details write to: Peter Townsend, Principal, Peak National Park Study Centre, Losehill Hall, Castleton, Derbyshire S30 2WB. Tel: Hope Valley (0433) 20373

#### LORD ROTHSCHILD CRACKS AT ECO-NUTS - and takes a risk!

The annual Richard Dimbleby Lecture on BBC TV was given by Lord Rothschild - scientist, first director of the Think Tank, and chairman of the Royal Commission on Gambling. His subject was the assessment and acceptability of risks. He, like Lord Zuckerman??, likes to point out that statistics can be misunderstood, misleading and misrepresented - and 'used' by the unscrupulous. We, like everyone else, must be very careful to make sure that our facts are right and not distorted. So far, so good. Lord Rothschild then declares himself to be as good an Environmentalist as anyone else, yet much of his lecture was to warn right-thinking people against Eco-freaks, Eco-Nuts, F.O.E. and fellow travellers who had got it (and their risk statistics) wrong. He particularly had it in for the concepts of zero growth, smallness and beauty, Eco-Nuts (again!) and Windmills. He thinks the 'risks' (defined on his own terms) of nuclear power stations can be ignored, and that those people being bothered by people like us about the disposal of dangerous nuclear waste products should go and look for an uninhabited island somewhere else in the world, which has a suitable rock structure, and dump the stuff there. He may be an environmentalist (like everyone else), but he is not an Ecologist!

I just thought you might like to know where our friends are (for fund-raising and things)

#### GENERAL ELECTION APPEAL

So far we have raised nearly £3,500

That's pretty encouraging, and many members have been most generous. But we're not there yet.

The appeal has been extended to readers of the 'New Ecologist' and other magazines, and there are plans to take it much further still. But we need to show what we ourselves can do. Many of you may have hesitated before now, thinking this was just another pie in the sky piece of nonsense. But it isn't. It's the difference between breaking through now or continuing to creep diligently forward. Forward to what - the next election in 1984? Each and every contribution is vital. So please hesitate no more.

NEC Vice-Chairman - JONATHON PORRITT

## WHITHER THE NEWSLETTER?

You will have seen from 'Ecobug's' report of the November 4 meeting of the NEC that a sub-committee has been set up to consider the future of the Newsletter

Many of us have been aware for some time that our Newsletter is not providing the service to the membership that it might. It has done a perfectly reasonable reporting job, but in its present format it just hasn't been able to reflect the wide range of members' opinions, or to generate the level of debate necessary to keep us all on our toes

So the need for a change is clear. Part of any such change will be to consider the possibility of a newspaper-style publication. This requires a careful assessment of our relationship with 'Good Earth'

But before any changes are made, it is imperative to get some idea of how the membership as a whole feels about these issues. How should we balance news with opinions, information with policy debate, costs and editorial expertise with presentation and saleability, the mouthpiece of the executive with the voice of the membership?

I believe strongly that any newsletter/publication should hum with the ideas and opinions of its readers. So what exactly are your thoughts on all this? The Committee needs those thoughts now - to be sent as soon as possible to the Editor

JONATHON PORRITT

NEC Vice-Chairman

## Editorial Comment

It is much appreciated that Jonathon should help out editorially in stating and seeking advice about the future of the Newsletter

In his letter, however, he has made a number of unwarranted assumptions, such as:

- @ 'Many of us have been aware for some time that our Newsletter is not providing the service to the membership that it might' - If that is the case, why is the question 'So what exactly are your thoughts on all this?' put later in the letter? What should have been the case I think, is the substitution of 'I' for 'Many of us'
- @ 'it (the Newsletter) just hasn't been able to reflect the wide range of members' opinions, or to generate the level of debate necessary to keep us all on our toes' - Hasn't it? Who says?
- @ 'So the need for a change is clear' - Not to everyone, I think
- @ 'Part of any such change will be to consider the possibility of a newspaper-style publication' - There are many other styles and formats that could be considered, or it might not be considered necessary to change

I believe strongly that the Newsletter should exercise - as far as is possible and reasonable - an independent view of Ecology Party matters, which at times might be different or contrary to the NEC. So please do let me have your thoughts on the matter

The Editor

LETTER

Dear Sir

In Jonathan Tyler's annual report, included with the last Newsletter, he suggests that we should consider the possibility of local agreements with the Liberals not to oppose each other electorally, and further that we should try to influence their policy

On the first point, let the experience of the South West Region be a warning. An offer was made not to contest Exeter, and possibly one or two other seats, if we were to withdraw from key Liberal marginals. Some offer! - but in any case the local Liberal Party in Exeter had already started canvassing! Discussions at national, and perhaps even regional, level, could be dangerous and misleading if the parties concerned at local level already have their own views on whether to fight a constituency or not. Obviously, it would be to our advantage to stand in a constituency where there is no Liberal candidate, but there are many other factors to be taken into account and, most importantly, the strength of our Party organisation in the particular area. I do not think we can allow ourselves the luxury of withdrawing from constituencies where we are strong in return for a free run in constituencies which the Liberals have already decided are unpromising. With our limited human and financial resources, I think we have better things to do than discuss such matters with the Liberals though if a realistic concrete proposal is made at local level it would be ridiculous to ignore it.

On the second point I do not think it is any part of our job, as an independent political party, to show the Liberals the errors of their ways. We may believe that ordinary Liberal Party members are environmentally unaware, but having one's heart in the right place is useless, unless one follows such beliefs through to their logical conclusion. The Liberal hierarchy and a considerable portion of its membership are 'growthist', and such a fundamental contradiction with ecological aims renders any sympathy they may have with the environmental movement virtually useless. If opinion within the Liberal Party is moving towards our point of view, let their members join us, as many already have. We are an expanding party; they are declining, and in such circumstances I feel we have little to gain in associating with them. I certainly do not see the Liberal Party as the future vehicle for the achievement of our aims.

This is not the flexible approach that Jonathan has called for, I agree, but with an election approaching I support Sally Willington and Howard Hoptrough in their belief that it is a wise one. It was also the view expressed at the South West Region Co-ordinator's Conference held recently.

Yours faithfully

IAN HATWELL

## REPORT FROM THE SOUTH WEST REGION

On 21st October last about sixteen people from all parts of the South West gathered to discuss the general direction that the party is taking and, in particular, to examine the effect on the South West of the party's decision to fight fifty seats at the General Election. In response to reports of some members of the NEC's meetings with senior representatives of the Liberal Party, the meeting resolved as follows: That the Ecology Party should enter into no understandings, pacts or deals with any other political party. This resolution was proposed by Tony Whittaker and seconded by Maurice Weekes and passed unanimously. (In another context, the Chairman, Jonathan Tyler, has said that it is not constitutionally clear what status Regional resolutions have at present, and that, in the case of this particular resolution, it was not properly put to the NEC - Editor)

In discussing administration, the meeting suggested the possibility of a pilot scheme giving control of administration and membership to the region; this discussion concluded with the meeting recommending to the NEC that they should set up a working party to examine the whole question of administration and that they should look at all the possible alternatives. A representative of each branch gave a report on their activities and we heard of the formation of a new branch in South Devon under the guiding hand of David Abrahams. We discussed the possibility of a regional newsletter and accepted Peter Frings's suggestion that we aim to improve the national newsletter and extend the present system of informing through the irregular local and regional circulars.

Confirmations of candidates for the General Election at the time of this meeting were: Howard Hoptrough: St. Ives (West Cornwall); Teddy Goldsmith: North Cornwall; Tony Whittaker: North Devon; Exeter: Peter Frings; Chippenham: Julia Leyden or Terry King; Bristol South East: Gundula Dorey; Bristol West: David Taylor; Bath: Don Grimes; North Somerset: Richard Carder. We are awaiting news from Bodmin and Bournemouth on the possibility of two more, but on the whole it doesn't look at the moment (before Christmas) as if we're going to supply our fair share of candidates.

DAVID TAYLOR

## LETTER

Dear Howard

The General Election will soon be upon us, and we must turn our attention to the form which our election broadcast on TV will take.

In order to attract initial attention, I suggest a rapid sequence of catastrophes such as:- a mugging, followed by squealing tyres of police cars and ambulance sirens; then perhaps a shot of factory chimneys and workers on mass-production lines; holiday makers on Brighton or Blackpool beach in summer (with a comment about population) finishing with a desert scene, with starving cattle and people; the last tree being cut for firewood.

We could use such sequences all the way through with appropriate commentary on the sound track. But if there are to be any personal appearances, then we must consider who we might find most appealing to watch and listen to on TV. I would suggest that Gundula Dorey and Jonathon Porritt are the most pleasant

prospects on the present NEC, both to see and hear. Other candidates might be Jeremy Faull as our county councillor and Teddy Goldsmith as one of the founders of the movement - if he can be trusted not to go off at a tangent without warning!

We might also consider approaching the journalist and broadcaster Jacky Gillet who is a lapsed member of the Ecology Party, and would have detailed knowledge of broadcasting techniques

Perhaps, in order to be ultra-democratic, we should organise a beauty competition for all members to vote for the most 'telegenic ecologist'!

RICHARD CARDER

ROLL UP - ROLL UP - ROLL UP !!!

The South West Regional Conference and Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday 3 February at Exeter - snow and strikes willing! The venue is the Middle Lounge, Cornwall House, Prince of Wales Road, University of Exeter; it will begin at 10.00 a.m., and is scheduled to cease at 6.00 p.m. Food and drink will be available at the bar, but those wishing to avoid convenience foods are advised to bring their own

The morning will be occupied by branch reports and Party and administrative resolutions, plus an 'Any questions?' session when members are invited to raise any Party matters that they wish, whilst the afternoon will be taken up with General Election matters, setting up a branch and elections

If you have any resolutions - duly put and seconded - that you would like discussed and decided, please send them as quickly as possible to David Taylor 13 St. James' Square, Bath, Avon (tel: Bath 319434) Local details may be had from: Peter Frings, 15 Lower North Street, Exeter, Devon.

If you can come at all please do - here is the opportunity to get to know others in the Party and to find out what is going on

'Come, all ye faithful' - the 'joyful and triumphant' bit comes later!

## WHAT HAPPENS AT ECO NEC MEETINGS?

Disguised as an observer from the Cheltenham Roughage Action Group (CRAG) (Ladies Branch) I was able to infiltrate the National Executive Committee meeting of the Ecology Party on Saturday 4th November. I received the impression that the Ecology Party is in good shape, and looks set to become a recognisable figure in British politics within the year.

I describe below some of the subjects discussed at the meeting. I shall assume unless you instruct me to the contrary, that you will wish me to keep you similarly informed about the next meeting. My agents are arranging a suitable identity.

## 1. Candidates

Since the decision at the Annual Conference that fifty people should stand for the Party at the next election, candidates have been coming forward rapidly. The count has now reached thirty five, and, as more branches are formed, this figure is growing. There seems to be little doubt that there will be fifty confirmed candidates by early 1979.

## 2. Election Fund

Jonathon Porritt reported that the Election Fund total is approaching £3,000. However, encouraged by this response, he has doubled the target to an overall figure of £20,000. Publicity in support of this appeal is being arranged, and will include the back page of the next issue of the 'New Ecologist'.

## 3. The Reckoning

A confirmed date was finally given for 'The Reckoning', a short handbook comparing ECO policies with conventional policies on a range of twenty subjects. It will be published in January and its price will be 25p. It was agreed that every member of the Party should get one copy free and that further copies should be purchased from Andrea Hodgkinson (Flat 1, 217 Unthank Road, Norwich; 25p plus 10p p & p). Further details on bulk orders for branches will be published in the next issue of the Newsletter.

This is the first booklet published by the Ecology Party which states the Party's policies in a popular and easily-readable style. The first printing will be 5,000; it is hoped to arrange a larger printing later, after initial reactions and suggestions have been taken into account.

## 4. After Affluence

While they were on the subject of literature, the Committee wondered what had become of 'After Affluence'. The answer, to quote Vole quoting Chaucer was:

There is no workman, whatsoever he be,  
That may work both well and hastilie

Well, its on the way. A group of four met in Cornwall on 21/22 October (under Jeremy Faull's generous hospitality) to debate every paragraph of 'After Affluence'. It was two days of very hard work. One member of the group (David Fleming, appropriately enough) couldn't speak for three weeks after the meeting. He was able, however, to croak to the Committee that he

could still type, and was working on the final version. Publication early in the New Year now looks very likely.

#### 5. Records and Addressing

If you need confirmation that the Ecology Party is expanding quickly, you have it from the fact that it is being forced to look at its methods of keeping membership records and reproducing addressed. The systems inherited from the days of a fringe politics are no longer adequate, and a working party (Chairman: Jonathan Tyler) was set up to recommend an efficient system to carry the Party over to the time when numbers (probably about 5,000) would justify using a computer.

#### 6. Newsletter

Lifewise, it was agreed that something should be done to make sure that the 'Newsletter' reflects the Party's expansion and new sense of purpose. For many members, this is the only regular contact they have with the Party, and it should be as good as the available money and time allow. So another working party was set up to recommend policy on the 'Newsletter' (Chairman: David Fleming).

#### 7. Fund raising

All the progress made to date has been with negligible funds apart from members' subscriptions. But with the exception of the Election Fund, there has been no concerted fund raising to date, and there was discussion about how to approach it. More will follow on this matter at the next meeting.

#### 8. Press conference

The Ecology Party has kept fairly quiet so far; it is scarcely known to the Press, partly because 1978 has been, to a large extent, 'the year of homework'. Now there's something to talk about, and it was agreed that a press conference should be held in mid-January, to announce officially that the Party will be fielding fifty candidates to launch 'The Reckoning' and other literature, and to give the Press and the Party an opportunity to meet each other. A working party was set up to arrange this (Chairman: Jonathon Porritt).

#### 9. Leaflet

The Committee agreed that the Party needed a very simple leaflet, cheap enough to be put through letter-boxes and handed out at street corners. The Policy Group agreed to carry this out (Chairman: Jeremy Faull).

#### 10. Poster

The Policy Group also agreed to design a poster which could be printed in bulk and distributed to branches on request.

#### 11. TV Film

Jonathon Porritt is acting as co-ordinator in preparing the Party Political broadcast. Offers of contacts and skills in production and direction of TV films were made by members of the Committee.

## 12. Election guide for candidates

Keith Rushworth, the prospective Parliamentary candidate for Leeds North West, is preparing a guide for candidates, and the Committee was told that this would be available shortly

## 13. Manifesto reprint

There will be another reprinting of the Party's official Manifesto This will be available from Andrea Hodgkinson (price £1 plus 10p p & p)

## 14. 'Ghost Cabinet'

No, not a Shadow Cabinet, but an allocation of special areas of interest among members of the Committee It was agreed that this would be an ad-hoc arrangement, which would be overtaken by more sophisticated allocations of responsibility as the Party develops

Planning: Ron Andrews; Local Government: John Davenport; Social Welfare: Gundula Dorey; Agriculture: Jeremy Faull; Economics: David Fleming; Defence: Andrea Hodgkinson; Education: Howard Hoptrough; Inner Cities: Steve Lambert; EEC and Law and Order: Jonathon Porritt; Devolution: Leslie Spoor; Third World: David Taylor; Transport: Jonathan Tyler; Energy: Biff Vernon; Health: Sally Willington

## 15. Supplies

The Committee took account of the uncertainty that exists over supplies of literature and other materials (e.g. T-shirts, badges, pens etc.) Andrea Hodgkinson (address above) agreed to provide a central point of access for all these items, from which members and branches could order their own supplies A complete price list will be published shortly

## 16. 'Guardian' letter

The Chairman reported the results of recent publicity in 'The Guardian' An article by Harford Thomas had quoted large amounts of 'The Introduction to the Party' leaflet, without acknowledgement It turned out that the source had been omitted by mistake, and Harford put the matter right in a later article Jonathan had had a letter published at the same time, chiding 'The Guardian' for its apparent ignorance of ECO's activities As a result, 190 letters were received, copies of the leaflet were sent out, and applications for membership from these enquirers are now coming in

This, dear reader, is a summary of the subjects discussed which seemed to me to be the most important It is a personal view, not an official record, but I trust it conveys the impression of a young political party which is on the move What it needs now is funds

ECOBUG

## NEC MEETING - 4 November 1978

- @ Steve Lambert was welcomed to the NEC as the elected Regional representative for Greater London
- @ Keith Rushworth had asked (Leeds) if Branches could receive copies of NEC minutes. After discussion it was decided to rely on a good report in the Newsletter, and access to the minutes by Branches on request
- @ Ron Andrews drew the attention of the NEC to the Conservative Ecology Group literature which says that we need growth to provide money for ecology,....!!
- @ Jeremy Paull reported that there were talks being given in Cornish schools on nuclear energy by two speakers from the UKAEA at Harwell. These two speakers were included in public meetings at Truro - with Michael Allaby and David Penhaligon, M.P. - and at Bodmin with Teddy Goldsmith and Peter Bunyard, and in both cases the UKAEA speakers were overwhelmed (There is some ill-feeling, however, amongst teachers and students, that Cornwall Education Authority allowed these UKAEA speakers into schools and colleges without any arrangements being made to have anyone to counter their views)
- @ Jonathan Tyler reported that he had done some ecological comments on radio on the BBC Breakfast Programme from the Motor Show at Birmingham
- @ Sally Willington drew attention to the good 'Open Door' BBC TV programme on Torness (Scotland)
- @ Jonathan Tyler's letter to 'The Guardian' produced 26 enquiries; mention of his name and address in the Harford Thomas column in the same paper brought 150 letters. It was reported that all these were being dealt with by Andrea Hodgkinson; they were evenly spread over the country, except for Cornwall and the North
- @ The membership record keeping system was discussed; it was decided to set up a working party to consider the matter, consisting of Jonathan Tyler, John Davenport, Howard Hoptrough, Andrea Hodgkinson and Biff Vernon
- @ John Davenport reported that the Party's Addressograph machine was hand-operated, difficult to use and bad in reproduction; it had not been used by Howard Hoptrough, who found it easier to type the addresses on labels for the Newsletter for each issue. A new machine would cost anything up to £300
- @ ECO supplies: David Fleming said the printing of 18,000 'Introduction' leaflets would reach Andrea Hodgkinson the following week, and that he could supply art-work logos, and that the green ink used in printing should be Pantone 362 Green
- @ It was agreed that Biff Vernon should be our contact with other groups such as Nuclear Information Network, FOE, SCRAM etc., but that Gundula Dorrey should be our Con/Soc contact and Jonathon Porritt remain our liaison with Green Alliance

- @ Scrutineers for newspapers were agreed as follows: 'Guardian' -- Jean Lambert and Sara Tomlinson; Scottish newspapers -- Leslie Spoor; 'Telegraph' and 'Financial Times' -- Howard Hoptrough; 'Observer' -- Gundula Dorrey; 'Daily Mail' -- Andrea Hodgkinson; 'Sunday Times' -- Sally Willington
- @ ECO Branches in the South West and Leeds were twinning with the New Zealand Branches of the Values Party; it was thought that we should have more contact with the EURO Greens and the U S A ecological groups
- @ The Newsletter Jonathon Porritt outlined what he thought was the function of the Party Newsletter and said it should have a more 'professional' appearance and outlook. He had a printing quote, but Sally Willington thought that a more expensive Newsletter would mean inflated subscriptions. Ron Andrews explained the position of 'Good Earth'. It was decided to set up a working party, consisting of Ron Andrews, Jonathon Porritt and Howard Hoptrough, with David Fleming as chairman
- @ Publications 'The Reckoning' should be ready in about ten weeks time; 5,000 copies were to be ordered, selling at 25p per copy. Each member would receive one copy free, and Branches could purchase in bulk at the rate of 50 copies for £10, allowing 5p profit each copy for the Branch (if desired). 'After Affluence' was being re-written by Jeremy Faull, David Fleming, Jonathon Porritt and Keith Rushworth. The final draft would be with them by Saturday 2 December, and to the NEC by Saturday 9 December
- @ Study Groups Jeremy Faull reported that the 'Land' and 'Education' study groups were in being and working

#### WHAT? THE NEC AGAIN? (An Observer's view of the proceedings)

November's meeting of the NEC in London discussed a wide range of topics. Indeed, to one who has not previously witnessed an NEC meeting, the work schedule was quite staggering. Not surprisingly, many issues were delegated to sub-committees.

Some questions (e.g. choosing a new membership record system) were largely matters of business efficiency. Much of the meeting, however, was concerned with translating democratic decentralist principle into action. We need efficient organisation, but, more so than any other party, ECO needs to involve its members in its decision making. The Newsletter must play an important role, and the NEC discussed possible improvements. David Fleming took on the task of writing an 'objective' journalistic report of the NEC meeting for the next issue. With this year's Conference decision to set up policy study groups, the Party is re-embarking on the kind of process which produced 'Manifesto for a Sustainable Society' (which, indeed, Jeremy Faull, as policy co-ordinator, is using as a starting point for the new study groups). The present status of the 'Little Green Book', as the Manifesto has come to be known, is not unanimously agreed by the NEC.

There seems to be a desire in some quarters to keep the present 'Manifesto' well in the background. Steve Lambert (London) said he tends not to use it. David Fleming thinks its close identification with more recent publications

by changing the cover) would not enhance ECO's image. When the NEC rejected such identification, however, Sally Willington (National Secretary) registered a strong objection to the decision.

Amongst the suggested subjects for study groups is Social Welfare and Health. Under this heading in the present 'Manifesto' is a proposal for a National Income Scheme. Clive Lord (former NEC secretary, not present) has written an article on this subject. Apparently he does not wish to put his ideas forward through a study group, but hopes ECO will publish the article as it stands. There was some not very complimentary comment on this scheme from the NEC. David Fleming said he does not think it makes economic sense. But Jeremy Faull's suggestion that NEC members study the article and give it consideration was accepted.

A founder member of ECO, and a former NEC member, Mike Benfield (not present) offered the services of the Heart of England Branch as organisers of next year's Conference, the idea being that this take place at the National Agricultural Centre (NAC), where both camping and more comfortable facilities are available, though only in August. Apart from David Fleming's reservations about the unconventional timing of an August Conference, the general idea was well received, and the NAC facilities will be booked should a quick decision prove necessary. Meanwhile, branches will be sounded out on the timing.

Mike Benfield is also the most likely candidate for the post of Fund Raiser. On the principles of fund raising the NEC seems quite unanimous, if a bit vague. No one present expressed serious qualms about accepting sums of money - however large - from any person or organisation (except the KGB), as long as no strings are attached. Yet it was agreed a number of separate funds should be established so that donations can be directed to specific purposes.

The next major ECO event planned by the NEC is a Press Conference in January to launch 'The Reckoning'. This discussion document is to have a cover following the pattern of the 'Introduction to the Party' leaflet.

LAURENCE THOMPSON

#### NEC INFORMATION

Members: Names, positions, addresses, telephone numbers

|                    |   |   |              |
|--------------------|---|---|--------------|
| Jonathan Tyler     | Chairman  | 121 Selly Park Road<br>Birmingham 29                        | 021 472 1088 |
| Jonathon Porritt   | Vice-Chairman<br>and Election<br>Campaign<br>Co-ordinator | 57 Hamilton Terrace,<br>London N W 8                        | 01 286 6695  |
| Sally Willington . | National<br>Secretary &<br>Regional<br>Co-ordinator       | Riverside Herb Garden<br>Hessenford<br>Torpoint<br>Cornwall | 05035 352    |

contd.

|  |                                 |   |   |
|--|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Peter Sizer  | Treasurer                       | 9 Sherbourne Terrace<br>Clarendon Street<br>Leamington Spa,<br>Warwickshire | 0926 29875                                      |
| John Davenport<br>(Parish Councillor)                        | Membership<br>Secretary         | 2 The Old Vicarage<br>26 Main Road<br>Kempsey, Worcs.                       | 0905 820489                                     |
| Andrea Hodgkinson  | Deputy<br>National<br>Secretary | Flat 1<br>217 Unthank Road<br>Norwich, Norfolk                              | (daytime<br>messages only)<br>0603 60655        |
| Jeremy Faull<br>(County Councillor)                          | Policy<br>Co-ordinator          | Bosnieves<br>Withiel, nr Bodmin<br>Cornwall                                 | 020 883 236                                     |
| Howard S Hoptrough   | Newsletter<br>Editor            | 5 Morrab Terrace<br>Penzance, Cornwall                                      | 0736 4880                                       |
| Ron Andrews  |                                 | 18 Cofton Lake Road<br>Birmingham 45  | 021 445 2576                                    |
| Gundula Dorey  |                                 | 14 Goldney Road<br>Clifton, Bristol<br>BS8 4RB                              | 0272 290671<br>(day)<br>0272 26812<br>(after 8) |
| David Fleming  |                                 | 104 South Hill Park<br>London N W 3   | 01 794 5644                                     |
| Edward (Teddy) Goldsmith *                                   |                                 | The Ecologist<br>73 Molesworth Street<br>Wadebridge, Cornwall               | 020 881 2996                                    |
| Steve Lambert<br>(Greater London Regional<br>representative) |                                 | 3 Howard Road<br>London E 17  | 01 520 0676                                     |
| John Luck<br>(District Councillor)                           |                                 | 20 Military Road<br>Rye, East Sussex  | 07973 3404                                      |
| Leslie Spoor   |                                 | 55 Clermiston Road<br>Edinburgh,<br>The Lothians<br>EH12 6XA                | 031 334 1510                                    |
| David Taylor<br>(S W Regional<br>representative)             |                                 | 13 St. James Square<br>Bath<br>Avon   | 0225 319434                                     |
| Biff Vernon  |                                 | 29 Churchfields Road<br>Beckenham, Kent                                     | 01 658 4086                                     |
| *  |                                 |   |   |
| Alternative address<br>Edward (Teddy) Goldsmith              |                                 | Whitchay, Withiel<br>Nr. Bodmin Cornwall                                    | 020 883 237                                     |

## REGIONAL ORGANISERS and BRANCHES

(CORRECTION - to information in last Newsletter)

List of Regions: Northants is not in South East (North of the Thames) but in East Midlands

1. SCOTLAND  
R.O. Leslie Spoor, 55 Clermiston Road, Edinburgh  
The Lothians, Scotland 031 334 1510  
Branches: Edinburgh: Leslie Spoor (as above)  
Glasgow: being formed (contact Leslie Spoor for  
information)
2. WALES  
R.O. Peter Rout, 82 Grays Gardens, Graig-y-Rhacca,  
Machon, Newport, Gwent, Wales  
Branches: Dyfed: being formed (contact Peter Rout, as above)
3. NORTHERN IRELAND  
R.O. Not yet appointed  
Branches: None yet formed
4. YORKSHIRE and HUMBERSIDE  
R.O. Mike Sellers, 3 Spen Common Lane, Tadcaster  
Yorks. Boston Spa 842652  
Branches: Leeds: Keith Rushworth, 8 The Mount, Alwoodley,  
Leeds 17, West Yorks. 0532 672198  
Sheffield: being formed (contact Keith Rushworth for  
information)
5. NORTH  
R.O. Not yet appointed  
Branches: None yet formed
6. NORTH WEST  
R.O. Not yet appointed  
Branches: Merseyside: Peter Hussey, 167 Gardner Road, Formby,  
Merseyside L37 8DG  
Lancaster: being formed (contact Richard Slaughter,  
8 Vale Terrace, Calder Vale, Garstang  
Lancs. PR3 1SH for information)
7. WEST MIDLANDS  
R.O. Jo Benett, 59 Selly Park Road, Birmingham 29  
021 472 2406  
Branches: Birmingham South: Brenda Tyler, 121 Selly Park Road,  
Birmingham 29 021 472 1088  
Heart of England: K. Michael Benfield, New Buildings,  
Trinity Street, Coventry 22048  
Malvern District: Jeremy Hall, 15 Sycamore Close, Malvern  
Worcs. 65995  
Lieutwardine: Claire David, High Tree Bank Cottage,  
Lieutwardine, Craven Arms, Salop  
(Lieutwardine 606)

8. EAST MIDLANDS  
F R.O. Not yet appointed  
Branches: None yet formed
9. EAST ANGLIA  
R.O. Anthea Hodgkinson, Flat 1, 217 Unthank Road,  
Norwich, Norfolk O603 60655 (message daytime  
only)  
Branches: Norwich: Ron Spathaky, 31 Meadow Rise Road, Norwich,  
Norfolk O603 501791  
Cambridge: being formed (contact Sally Willington)
10. SOUTH EAST (NORTH)  
R.O. Dean Wayland, 4 Yarmouth Road, Stevenage,  
Herts. O438 68177  
Branches: Stevenage: Dean Wayland (as above)  
Oxford: being formed (contact Sally Willington)
11. GREATER LONDON  
R.O. Steve Lambert, 3 Howard Road, London E 17  
O1 520 0676  
Branches: London: Jean Lambert (address as above)  
South London: being formed (contact Steve Lambert)
12. SOUTH EAST (SOUTH)  
R.O. Basil Mager, 1 White Lodge, Collington Lane  
West, Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex O4243 2908  
Branches: East Sussex: Sherry Hoevelmann, 2 Summertree Cottages,  
Bodle Street Green, Hurstmonceaux, E.Sussex  
Kent: Frederick Clark, 43 Pear Tree Avenue, Ditton  
Maidstone, Kent
13. SOUTH WEST  
R.O. David Taylor, 13 St. James Square, Bath,  
Avon O225 319434  
Branches: Bath & E. Avon: Thelma Grimes, 51 Kipling Avenue, Bath  
Avon O225 29146  
Bristol & W. Avon: Alan Clarke, 8 Clare Road, Cottam, Bristol 6  
East Dorset: Ian Hatwell, 20 Spring Road, Bournemouth,  
Dorset  
Devon (Exeter): Peter Frings, 15 Lower North Street, Exeter  
South Devon: David W. Abrahams, 4 Brantwood Close,  
Paignton, Devon 550493  
Somerset: Roger House, 5 St. Augustine Street,  
Taunton, Somerset O823 39395  
West Cornwall: Howard Hoptrough, 5 Morrab Terrace, Penzance  
Cornwall O735 4880  
Wiltshire: Terry King, 8 Mount Pleasant, Chippenham,  
North Devon: )  
Mid Cornwall: )  
West Dorset: ) All being formed  
Gloucester: )  
Plymouth: )

## HERE THEY COME - ROLLING IN

A new branch was formed in Ludlow on 27 October. David Fleming spoke, and about thirty people attended. The branch was founded by Claire David.

Another one came into being on 31 October at the White Bear Hotel, Kingsdown, Bristol. David Taylor and Don Grimes attended a meeting and spoke to ecological matters, and those present voted to inaugurate a branch. Elected were Maurice Weekes as Chairman, Alan Clarke as Secretary, Gundula Dorey as Treasurer, and Phyl Chandler and Helen Walker as Press and Publicity. The branch will be known - at least for the time being - as the Bristol and West Avon Branch.

Yet another one in the Westcountry! Four members in the Paignton area have founded the South Devon Branch. They received excellent press coverage, and were holding their first jumble sale on Saturday 2 December. Since the first meeting new members have joined, and they hope to field a candidate at the General Election, either in Totnes or Torbay. If you know of anyone in the area who might be interested in such a chore, could you please put them in touch with David Abrahams, the Secretary.

Moves are also under way to form branches at North Devon and in Plymouth. The strongest area, based on Exeter, which until now has been known as the Devon Branch, will form an independent branch when the other areas are strong enough to stand on their own. David Taylor says it really is easy to set up your own branch, and he would like to encourage anyone to take the initiative and call a meeting; after all, it's at branch level that the real work is done so, go on, he says, follow South Devon's shining example and form a branch.

At the present rate of growth there'll be fifty branches in the South West by this time next year!

## ANOTHER NEW BRANCH - SCOTLAND!

Edinburgh: Contact Leslie Spoor, 55 Clermiston Road, Edinburgh, Scotland  
(tel: 031 334 1510)

## S O S SOUTH EAST REGION - SOUTH OF THAMES

Will members living in Berkshire, Hampshire, Surrey, Kent and Sussex please get in touch with Basil MAGER, 1 White Lodge, Collington Lane West, Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex (tel: Coaden 04243 2908)

## YET ANOTHER NEW BRANCH

The Merseyside Branch came into existence at a meeting of members and other interested people on Thursday, 9 November. Robert Anderson had called the meeting. It was decided to hold monthly meetings on the first Thursday of each month in the Foyer Bar of the Everyman Theatre, Liverpool; additionally an open meeting, the first of many, will be held in January. At the end of the meeting three of the people who had enquired about the Ecology Party - but who had not joined previously - did so.

So - we're under way! This first meeting was notable for its enthusiasm,

and I am sure that the branch will be pulling its weight very shortly  
Peter Hussey, Acting Secretary - 167 Gardener Road, FORNEY, Merseyside L37 8DG

MACHESTER MEMBERS

Could you volunteer to call a meeting with a view to forming a branch, please?  
Contact Sally Willington

LEICESTERSHIRE

If you live here can you contact Sally Willington if you think you could call  
a members' meeting, please

GLASGOW MEMBERS

Now the Edinburgh branch has been formed it is your turn next! Please contact  
Leslie Spoor (tel: 031 334 1510)

REDFORDSHIRE

Any member near enough to Bedford School, will you please get in touch with  
Glyn Harries, 12 St. Alban Road, Bedford, in connection with 'Bedford School  
Ecological Party'

YET AGAIN!

Dear Sally

I am pleased to inform you of the formation of the Somerset Branch of the  
Ecology Party based here at Taunton

Don Grimes, chairman of Avon and Somerset Area, chaired our inaugural meeting  
on the 29 November, which produced 13 Branch members from Somerset

Officers so far elected:

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Membership Secretary: | Kathy Wilson, Shattochrs, West Bagborough, Taunton           |
| Treasurer:            | Geoff Garbett, Harvest Cottage, Stoke St. Gregory<br>Taunton |
| Secretary:            | Roger House, 5 St. Augustine Street, Taunton                 |
| Local Contact:        | Garth Muton, Orchard Leigh, Comptons Dundon,<br>Somerset     |

I hope soon to inform you of further developments

Yours faithfully,            ROGER HOUSE

## THE ECOLOGY PARTY SHOP

Publications, leaflets, posters, badges etc. for sale.

| Goods:  | Price:   | Available from:  |
|---|--|--|
| 'Introduction to the Party'<br>(leaflet)  | 60p per<br>50  | Andrea Hodgkinson<br>Flat 1, 217 Unthank Road,<br>Norwich      |
| Manifesto (Little Green 1976<br>version)  | £1 each<br>(P & P incl)                                  | Andrea Hodgkinson  |
| 'ECO' badges  | 5p each<br>plus P & P                                    | London Branch, 3 Howard Road,<br>London E 17                   |
| 'A new political movement'<br>(leaflet)   | P & P<br>costs   | Devon Branch<br>15 Lower North Street, Exeter                  |
| 'Work for a stable future:<br>Join the Ecology Party'<br>(car sticker)  | 5p each or<br>2p each for<br>over 10                     | Wiltshire Branch<br>8 Mount Pleasant<br>Chippenham, Wiltshire  |
| 'Green or grey, Balance or<br>blunder (A4 posters)<br>(Avon and Somerset' printed<br>on poster)   | as for item<br>above                                     | Avon and Somerset Branch<br>51 Kipling Avenue<br>Bath Avon     |
| 'Ecology Party' (heading)<br>(198mm x 420mm posters)  | 25p each<br>plus P & P                                   | Stevenage Branch<br>4 Yarmouth Road,<br>Stevenage, Herts.      |
| 'Ecology Party'<br>(A4 headed notepaper)  | £5 for<br>500 sheets<br>inc. P & P<br>to branches only   | Andrea Hodgkinson  |
| 'The Reckoning'<br>(A policy pamphlet)  | 25p each<br>(less for bulk<br>orders: min<br>50 for £10) | Andrea Hodgkinson  |
| 'Support the Ecology Party'<br>(stamped pens)   | £1.50 for 10<br>(inc. P & P)                             | Keith Rushworth, Leeds Branch<br>8 The Mount, Alwoodley, Leeds |
| 'Vote Ecology 'X'<br>(Candidates name space)<br>A4 posters  | £1.20 for 50<br>50 (inc. P & P)                          | Keith Rushworth  |
| 'Vote Ecology'<br>(Green on white car stickers)   | 70p for 50<br>(inc. P & P)                               | Keith Rushworth  |
| 'I vote for ECO'<br>'The Ecology Party'<br>(T-shirts green on white)<br>(sized small, medium & large;<br>as FEO sizes - small is for<br>child only) | £2 each<br>(inc. P & P)                                  | Keith Rushworth  |
| 'I vote for ECO'<br>(Sweat shirts white on green)<br>(From size 30 upwards)   | £2.50 for<br>non-members                                 |  |
|   | £7.50<br>(inc. P & P)                                    | Keith Rushworth  |

## POLICY GROUPS

Jeremy Faull in Cornwall - whose address is Bosnieves, Withiel, Bodmin, is asking for more people to contribute to the Policy Groups. Two established ones are 'Land' and 'Education', but he needs more material and more people for these, and asks that others might consider setting up groups on other topics and getting to work on them. Please contact him if either of these thoughts are in your mind.

## TV SERIES FILMS ON ECOLOGY - INFORMATION WANTED

We have a request for information from a TV film writer on threats to the environment perpetuated by vested interests. What I am particularly interested in are those threats of a widespread significance, which might be attributed to a few identifiable, localized sources. I should be most grateful if you could assist by providing information, preferably about unusual or little-reported ecological problems, and possibly about the kinds of pressures brought to bear on those who would endeavour to solve them. Topicality is of great importance - ideally I should like to be made aware of problems which are imminent rather than extant!!

Information to Sally Willington, please, and I will put you in touch.

## MY WORDS 'E' 'EC'

Frank Muir, renowned for amusing stories, told us on Radio 4 recently that 'to Eec' was now the fashionable thing to do - 'everyone must Eec!!' 'First syllable of ecology, he explained. There were coming shortages and we must all save energy. His own ideas on house insulation were, of course, bizarre, exotic and hilarious. But the message and slogan were clear enough and much repeated. Great publicity! Are you trying to 'Eec' on every possible occasion? So I sent him an 'Introduction to the Party'. He replied thanking me, but saying 'It all looks most amusing and useful, but I am afraid I am not by nature a 'joiner'. Ah, well, no harm in trying.

SALLY WILLINGTON

## WELSH NEWS

The Acting Regional Co-ordinator for Wales, Peter M. Route, whose address is 82 Grays Gardens, Graig-Y-Rhacca, Machen, Newport, Gwent, has issued a first number of a newsletter. He mentions the General Election, the referendum for the Welsh Assembly on 1 March next year, and the application for planning permission for an AGR nuclear power station at Portskewett, in Gwent.

Brian Kingzett, of Alltgoch, Gellyn, Carmarthen, Dyfed (tel: Maddox 463) has volunteered to take on the job of County Co-ordinator for Dyfed. A meeting has been fixed for 6 December at the Central Library, Dew Street, Haverfordwest starting at 7.30 p.m.

## WHERE HAS ALL THE FUN GOT TO?

Many speeches are made - and many writings written - on ecological matters

notable for their lack of jokes - wit, yes; humour, possibly; but definitely no jokes! Now this often makes things difficult for those who have to address the uninitiated, whose notion of political speeches rests firmly on the anticipation of at least a couple of jokes

So I propose a new column for eco-jokes, eco-true stories and eco-humour in general. Ecology may indeed be a serious business, but let's grin while we bear it! Prizes will be self-sufficient!

#### NUCLEAR INFORMATION NETWORK - MEETING on SATURDAY, 26 NOVEMBER

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the lessons which we should all learn from the Windscale Inquiry, and to consider how best to plan for the Fast Breeder Reactor Inquiry. The meeting was considerably hamstrung by the absence of the Friends of the Earth, who came in for a lot of criticism from all the other groups represented. There were reports from the Town and Country Planning Association, the Windscale Appeal, the Network for Nuclear Concern and the Political Ecology and Research Group, all of which were involved in putting our side at Windscale.

It was generally held that Friends of the Earth had acted throughout as big-headed and clumsy footed prima donnas, and that they were largely responsible for the lack of co-ordination on our side; but, in the same breath, such critics would re-iterate the need for each group to maintain its own independence - exactly the kind of double-think which obviously bedevilled the whole inquiry.

Many commented on the lessons derived from the judicial process itself, particularly as regards the time and money wasted on matters which should all have been covered months in advance with a detailed environmental impact analysis.

The general feeling was that it wasn't a waste of time or money, and that it served a valuable purpose as a public relations exercise, an impression slightly vitiated by the fact that throughout the entire inquiry all the groups participating couldn't come up with one joint press statement!

The meeting continued on Sunday, but unfortunately I couldn't be there to see how Friends of the Earth defended themselves, or how they reacted to the call for a co-ordinating group to be set up now in order to prepare properly for the Fast Breeder Reactor inquiry.

JONATHON PORRITT

#### NEC MEETING - 17 December 1978

- @ Conduct of NEC meetings. Howard Hoptrough pointed out that NEC meetings were long (sometimes as long as nine hours), and that they attempted to cover a wide range of issues. In many cases matters were put to the meetings all tied up and ready to go, and there was little chance for members other than the officers to question or discuss other possibilities. On many occasions the discussion strayed from the point and dealt with many irrelevant matters, and because no accurate record was made at the time members sometimes did not know what had been decided. In order to put matters right,

- @ Howard Hoptrough put forward a multiple resolution for discussion; there was practically no response, and what there was was of an entirely negative nature. The resolution could not be put as there was no seconder for it.
- @ Branches and Regions. The formation of new branches and regions was reported on, and representatives of branches and regions reported on recent activities.
- @ Details of our financial position were given. There is an excess of expenditure over income, and Peter Sizer, the Treasurer, said that a different way of funding our expenditure on literature should be found. Overall we are in a serious financial position.
- @ Details of the proposed membership and subscription record systems were given, and it was left to the working party to take the final decisions on the matter.
- @ Because we had not reached a total of 50 candidates, it was questioned whether five minutes on television was that important to the Party; after discussion it was decided to go ahead with plans to field fifty candidates.
- @ A Newsletter with a new newspaper printed format, and with an editorial board, was proposed.
- @ Publications being prepared in anticipation of the General Election are an election guide and a draft election address for candidates, and a manifesto. An election leaflet and posters were also being worked on.
- @ Proposals for venues for the 79 Conference were discussed, and it was eventually decided to book the University of Keels for the 7 - 9 September.

AN ECO BOOKLIST by Richard Slaughter.

Fiction

|             |                     |      |                                |
|-------------|---------------------|------|--------------------------------|
| BRUNNER, J. | Stand on Zanzibar   | 1968 | Three important dystopias      |
|             | The sheep look up   | 1972 | that deserve a wider audience. |
|             | The shockwave rider | 1975 | The first is an attempt to     |

depict a grossly over-populated world, and here Brunner manages to catch the 'feel' of such a situation by showing many of the likely socio-cultural shifts that might occur. The second title is the most convincing pollution catastrophe novel that I have so far discovered. The last deals with some of the all-too-possible implications of the widespread use of computers for most social transactions. The author, I understand, intends these to be salutary tales - in my view he succeeds dramatically. They add another dimension to the environmental debate.

|                  |                    |      |                           |
|------------------|--------------------|------|---------------------------|
| BURGESS, Anthony | A Clockwork Orange | 1962 | Two more dystopian novels |
|                  | The Wanting Seed   | 1962 | dealing with aspects of   |
|                  |                    |      | social breakdown.         |

|                    |          |      |  |
|--------------------|----------|------|--|
| CALLENBACH, Ernest | Ecotopia | 1977 | In the great Utopian tradition, the author depicts |
|--------------------|----------|------|--|

California reconstructed according to principles that environmentalists are supposed to adhere to. It certainly points up some of the implications of a decentralised society that some people are not likely to have thought of. A useful book which has already stimulated a good deal of discussion. Not my idea of paradise, though!

- DAVIS, J.      Leviathan      1978      Suggests that one way to get rid of the whalers is to blow up their ships. Some would call this propaganda, other prophecy!
- DOYLE, R.      The Deluge      1978      The story of a disastrous flood in the centre of London. Dramatises a serious point: the vulnerability of the urban infrastructure. According to recent reports, this too could also happen.
- FORSTER, E.M.      The Machine Stops (in E.M. Forster: Collected Short Stories Penguin 1976)      The architypal story about the dubious wisdom of relying overmuch on 'The Machine', and which provided both Orwell and Huxley with ideas that have since become very influential.
- HERBERT, F.      Dune      }      Regarded by many as the finest of the trilogies we have. Takes place on the planet Arrakis where the availability of water determines the boundaries of life. The ecology is beautifully constructed and Herbert weaves a fascinating story around it. If you think that you don't like sf, then try this. There are several layers of meaning for the perceptive reader.
- Dune Messiah      } 1965/76
- Children of Dune      }
- KORNBLUTH, C. and POHL, F.      The Space Merchants      1953      Despite the early date, still one of the best characterisations of what the boys who try to sell us soap powder would get up if they could get their hands on the technology. A penetrating satire on commercialism and its essentially de-humanising ethos, aims and methods.
- MILLER, W.      A Canticle for Leibowitz      1959      A highly regarded, post catastrophe novel that has generations of monks (among others) picking over the remains of our civilisation, and finding some unusual relics to copy in the medieval style. Suggests that it is impossible to effectively repress the pursuit of scientific knowledge and that this will cost man very dearly. Fable of our times.
- NIVEN, L and POURNELLE, J.      Lucifer's Hammer      1978      The title refers to a comet, much of which falls upon the earth and brings civilisation as we know it to an end. But this is much more than just another disaster novel. Besides pointing out the essential vulnerability of a technological society, it also makes the important point often overlooked by environmentalists, that nature is not always benign. When we are tempted to wax lyrical about nature, we should remember that there are such things as tidal waves, earthquakes, and ... comets.

contd.

PIRSIC, R. Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance 1976

A journey across the U.S.A. in search of meaning. Contrasts literal landscapes with the rich, barely explored universe of human meaning with which it, and the rest of life, can be invested. Not everyone has enjoyed this book, but I found it fascinating.

SCORTIA, T. and ROBINSON, F. The Prometheus Crisis 1977

Shows what is one day bound to happen if one is silly enough to build huge nuclear reactors, and then leave them in charge of people.

SILVERBERG, R. The World Inside 1971

A novel which illustrates one version of the 'high economic growth, high population, high technology' scenario. Everyone lives indoors, and the farms are entirely mechanised. Silly? That's what many official planners have suggested. Worth a look if only to convince you that this is not the way ahead.

VAN DER POST, Laurens A Story like the Wind 1972  
A Far-off Place 1974

Set in modern Africa, these two novels juxtapose present day attitudes to the natural environment with those that sustained the bushmen through millenia. The author has a truly marvellous eye for detail and atmosphere, and his careful use of understatement is particularly effective. If you read nothing else, do try to read these. I assure you that the time will be well spent.

All the books in this list are available in paperback

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