

Friends of the Earth
Soil Association
Noise Abatement
Abth. Factory Farming
Conservation Society
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C.P.R.E.
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Nat. Chcl of Churches.
Child Poverty Action
Ancient Monuments Soc.
World Community Assoc.
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World Federalists.
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World Wild Life
Mental Health
Nat. Env. Research

National Trust
Transport 2000
Henry Doubleday
Alternative Society
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National Society of
Leisure Gardeners.
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Soc. of Herbalists.
Schools Eco Action.
Common Cause.

Ratepayers Assoc.
Third World First.
Future Studies Centre
Canal Societies.
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Vegan Society.
E.C.O.
Planned Parenthood.
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Coast Anti-Pollution.
Protection of Birds.
New Villages Assoc.

Organisations with
similar/related aims.

All change for Ecology

Conference report

Articles

- Will Britain Starve?
- Devils Advocate

Digest

- Revolution by Referendum
- Food - as a weapon !

Politics

- Intellectual Cannon Fodder

Reports

- World Peace - now or never ?

THE
Ecology Party

For every PEOPLE



Journal

Forthcoming Events

You are welcome to publicise your future events in these columns free of charge. Details to the Editor please.

1. Billingham International Folklore Festival. (11th) 9-16 August, 1975. 12th August 1976. Festival Office, Teeside Corporation, Municipal Buildings, Town Centre, Billingham, Teeside.
2. Ipswich: Entertainment for All - a festival of music and the art 5-19th September - 12th October 1975. Information Office, Ipswich Corporation, Town Hall, Princess Street, Ipswich.
3. Treatment of Offenders: September 19-21st. Lower Shaw Farm, Nr. Swindon. A weekend to examine some of the initiatives which have been taken and discuss with Bob Tallemche's working party the scope and purpose of the task they have undertaken - write to the Alternative Society, 9 Morton Avenue, Kidlington, Oxford.
4. The Council for the Protection of Rural England's annual national conference at the University of Kent, at Canterbury, from Friday 19th September to Sunday 21st September 1975. Accommodation at Eliot College, Non-residential delegates will be welcome to attend individual sessions. Further details from: Conference Secretary, C.P.R.E., 4 Hobart Place, London SW1W 0HY.
5. Sarovdaya Peace Conference: Autumn 1975 will cover small scale decentralised ecological society amongst other things. Enquiries to Satish Kumar, London School of Non violence, 2 Amen Court, London EC4.
6. Houghton Feast (probably founded in Anglo-Saxon times) 3-12 October 1976. Clerk of the Council, Sunderland Metropolitan District Council, Council Offices, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne and Wear.
7. Alternative in Urban Development, Lower Shaw Farm, Near Swindon, October 10-12th 1975. Further details from the Alternative Society, 9 Morton Avenue, Kidlington Oxford.
8. Home Based Education, Lower Shaw Farm, near Swindon, November 8-9th 1975. For further details contact: The Alternative Society, 9 Morton Avenue, Kidlington, Oxford.
9. Towards Alternatives in Health, Lower Shaw Farm, near Swindon. December 3-5 1975. Details from The Alternative Society, 9 Morton Avenue, Kidlington, Oxford.
10. Towards a Political Alternative. Prinknash Old Abbey, near Gloucester, February 20-22nd 1976. Details from The Alternative Society, 9 Morton Avenue, Kidlington, Oxford.
11. Making Space to Live in. Lower Shaw Farm, near Swindon March 5-7th 1976. For details: The Alternative Society, 9 Morton Avenue, Kidlington, Oxford.
12. New Communities Exchange, CELMI, Tywyn, Merionethshire, June-18-20 1976. Details from: The Alternative Society, 9 Morton Avenue, Kidlington, Oxford.
13. Annual Celebration, Othona Community, Bradwell-on-Sea. Essex. July 2-4th 1976. Details from: The Alternative

14. Saturday 2nd August 1975, 2.00p.m. A visit has been arranged to Fordall Organic Farm at Market Drayton, Salop. Mr. Arthur Hollins farms his 150 acre completely organically and has a national reputation for the quality of his yoghourts, cheeses, cream, butter etc. A meal is optional at £1.20 + v.a.t. Please enclose S.A.E. when replying with details of:

a) How many people b) if a meal is required c) If transport is required d) If you can offer spare car seats.

Details from Dennis Nightingale-Smith, 200 Wells Road, Malvern Wells, Worcestershire.

15. Friday 19-21st September. Soil Association Residential Conference. Details: 4 Moreton Road, Oxford.

16. The March to Assisi, International Protest Rally at the Tomb of Saint Francis, in Assisi, Italy, on October 5th 1975. It was Saint Francis of Assisi who pleaded to respect nature and all creatures, who insisted on justice and a simple life condemning the materialistic way of life. Non-organised individuals are invited to take part in the manifestation. Organised groups are free to attend in their own names, with their own posters and banners. Firm commitments have already been received from the following countries: Norway, Sweden, Holland, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria, Italy and England. At the same time, representatives of the international press agencies, television and radio of several countries

at this international manifestation in Assisi for the widest possible coverage and publicity. Further details from: OMNIS MUNDI, Palazzo Passalacqua, 22010 Moltrasio (Como), Italy. Tel: (031) 51-13-51.

ECO-INFO CENTRE

Who's doing that?
Where can I find out?
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Which books should I read?
Is there anything written on it?

- Increasingly we are being asked for information and help with these and a myriad of other matters. As yet we don't have all the answers but its abundantly clear that THE NEED EXISTS for a service which can come up with the goods. WITH YOUR HELP we hope to establish this as the ECO-INFO CENTRE. Please send us all unwanted magazines, journals, news items, articles, books, booklets etc, with an ecological content marked appropriately (subject etc). if possible. Please send details of your group/societies activities. Please send any suggestions or donations to help establish this centre. Please ask your friends and associates to do likewise. The object is to offer as near a free 'phone in service as possible.

To give anyone seeking information either the data or where they can get it, to put people in touch with like minds and to generally keep everyone informed of developments on a world wide basis.

YOUR ENQUIRIES AND YOUR HELP ARE WELCOME.
ECO-INFO CENTRE, New Buildings, Trinity Street, Coventry. Tel: 22048

Details of your events invited for inclusion in these columns FREE OF CHARGE.

YOUR ADVERTISEMENT could appear here for as little as 50p. - Tell people what you do.

REGULAR RECOMMENDED READING

Resurgence - 275 Kings Road, Kingston, Surrey.
Undercurrents - 275 Finchley Road, London NW3
The Ecologist - ~~67 New Green, Richmond, Surrey.~~ *Waddesbridge, Cornwall PL27 7DS.*
New Humanity - 51a York Mansions, Prince of Wales Drive, London.
Conservation News - Conservation Society, Walton-on-Thames.
Good Earth - 18 Crofton Lake Road, Birmingham.
Concernus - National Union of Students, 3 Endsleigh Street, London.
Peace News - for non-violent revolution, 8 Elm Avenue, Nottingham.
New Internationalist - (RPS), Victoria Hall, Freeport, London.

Book Review

METHANE fuel of the Future:
an assesment by Bell, Boulter,
Dunlop & Keiller: ~~Prison~~ press
Stablecourt, Chalmington, Dor-
chester, Dorset DT2 OHB 75p :-
An extremely compact little
paperback which takes the
reader step by step through
the process of Methane Gen-
eration, describes how it has
been used so far together with
prospective uses, and outlines
certain current experimental
developments. In examining the
role of Methane as a fuel of
the future it sets out suggest-
ions for further research and
ideas for political lobbying.

Easy to read and with a most
useful list of references
for both further studies,
occasional reading and contacts
this is a most useful addition
to the bookshelf of anyone
considering self-sufficiency,
alternative fuel systems or
waste treatments.

THE SPRING OF CIVILISATION -
Ian J. Hacket. Published by
the Campaign for Earth Fed-
eration, University House,

Tal-Qroqq, Msida, MALTA
G.C. - 30p :-

Quite incredibly Ian Hacket
starts off by cramming into the
first 30 pages the most com-
plete condensation of the
history of civilisations since
men began to cultivate crops
and domesticate animals, that
I have ever seen. Here the
book is lacking in maps to
help the reader follow through
the movements of forces,
changes in boundaries and
consolidation of empires. I
would certainly recommend
anyone to make sure they have
a good atlas to hand before
settling down for their bed-
time reading.

He then examines the character
of the United Nations Org-
anisation, exposes the waste
of war and makes out a
thoroughly workman like case
for a new Earth Federation to
replace what have become the
traditional, if not moribund
ideas of U.N.O. and the World
Federalists. In essence his
suggestion is to break down
the super states into their
component, self governing,
parts, creating around 1000
autonomous states from the
present 266 or so territories
(nations). For example Great

Released from superior dominance they would then be free to co-operate within an Earth Federation, without the fears of totalitarianism which some see as implicit in the idea of World Government.

A must for everyone trying to understand the problems of international co-operation, the difficulties likely to be encountered by anyone promoting the unilateral establishment of an ecologically based sustainable society, or merely those who seek a better grounding and easy reference in mankind's development.

Certainly very good ^{value} for 30p.

JOURNALS & BOOKLETS.

COMPOST SCIENCE - journal of waste re-cycling. American bi-monthly £1, available via the Ecologist.

Well produced, eminent contributions, but rather heavy and technical. However most useful to keep in touch with developments and ideas, and there seems to be plenty of both in this one!

THE VALUE OF WEEDS: Published by the Soil Association, Walnut Tree Manor, Haughley, Suffolk IP14 3RS - 30p

Clearly illustrated this booklet in praise of weeds has been written to help all gardeners to look upon their least favoured plants with more tolerant eyes. Dealing with Soil fertility, weeds as indicators and uses of weeds, all with good examples; don't be surprised if you finish up by wondering if you've been growing the right crops!

FIRST HAND FIRST RATE: Published by The Vegan Society, 47 Highland Road, Leatherhead, Surrey - 32p

five dozen hints, ideas and recipes for an economical diet. Intended as an aid to promote Veganism, this booklet explains clearly and concisely how easy it is to obtain good wholesome food and plenty of protein both more effectively, efficiently, easily and humarly than via animal products. It then gives a series of simple to prepare recipes to prove the point.

THE Ecology Party



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Batley, Yorks.

(N.B. Send large SAE or 15p stamps to cover p & p.)

MEMBERSHIP

of the Ecology Party is open to all who subscribe to the philosophy of "stock" rather than "flow" economics and who wish to work toward a proper understanding and stewardship of the earth's resources.

Further details from:

Director of MEMBERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT,
Elizabeth Davenport,
c/o New Buildings,
Trinity Street,
Coventry.

Publishers invited to submit books, booklets, e.t.c. for review and to advertise them in these columns - £1 per S.C.I.

DIGEST

Revolution by Referendum

The implications of the referendum are as obvious and emphatic as the vote itself. The militant Left does not command the automatic support of the electorate - and can't even call on working class people and their families with any certainty. There is an enormous and truly national majority for at least one centrist position. The importance of the Party machines in British politics has plainly been exaggerated. And there is a clear political gulf between union leaders and their members.

What is less obvious is whether these lessons will be reflected in actions. The Government will not abandon any of the policies for which it claims a mandate - meaning 28% of the electorate, or a proportion not much more impressive than the No vote in the referendum. No political party, other than the Liberals, will press the case for a proportional representation system that will allow the centralist

majority (if it truly exists) to dominate Parliament and Government. The trade union bloc vote, used on political and economic matters without any consultation of the members whose votes are being cast en bloc, will continue to determine Labour policy.

The bloc vote must be about the most undemocratic, even anti-democratic, device in any extant democracy - which doesn't, of course, prevent those who exercise that authoritarian power from their prating about industrial democracy. But trade union democracy, proportional representation and return to genuine centrist policies - modest enough measures, after all - would amount to a revolution in the British context. That this should be true is itself a forceful demonstration of how rigid our system has become .

Management Today. ■

FOOD

PRODUCER POWER

A CIA study that came to light recently concludes that climatic changes adversely affecting much of the agricultural production of the United States could mean "extraordinary political and economic influence" for the United States.

The Study, OPR-401, August 1974, is entitled "Potential Implications of Trends in World Population, Food Production and Climate" →

**Joseph Collins takes the wraps off
yet another startling report
by the CIA.**

The 50-page study was completed just before President Ford and Secretary Kissinger hinted that the US might "use food as a political weapon" and Secretary of Agriculture Butz flatly stated, "Food is a weapon. It is now one of the principle tools in our negotiating kit."

In examining the trends - even if "normal" weather continues - the Agency gives a more realistic assessment of the dimensions of world hunger than has been the case in recent public statements by the US Department of Agriculture and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation. The CIA assessment repeatedly notes that not everyone will go hungry or even starve - only the poor. "The poor, within countries and as national entities, would be hardest hit," it concludes. Furthermore, "the disparity between the rich and the poor is thus likely to get even wider". The rich and the rich countries, however, "need have no fear of hunger, though the relative price of food will probably rise at times."

Such growing shortages, even with "normal" weather, are viewed by the study as positive for the US in terms of "strong markets for US grain exports and considerable benefits to the US balance of payments". Moreover, "ability to provide relief food in periods of shortage or famine will enhance US influence in the recipient countries, at least for a time". The phrase 'at least for a time' suggests one worry occasionally expressed in the study. That worry is that famine in the LDCs could "lead to social and political upheavals...crippling governmental authority." The study observes that beleaguered governments could become more difficult to deal with on international issues either because of a collapse in ability to meet commitments or through a greatly heightened nationalism and aggressiveness..."The US will become the whipping boy."

The bulk of the study projects the likely political impact from the cooling trend many climatologists now believe to be underway. A 'Key Judgement' of the study is:-

"If the trend continues for several decades there would almost certainly be an absolute shortage of food. The high-latitude areas, including USSR and north China (and Canada) would experience shorter growing seasons and a drop in output. The monsoon-fed lands in Asia (including southern China) and Africa would also be adversely affected.

US production would probably not be hurt much. As custodian of the bulk of the world's exportable grain, the US might regain the primacy in world affairs it held in the immediate post-World War II era."

The apparent enthusiasm with which such developments are discussed throughout the study calls into question the professed desire of US policy-makers to see food deficit countries become self-sufficient food producers (although it has become clear in recent months that →

NOW IS THE TIME TO ADVERTISE in this journal to reach a widespread highly motivated and influential audience.

the CIA has been following its own - usually bizarre - line on other important issues). "In a cooler and therefore hungrier world, the US's near-monopoly position as food exporter...could give the US a measure of power it had never had before - possibly an economic and political dominance greater than that of the immediate post-World War II years". A little further on, the CIA study comments, "In bad years...Washington would acquire virtual life and death power over the fate of multitudes of the needy... the US would gain extraordinary political and economic influence. For not only the poor LDCs but also the major powers would be at least partially dependant on food imports from the US".

Consonant with the hard-nosed policy of triage that many commentators have suggested to be at least part of US strategy, the CIA study baldly notes, "The population 'problem'" would have solved itself in the most unpleasant fashion".

According to the study, 22 out of 27 climate-forecasting methods predict a cooling trend through the remainder of the century. A change of only 2-3⁰F. in average temperature would have an enormous impact. According to climatologists, such major shifts have taken place more than a dozen times in the past 1600 years. The maximum temperature drop usually occurred within 40 years of a cooling trend; and the earliest return to "normal" required 70 years. Of the main grain-growing regions, only the US and Argentina would escape adverse effects if crop-belts shifted towards the equator.

These climatologists further argue that in periods of climate change violent weather - unseasonal frosts, warm spells, major storms, cyclones, floods etc. - is more common. Even if the drop in temperature was slow, the disruptive effect of violent weather on crops might be considerably more adverse than mere cooling.

The CIA study notes that the adverse impacts of climate change could ultimately pose "potential risks" and "certain problems" for the US if the impacts are so adverse that "even the best efforts of the US" could not "meet the minimum needs of the major food-deficit areas". In such a case, the study anticipates, "there would be increasingly desperate attempts on the part of the militarily powerful, but nonetheless hungry, nations to get more grain any way they could. Massive migration backed by force would become a very live issue."

On balance, then, the CIA study appears to view the climatic disasters as politically and economically positive for the US - just so long as they do not go too far. @

**Independent Committee
on
Environmental Pollution**

APPEAL FOR FUNDS AND INFORMATION
Anyone with relevant information or who can assist the commission please contact Peter Bunyard, Lawellan, Withiel, Bodmin, Cornwall.
FUNDS please to the Treasurer, c/o New Buildings, Trinity Street, Coventry.

There are no less than 80,000 registered charities in the United Kingdom - a sinister and threatening horde of well-meaning vultures just waiting for a moment of weakness to swoop, pounce and pick the guilty conscience clean.

Most of the charities which make up that number are pretty moribund and incapable of collecting much more than an annual layer of dust. They're remnants of the halcyon days when charity really was charity.

The legacies of the now redundant generosity, individuals and trusts persist today only as yellowing files on solicitors' shelves, each with their own strange and useless objectives. But even those live organisations with whom they share the legal status of charity present a pretty bizarre spectrum of interests - everything from Eton College to the Donkey Sanctuary.

The word 'charity' itself has taken a bit of a buffeting over the years and anyone rewriting the Bible today would be hard pressed to decide whether it should be classified as the supreme act of virtue or as a despicable camouflage of vice. It's normally regarded by the theoretical Left as one of the ritual sacrifices of liberalism - succeeding only in rubbing the sharp edges off the poor so as to make the passage of the rich more comfortable, and generally to confuse and disguise any underlying class conflicts.

It seems unlikely in the development field, however, that the charities involved could make any significant contribution towards confusing the underlying issues still further. The world's financial system is already suff-

The shining coin that buys the jar of instant coffee seems far removed from the soiled and grubby note that pays the plantation worker's daily wage. For the money can flow through a long and tortuous pipe shedding elements of guilt and blame as it goes, like the dying bacteria in an efficient sewage system. And the extra 2p you paid for your Slimcea loaf this morning seemed unconnected with the heartless final bid in the Chicago grain exchange that effectively priced a Calcutta family out of the market for food.

It is possible to accuse the overseas aid charities of bolstering this kind of inhuman structure by peddling a form of cheap absolution for such sins. Are Christian Aid, Oxfam and Community Aid Abroad simply traffickers in emotion who - by buying a token off the poor, selling them to the rich and taking their cut - are impeding more fundamental changes that their donors would otherwise feel the need to carry out?

I find it difficult to believe that the charities could have that kind of effect - that it is possible to buy your way out in this way.

The overseas aid charities can easily fulfil a similarly frustrating role. Their publicity sells the hint of a solution but, regardless of the quality of the product they deliver, its quantity will always be demonstrably inadequate and will leave the intelligent consumer demanding more and/or better.

A case - perhaps of the rattling can biting the hand that feeds it? (taken from The New Internationalist.)

It has been announced in Bonn that the Federal German Government has given its approval to a proposed agreement for co-operation with Brazil in the field of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Under this agreement, which is expected to be signed shortly, eight nuclear power stations would be built in Brazil, which would supply Germany with Brazilian natural uranium, and there would be technical and economic co-operation between the two countries on the uranium-enrichment process. It is estimated that contracts arising from the agreement will represent investments totalling about US\$4,500 million over the next 15 years. ■

places PEOPLE

WORKERS at Lucas Aerospace want to explore 'ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGIES'.

This letter was sent by Mike Cooley of the Lucas Aerospace Combine Shop Stewards Committee to the Leeds Future Studies Centre and a few other groups.

"We are taking the liberty of writing to you as we understand you are interested in the possibility of deploying the equipment of technologically advanced firms on alternative technology, in particular those forms which are socially useful.

We should explain at the outset that this Combine Committee represents all employees of the 17 U.K. sites of Lucas Aerospace. It is therefore unique in the British Trade Union Movement in that it speaks for the entire spectrum of workers by hand and brain, from labourers to senior technologists and engineers. We design, develop and manufacture a wide range of aerospace components and complete systems. A substantial proportion of this work is on defence contracts. It seems to us that the "energy crisis" will result in a slowing down of many of these projects and the general economic climate is likely to result in cutbacks in defence contracts. This we regard as inevitable and even desirable. Our concern however is that cutbacks of this kind have always resulted, in the past, in the break up of teams of skilled workers and design staff, followed by the degradation of the dole queue.

We have, over the past two years, been engaged in a number of bitter disputes to assert the 'right to work'. It is our intention to do so in the future. However, instead of campaigning for the continuation of socially undesirable product ranges we will, in future, campaign for the right to work on alternative and preferably socially useful products. In addition...we also want to ensure that the work is carried out in such a fashion that the full skill and ability of our members is utilised, and that we depart from the dehumanised, fragmented forms of work which are now becoming common place even in a highly skilled industry such as aerospace. →

The annual turnover of Lucas Aerospace in the U.K. is approximately £60 million. There are about 14,000 employees, and some 2,000 of these are engineers, draftsmen and scientific staff. A large proportion of the remainder are highly skilled manual workers. It is the kind of work force which because of its skilled background is extremely adaptable, and would be capable of working on a wide range of products. We have just over 5000 machine tool workers and about 250 of these are numerically, automatically or digital display control.... A list of test facilities show that this is backed up by products, environmental and investigation laboratories.

There is a very genuine desire to work on products which would be specially useful, not only in Britain, but in the newly emergent and Developing countries. It is certainly not the view of the Combine Committee or of the work force involved that this kind of capital intensive products which have come to characterise the technologically advanced nations will be appropriate to the newly emergent nations. It is therefore fully understood and accepted that entirely different forms of technology will have to be considered.

IF YOU KNOW OF ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGIES on which a work force of this kind could become engaged, in particular if these technologies would be socially useful, we will be very pleased to discuss the matter with you further. We are particularly keen to see that the very considerable skill and ability of our members is used to solve the wide range of human problems we see about us.

We should like, in conclusion, to

point out that this initiative comes entirely from our work force itself, through its Combined Shop Stewards Committee and as such is completely independent of the normal commercial considerations of a large company of this kind. We will greatly appreciate your advice and suggestions, and would, of course, treat your reply in confidence if you so wish..."

If you think you can contribute in any way to the Lucas workers' appeal, with its far reaching implications:

1. Contact (with s.a.e.): Roland Chaplain, FSC, 15 Kelso Road, Leeds. LS2 9PR (tel: 0532-459865). The FSC is acting as a clearing house at the present, and can put you in direct contact with the Lucas Aerospace Shop Stewards Committee if you wish.

2. A conference is likely, with workers from Lucas, Yorkshire ITDG, and other people, probably July (avoiding clash with the IWC conference) details from FSC again.

3. Do you know of other TUs, shop stewards, workers' groups etc, thinking on these lines?

4. If you'd like to publicise this further, please contact the FSC or the Lucas workers' committee before you do, as developments when it is able to. Do keep in touch. "In the Making" (Directory--Self Management or Radical Technology) 221 Albert Road, Sheffi. S1 8 Yorks. ☐

ORDER
"GOOD EARTH"
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from
Circulation Manager,
18 Cofton Lake Road,
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Fighting the Shanties

Thousands of secondary school pupils are being moved out of towns, particularly Havana, to boarding schools in the country. Here the children spend part of their time in class and part working on farms connected to the school. The most immediate effect has been a reduction in truancy and, in Havana, in juvenile delinquency.

Cuba is chronically short of construction workers (the government is now encouraging thousands of women to enter the industry) and much is being built by "micro-brigades". This means that a factory, a ministry or a trades union will send a detachment of about 35 workers to spend some months building flats under skilled supervision.

Those who move in will not have to pay more than six per cent of their wages on rent.

300 engineering and architecture students, combine 20 hours of class work (in huts on site) with 20 hours of practical and instructive labour each week. ■

You Can't Win 'em all

Builder Bill Sandey decided to attack the energy crisis head-on.

Instead of just turning off the extra light switch and installing an extra layer of insulation in the roof, he applied to build an "energy saving" one-bedroom house in his back garden in Southampton.

Well, the planners didn't really object to Mr. Sandey's plan to have a farmyard on the ground floor, complete with chickens, rabbits and goat. Neither did they really get too upset about a greenhouse on the second floor.

The living quarters on the first floor quite impressed them. In a way they were also rather impressed by his scheme for a windmill on the roof which would generate electricity, and a waste unit which would develop methane gas for cooking and heating.

They were also warmly disposed to his plan for all-over glazing. But planning law is planning law. And there is just no way of building two houses on a single plot in Southampton.

Permission refused. Next please! ■

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A man lived by the side of the road and sold hot dogs. He was hard of hearing so he had no radio. He had trouble with his eyes so he read no newspapers. But he sold good hot dogs.

He put up signs on the highway telling how good they were. He stood by the side of the road and cried: 'Buy a hot dog Mister!'

And people bought'.

He increased his meat and bun orders. He bought a bigger stove to take care of his business. He brought his son home from college to help him.

But then something happened...

His son said: 'Father, haven't you been listening to the radio? There's a depression on. The European situation is bad. The Asian situation is terrible. The domestic situation is worse.'

Whereupon the father thought, 'Well, my son's been to college, he reads the papers and listens to the radio, and he ought to know.'

So the father cut down on his →

advertising signs, and no longer bothered to stand out on the highway to sell hot dogs.

And his hot dog sales fell off

'You're right, son,' the father said to the boy. 'We certainly are in the middle of a terrible depression!'

from the Toronto Globe and Mail.

Quoted in I.Q. Canada's newsletter.

ARTICLES :

David Tolley plays 'DEVILS ADVOCATE'

It simply will not do to dismiss our national crisis as a "non-event" as PEOPLE's Chairman wrote of the Miner's Strike in the ECOLOGIST. Such issues may not be relevant to the specific problems which our movement seeks to solve but by that rationale you might just as easily dismiss the whole of the Second World War as a "non-event".

One simply has to take account of the political, social and economic situation prevailing.

I judged the Ecology Party to be a more viable instrument than CONSOC., I have to admit that the present situation suggests that any attempts at engaging in constructive democratic political activity is virtually hopeless.

The Party's power base is virtually non-existent, and its support must inherently be drawn from two presently irreconcilable groups - the middle-class 'haves', and the academic/student/hippie fraternity, of which the majority of the nation, including myself, do not comprise.

Hence my suggestion that all related groups. Ecology Part, CONSOC, FOE, etc, should form a national body, of which The Ecology Party should become the political arm, and that national discussions should take place with a view to coordinating both resources and effort in a sustained drive by ALL groups to demonstrate to the public what a continuation of the present system will mean and to fight its representatives at every level. Much of this thought, as you will appreciate, is implicit in the philosophy behind Heckler's Manual.

Alas, I seem to be in a minority of one: many people seeming to think that I am "too hard on politicians" for considering them as either stupid or dishonest, justifying it as natural that they should tell the public 'what they want to hear'.

I must confess that I now think that the options for effective and legal democratic actions are only limited but must inevitably diminish. If indeed 'conservation/survival' policies are ever applied it will almost certainly be that some future regime will have applied them from sheer necessity, and probably not without totalitarian means. ■

NEWSLETTER FUND has now obviously become the "ALLIANCE" Journal Fund. Donations still urgently required, if you have not yet given please help our efforts by sending money now to me: Editor.

"How to get Policies Across".

Dear Dr. Dexter,

I read with very great interest the article on your appointment at the head of the Agricultural Development and Advisory Service, and especially that you are the champion of the small farmer. I feel sure that many others than myself also feel that the small farmer has always had, and can still have, a positive contribution to make to the produce of the soil, to the amenities of the countryside and even to the philosophy of life of the nation'.

The recent Government White Paper on Agriculture should, if anything, help and encourage the small farmer, who often does well in different conditions with his stock by his hard work and genuine care for them. Not for him long rows of factory animals in batteries, drawing fabulous subsidies and giving a doubtful overall economic benefit! Further, I would like to see big farmers arising from the gradual improvement of the small farmers, though this has rarely happened in history. But there seems no good reason why it should not start now, in so far as we need big farmers anyway.

I feel that the small farmer needs encouragement more than anything, and of course just that right little bit of help at the right time. I always look to the National Trust lands, which seem to me to be so very well farmed, from everyone's point of view, and they can rely on that bit of help when they need it, to clean a weed-ridden pasture, to mend a barn that is about to fall down, to make better farm tracks, to drain land, and that sort of thing.

I hope he will be encouraged to use his wisdom to the utmost, and not beguiled towards the "synthetic" farming which appears to be so easy but, if we take subsidies into account, is usually more expensive in the long run. With weeds, for instance, those farmers who have not been so long at the task as others might not know that to get rid of thistles: "Cut them in May, they'll grow the next day; cut them in June, you're a month too soon; cut them in July, they'll surely die." It works too! and doesn't cost much; doesn't even take long to do; I'm not a farmer but I've done it and it was easy even for me, and that pasture looks beautifully clean now! Probably there is good folklore, put into handy form, for other troubles, such as docks, nettles and so on. Certainly we all know that a swarm in May is worth a load of hay; a swarm in June worth a silver spoon, and a swarm in July but a fly, and why should the farmer not have some hives since honey fetches such a good price?

I hope you will protect the fairly new young farmers we all want to see coming along so that they are not "gullibilised" by the salesmen for the agricultural industry or the veterinary side of the pharmaceutical industry, useful though some of their products undoubtedly are, but they can so easily be over-used and far too many of them used, merely to assist the profits of the manufacturers of them. →

SHARE YOUR IDEAS for promoting ecological thinking, staging events, raising funds, etc, in these columns: Editor.

amenity society volunteer labour and/or "Newsome" secondary school activity labour to lend a hand to the farmer who weeds and dilapidations have temporarily got him down? The National Trust of course nips in and helps its tenants, and I feel it might just be possible for communities to do the same for other farmers. Some of the volunteers might indeed be a bit of a nuisance but some would really help, and those that got in the way would encourage the farmer by letting him see how superior he is to these bungling amateurs! Mainly, it might well provide new recruits to help to make productive the many little farms that are falling into decay.

I do wish you well in your new and outstandingly important job. ☞

WILL BRITAIN STARVE? - by Dennis Nightingale-Smith.

Britain's trade deficit runs at around £m 3,000 P.A.. Significantly, the value of imported food (about half our requirements) is also around £m 3,000 P.A. Therefore one (and the best and essential) method of balancing our books would be to grow our own food - which can be done. Admittedly, this would cause a degree of gastronomic and emotional trauma in a large section of the population, but nowhere near as much as the fast approaching alternative - famine (yes, even in Britain!).

How would this be done? How could it be done? The prime casualty will be the consumption of meat - not entirely killed off, but confined to the eating of carcasses of beasts and birds that have ended their useful (to us) life as milk, egg and wool producers. A horrryfyng quantity of grain products are imported each year from countries some of which actually have portions of their populations STARVING so that we can fatten our beasts and birds for meat and this aspect alone is a certain reason why this criminal exploitation of these people cannot continue much longer. Apparently they can't digest the machinery and electronic equipment and munitions we send to them in exchange. What meat we do eat as such rather than the potentially dangerous trash we get in tins and in processed form.

This reduction in meat eating will make available tens of thousands of acres of land on which grains, pulses, nuts, fruit and vegetables can be grown. Revival of our knowledge of culinary herbs will enable delectable meals to be produced without meat, which, in fact, is already done by vegetarian individuals and restaurants. Hill land can be used for milk and wool production. Eggs and wool can be produced in orchards.

Can we make the extra pesticides and inorganic fertilizers we shall need? The answer is - we don't need any! We, used to farm without them and can certainly do so again, with attendant better health of the population. Only greed motivated us to indulge in artificial fertilisers with their consequent need for biocides (pesticides herbicides, fungicides etc.). Traditional farming maintained fertility with rotations, clover leys etc. Additionally, we have the technology to return all town wastes to the farm, thus completing the cycle. →

who is to pilot us through this very urgent change. The Soil Association, having lost their milk teeth, must bite hard on their teething ring to hasten the eruption of teeth strong enough to bite off the heads of the Ministry of Agriculture, The National Farmer Union and the vested interests in industry. The necessity for these courses of action, the urgency - extreme urgency - and the dire penalty for not doing so should be driven with so much force into the minds of everyone in this land that sheer weight of numbers would pressure the government into override/opposition to self-sufficiency measures. There should be, ready and waiting, precise, clear and easily understandable instruction packages to be given to every farmer or grower who expresses interest in organic growing. As the vital first step is to get the soil into good heart, it is possible that a single publication could be so constructed so as to cover all districts and all types of land. My own efforts to produce such a public-action, started several years ago, have been held up by the government's insistence on allowing only 24 hours in a day. Farmers could then immediately convert one tenth of their land to organic methods and gain confidence without the temporary lowering of income that a sudden change would entail. Gardeners also should cultivate every scrap of garden they have to produce foods. Council land and other land waiting development could be turned into temporary allotments for people with only small gardens

PAMPHLETS AND POLICIES

My function in the new N.E.C. is to look after policy revision and publications. At present the Ecology Party has only the 1974 manifesto and the Heckler's Manual which it can list as publications. Soon these will be joined by the 1975 manifesto, but considering that we are breaking new political ground these are usefully inadequate.

Con Soc and FOM have research workers constantly investigating the practical side of conservation: pamphlets on population, food, economics, energy and transport have all been produced by them, but no one is looking into socio-political aspects of conservation. I see this as our function. We could produce pamphlets explaining manifesto policy in some depth on reform of government, the implications of decentralisation, the management of communally owned land, the social implications of the National Income Scheme, community education and so on. These will act as guides for ourselves and useful vehicles for distributing our propoganda.

At the moment I visualise a uniform, numbered series of pamphlets each up to 10,000 words long, duplicated on A4 in a stiff paper cover and, perhaps, with illustrations. Before we start, however, we need writers. If anyone is prepared to take responsibility for writing, alone or in collaboration with someone else, a pamphlet on any subject I have listed above or anything else, please let me know.

Once the pamphlets have been produced we then have to sell them and the more the better, because this is one of the surest ways we have of raising funds. A distribution network will have to be set up. Individuals in each town or area will have to take responsibility for receiving a batch of pamphlets and distributing them to various outlets they have organised within their areas. This will require a very positive effort on everyone's part, but I feel that it is vital for our survival as a political force. Volunteers and suggestions how this can be done best to:

Peter Allen, 16 West Park Road, Leeds 8. (TEL: 664669)

EDITORIAL

With this issue we move toward consolidating the improvements and gains which have been made upon the old 'PEOPLE' newsletter, and which (apart from printing) so many people have commented upon favourably. 'Alliance' emerges as the journal of the Ecology Party not only to keep members and others advised of its activities, but also to promote a greater awareness of the problems facing the eco-con-survivalist movement as related to the shifting political scene. In doing so our aim is to foster a greater understanding between all organisations with similar or related interests and to encourage them to work together for the common good.

The success, or rather lack of it, which most independent eco-orientated bodies seem to have had in gaining public support serves to emphasise the essential truth in the old adage "United we stand, divided we fall."

CO-OPERATION:

Despite the efforts of Conference to produce a new and improved Manifesto, there will be both within the party and without, those who are not 100% happy as to its content. Indeed there were those who went away on Sunday the 29th feeling more than a little disillusioned that their ideas had not been incorporated. Regrettably, but understandably perhaps, it must be acknowledged that the document when produced, will not be perfect. Even so it is a good beginning, and as yet no one else has even tried to produce an alternative.

We urge all those who are truly committed to ecological principles to put aside personal grievances and work with us to improve upon that beginning, sort out the bugs and misunderstandings and, help turn mere visions of a sustainable society into reality.

If you want something changed, set about achieving it. ☐

POLITICS

WILL WE BECOME INTELLECTUAL CANNON FODDER FOR TORIES?

(Extracts from Management Today. Article by Simon Gaukin.)

Every intellectual generation reacts against the immediate past. The 1945-1950 Labour Government was super-collectivist, 'duly followed by 13 years of Conservative rule.

'Since the First World War and Lloyd George's coalition, there have been two streams of thought in the Conservative Party. The first is the Tory tradition of emphasis on influence and power abroad, and defence, coupled with a willingness to undertake social reform and to intervene in the economy if necessary. This is the flexible, pragmatic, moderate tradition of Disraeli, Lord Randolph Churchill and Joseph Chamberlain' - not to mention Macmillan and Home at a later date.

'The second stream was imported into the party in the shape of the classical, free-market Liberals - the descendants of Cobden and Bright, ended up with Enoch Powell and his followers. Suez was a turning point because that element in the Conservative Party which had thought in terms of international influence lost ground which was gradually taken over by the laissez faire Liberals, turning back to a situation of the least possible →

Angus Maude, sees in the experience of the last few years a clear proof of the futility of attempting to capture the political middle ground. 'The danger with that obsession at a time like the present is that you find yourself constantly moving leftwards in pursuit of it.'

'The Conservative appeal has always been based on the belief that it's the party of (1) competent government and (2) stability. Well, this last time we meddled with everything - local government's an example - and destroyed the stability part of the appeal. And then there were all those reversals of policy and a complete loss of self-confidence.

Peter Walker, asserts in all its most successful period, the Tory Party has been right in the middle of Parliamentary politics, and if now a particular policy we put forward is supported by the moderates in the Labour Party, I won't object to that.'

Neither of the main parties can be particularly happy with the present situation. One of the most serious is chronic public disenchantment with the entire political process: as Angus Maude points out, the number of votes cast for the winning party in general elections, as a percentage of the total number eligible to vote, has been constantly and worryingly declining since the war. The present Labour Government, was elected with 39% of the votes cast, which is bad enough; but even worse is the fact that this represented only a miserable 28.6% of the total electorate. Another indicator, individual party membership, show the Labour Party in drastic decline, while the Tories don't even have their own figures.

The conclusion, amply borne out by

both parties are thought to have governed badly; on reflection, inevitably badly, since either side can only get itself voted to power by raising public expectations higher than their opponents. Given the constraints within which all governments have to work (the economic being the most pressing at the moment), these expectations are almost always incapable of being fulfilled. It may be, as Maude observes, only in times of crisis like the present that a party can win an election by telling the truth and promising nothing at all.

Inflation is unlikely to split the Conservative Party straight down the middle, as it could very easily split Labour.

Julian Amery, states 'We've got to get back to a balance of rights and duties. If you look at history, you see that there was a time when both the landed aristocracy and the capitalists grossly exploited their privileges; but they adjusted to their responsibilities in the end. Now the trade unions have to do the same thing. Responsibilities have to be learned.'

It's: no help looking like a business efficiency expert if business isn't running efficiently, which was Heath's unfortunate posture in 1974. There was no coherent intellectual or moral appeal, as there had been none a decade earlier, when material results were bad. People are probably more concerned about self-confidence, the feeling that their leaders actually know where they're going, than about the policies those leaders are advocating. Heath didn't give the feeling that he knew →

where he was going: he and his policies, as one critic unkindly put it, 'were like cardboard: they were hard on the surface, but crumbled when you pushed against them.'

Part of his trouble was presentation. 'His policy on Europe,' Amery remarks, 'was good. Where he and his associates fell down was in putting it over. They treated it as a bread-and-butter issue instead of a great vision for the future to stir people's hearts. He never got people excited about Europe. The failure over the Industrial Relations Act was the same. It was presented as righting a balance, correcting a trend which had gone too far, rather than creating social unity.'

There was another odd discrepancy between appearance and reality. The real gap is between Heath and Thatcher, not Heath and Macmillan or Home. Like theirs, Heath's thinking was coloured by the war and his experiences in it. He was a territorial army officer and behaved like one. He didn't go in for consulting the activists - there was no interface - he just expected people to get on and do what they were told.

There was a further insensitivity to what might be called the spirit of the age in Heath's tendency to think big. 'Ted,' says Maude, 'is a macro-man. He believed that putting five departments together and calling the result Department of the Environment would firstly make people happier and secondly give us a better environment. In fact, it's done neither'. Shaw, by no means a Heath-hater, admits that 'we have tended to get too far from the ground. For Conservatives, industry has been a matter of the CBI, banks and the City. Similarly,

the problem with the Conservative Party and the trade unions is that relations have been conducted from the centre - the macro approach, whereas in both cases what we have to do now is build from the bottom.'

Says Angus Maude "In a funny way, Labour is now the Establishment party - desperately trying to shore up systems which are creaking to a halt, like education and the NHS. The Conservative Party in embryo is the party of radical change; some people would call it reactionary change, in its truest sense of reversing bad trends.'

So what in the end is Conservatism? Clearly, one of its central features is its evolutionary attitude to change. As Disraeli famously said in 1867, 'in a progressive country change is constant; and the question is not whether you should resist change which is inevitable, but whether that change should be carried out in deference to the manners, the customs, the laws and the traditions of a people, or whether it should be carried out in deference to abstract principles, and arbitrary and general doctrines.'

Equally clearly, the emphasis is on the individual rather than the collective. 'Conservatives,' states Angus Maude, 'stand for the freedom of the individual within a clearly defined and accepted system of law; for the maximum of individual choice; and for the belief that the aim of politics is not to please everyone but to do justice to everyone.' Underlying this emphasis, in the words of Michael Heseltine, is the conviction 'that the individual acting personally is better able to make decisions on his own behalf than the State acting for him. Not only are those decisions more sensitive to his own circumstances,

... I understand very clearly the seduction of the arguments for planning society and for taking tensions and conflicts out of ordinary lives, but in doing that you diminish the quality of life that individuals are able to lead, because those individuals are made less important.'

Fundamentally, says Julian Amery, 'the difference between the Conservatives on one side, and the classical Liberals and socialists on the other, is that unlike them we have never believed that we possess the sole and unique recipe for social progress. The Liberals believed rigidly in laissez faire, self-interest as the mainspring of progress; the socialists that ownership of the means of production was the only way forward. Conservatives don't believe in paradise on earth. You can't solve it all here below, and you can't know the absolute truth (to that extent, not in any denominational sense, we are the party of the Church); all you can hope to do is leave the world slightly better than you found it, by observing the moral code and seeing how things have grown up in the light of history.

'As the party of the Crown - the Crown in Parliament - we believe in the existence of a strong but not arbitrary executive: strong enough to protect the weak against the mighty, and to protect the nation against the world outside. And finally, we're the party of the nation: we must never become the representative of one group of class, as the Liberals identified with the middle class in the 19th century and the Labour Party with the working class in this. Our business is to be the national party.

inequality is only socially divisive when, as at present, there is no growth: if people's living standards are going up, then they don't mind too much if those of others are progressing even faster. Growth and progress in the end depend on the elite: so, arguably, in every phase of development, being the party of the nation involves a bias towards the leaders of opinion - first the landowners then the capitalists, and now the managers of industry. This is not because of a belief in ruling classes, but in the sense that at any given time progress depends on the army being led by officers in a considered direction.'

Certainly Angus Maude is planning an intellectual offensive of the sort which, deliberately mounted and sustained at an extremely high intellectual level, won a clear initiative for the Conservatives in the early 1950's.

The danger of the simple two-party system is precisely that there are only two alternatives. Human arrogance being what it is, it's very easy for the side benefiting from an essentially negative vote to assume that what people really want is their particular doctrine in its pure, undiluted form.

Slack and apathetic opposition is no means of keeping government on its toes. It is in the nature of our system that, barring total breakdown, the opposition one day becomes the government. ■

ARTICLES OF POLITICAL interest
invited for this section:
EDITOR

CAMPAIGN

You are driving along a narrow road in the dark when suddenly the headlights fail. Do you brake or accelerate?

If that question seems slightly mad, it is perhaps worth reviewing the mental health of those who are driving our earth-vehicle with its four billion passengers in the back.

Last month, Maurice Strong told the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi that "the consumption of fossil fuels, the increase in nuclear reactors and the introduction of one thousand new man-made chemical components a year into the environment is giving rise to serious risks to human health and well-being."

In a million different ways, from aerosol sprays to supersonic planes, from Vapona fly-strips to DDT, we are taking risks with our delicate, vital and beautiful environment without anything like adequate knowledge of the consequences.

In short, we have our heavy boot firmly on the accelerator of material progress without any headlights to see whether we are proceeding safely on the straight and narrow or about to go crashing through flimsy safety barriers and plunge exhaust-over-combustion-engine down the nearest cliff.

Concordes are emitting exhaust vapours at high altitudes, breaking down the ozone which protects us all from cancer-giving radiation. The burning of ever-increasing amounts of coal and oil is pumping more and more carbon dioxide into our atmosphere and threatening to affect the climate in unknown ways. Nuclear reactors are raising levels of ionizing radiation, increasing mutation rates, and threatening ecological systems and human health.

All this does not mean that we'd all better start knocking together Noah's Arks and rounding up the animals. Nor are we likely to wake up tomorrow morning and see the icebergs of a new ice-age shuffling up to our front doors. But to dismiss the environmental warning lights as 'alarmist' or 'crying wolf' is suicidally stupid.

It may be that the risk of a catastrophic and irretrievable environmental disaster is light. But the consequence is heavy. And when the stakes are high, the odds are altered. You would happily take on a 'safe-bet' if the only consequence of losing was that you had to do the washing-up after dinner. You might think twice if the consequence was cancer.

In such a situation the only sensible rule is 'if in doubt, don't'. As Barbara Ward and Rene Dubos, authors of "Only One Earth", have said - "The first act of sanity is to insist, with all possible urgency and influence; on the need for caution."

The United Nations Environment Programme's recent review of "The

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State of the Environment" shows that this commonsense appeal to caution is falling on deaf ears. To be sure a debate is raging about the environmental impact of everything from screw-top non-returnable bottles to breeder reactors. But while the mouths are arguing whether or not to apply the brakes, the feet are still pressing on the accelerator - drowning the cry for caution with the roar of progress.

What is worse, the onus is increasingly being placed on the environmentalists to prove that any new development is damaging. As Fritz Schumacher said almost seven years ago "The burden of proof is placed on those who take the 'ecological viewpoint': unless they can produce evidence of marking injury to man, the change will proceed. Commonsense, on the contrary, would suggest that the burden of proof should lie on the man who wants to introduce a change; he has to demonstrate that there cannot be any damaging consequences." ■

Report

WORLD PEACE - how do we get it? - K. Michael Benfield.

This symposium was held on Tuesday 17th June 1975 in the committee room of the House of Commons. About 50 people were present including M.P.'s, Clerics and a school party. A large number of extremely relevant points were made, which for the sake of brevity are itemised below:-

Speaker :

BRUCE KENT - Pax Christie.

1. a) What is the peace we want? I don't know - do you?
- b) "Peace is much more than the silence of the Guns".
- c) The perfect - the absolute - is the enemy of the good.
- d) When people begin to realise what they're spending on arms then they'll begin to wake up (£2Mp.w. per capita).
- e) Oxfam et al. called only £15m p.a. G.B. spends around £4,000 m.
- f) There are deliberate Gov't sales organs to push (like drugs) arms to others.
- g) The sense of impotence is a disease. People denuded of power.
- h) We must give people something to do in this fight. Give facts and how to use them.
- i) The whole arms industry is waiting to be challenged/ confronted.

Speaker: Mrs VERDUN PERL - ~~United Nations Association.~~

2. a) Quoted Secretary General of U.N.O. "We have to live in the world as it is, not as we would like it to be."
- b) People have been affluent for so long that they have become content to sit back and let "them" do it.
- c) The coming struggle is between the 'haves' and the 'have nots' of the world.
- d) Emphasised rate of consumption of finite resources.
- e) The new economic order: "We must learn to live more simply in order that others may simply live"
- f) Concerned at banding together of industrial countries to protect themselves.

- System in West is badly out of date and needs restructuring - the countries are possibly becoming "governable" (General C. Smith U.S. delegation to SACT May 31 Vancouver)
- h) New improvements in Nuclear weapons (SACT). U.N.O. time and again passed resolutions calling on members to dismantle.
 - i) China would join in the disarmament talks if we discussed getting rid of 'Nukes' but not limitation talks only.

Speaker: RON HUZARD - Editor "Labour Action for Peace".

- 3. a) Record No of 'Nuke' explosions last year. Now 20 countries have potential. By 1980 30 will have.
- b) The U.K. arms bill has been increased to £567 million in this inflationary year. i.e. £3.6 per head per week.
- c) 90% of this now arises from NATO commitment.
- d) The Arms bill is a major cause of inflation and of balance of our payment deficit.
- e) We must give strength to U.N.O. not N.A.T.O.
- f) We should switch resources that go to amounts to the 3rd worlds requirements. A dialogue with TU's is required for this.

Speaker: FRANK WILLIAMS of the Quaker organisation Friends Peace and International Relations Committee.

- 4. a) We must take the risk of peace upon ourselves not impose the risks of war upon the world.
- b) Simpler life and co-operation.

Speaker: MIA LORD: World Association of World Federalists.

- 5. a) Insistence upon Sovereign rights puts individual states outside the law. Makes war and pollution etc. possible.

Speaker from the floor.

- 6. a) Mahatma Ghandi - Non Violent. Non Co-operation.
- b) Ministry of defence are about to launch leaflets in schools for more armaments

THE EARTH ENTERPRISE PROJECT - Joan Pick. 01-686-5089

My report is now before the Waste Management Advisory Council Secretariat, incidentally.

A copy of the "Interim Report on a Structure for the Energy Economy" has returned from the British Overseas Trade Board, who found it "rather monumental". That copy has since been to, and come back from, the Chairman of the Science Research Council, who has made a photocopy. The transport and Road Research Laboratory returned theirs, with no adverse comment, and the Financial Times are sitting on a copy again.

...and my command of economics is eminently respectable.

On the EEC issue, letters have been received from Richard Mayne at the EEC's London office, from Guido Brunner in Brussels, and from "Europe Plus Thirty" in London, who are in State House, High Holborn, home of the Science Research Council, home of one of the copies of the "Interim Report"...

Regional F.O.E. meeting in Birmingham 5th July 1975.

I received the general impression that we can expect more support from them in the future as they have had a change of co-ordinator. They want to stage some "anti-cqr" thing in Birmingham in September when the city is mounting a grand "Motoring Festival", can we help/cash-in on, in any way - it would seem an ideal opportunity to establish some mutual advantages? - Elizabeth Davenport.

THE SECOND ENVIRO FAIR: A PEOPLE'S FREE FESTIVAL

Sussex University, Falmer, Brighton, Sussex. Saturday 14th June 1975 from noon until Sunday 15th afternoon. Organised by the Sussex Whole Earth Group and U.o.S. Link Up.

The Fair was an outdoor event on the university campus, similar to last years success. This year it was larger, longer and with more activities...something like a combination of an environmental projects exhibition, village fete, children's carnival and free festival.

Groups from all over the country attended. Topics illustrated, alternative technology (solar heating, windmills, methane gas etc,) the whys and wherefore of organic farming, the truth and perils of factory farming, recycling...what it means in practice, council vandalism of cities, constructing a sane transportation system, nuclear power: the devil in disguise, what does industry put into the rivers and the air, the hazards of work: how to fight them, alternatives to the production line: workers control and small scale creative industries, tenants take over and thoughts on fields, factories and workshops tomorrow.

From the local area came craftspeople and horticulturists to exhibit their wares and there were displays of organically grown vegetables and herbs, home made wines and beers, jam.s, chutney and pickles, bread and cheeses.

Entertainers came far and wide/musicians, poets, street theatre, inflatables, dancers, clowns and lots of people to play with the children (at heart). During the afternoon there were the childrens carnival morris dancing, music recitals, poetry readings, singing, laughing and playing. In the evening gentle folk music, poetry, log fires and real ale in the woods.

of their exhibit/stall. Topics included access to land and the merits of the New Villages Association, Community Land Trust and the Digger Party, energy...after the nuclear power fantasy what?, setting up enviro centres in towns (like the Future Studies Centre in Leeds) and general discussion of what can be done to improve the urban environment.

- Horace Herring.

"BEGINNING NOW"

Report of an Open Meeting at Dartmouth House, London SE10 at 8 p.m. on 6th May 1975.

Over 100 people attended. The following organisations were represented: The Observer, Transport & Environmental Group, Friends of the Earth, Conservation Society, WGC Labour Party. Socialist Environmental & Resources Association, Future Studies Centre, People's Party, Amnesty, World Non-Governmental Organisation, Institute of Christian Studies, Co-op Women's Guild, South London Industrial Mission, Lay Urabn Ministry, Oxfam, Genesis Community, Intermediate Technology Development Group, Communist Party, Roundshaw United Church, Civic Trust, Progressive League and many people in their personal capacities.

Ronald Higgins of the Observer reported that he had received over 6,000 letters in response to his article "The Seventh Enemy" (Observer 23rd Feb. 1975). The following important points emerged from those letters: no one questioned the crisis, a synoptic view of the issues involved should be developed rather than limited departmental planning, (i.e. long term planning as opposed to short term, that the dynamics of the crisis are international as much as national. The crisis, he felt, is more than political and economic, it is also a spiritual, moral and attitudinal problem. We need however, to be hopeful as we have to battle with gloom, despair, as well as inertia and apathy in ourselves, coupled with the inability of our institutions to respond with speed and imagination to changed priorities.

In the open discussion which then developed, the following were some of the points that were raised:

- i) that there is a major problem for many people in translating sympathy into action. It was necessary to bridge the chasm of impotence, i.e. to create potency by arousing everyone's awareness that they participate in the 'polis'; and to change the horizon as well as people's expectations. To do this, they have to be enabled to realise that knowledge has to be acquired and techniques learned. Knowledge and techniques have then to be put into concrete action by dint of hard work.
- ii) that people and organisations differed in their understanding of the issues and their response to them. However, sterile clashes between groups are counter productive. Rather a 'learning for co-operation' on a wider level was necessary.
- iii) raising people's awareness is urgent. One way to do this is by the application of fear. But individual fear is not sufficient, we must be aware of the whole world as community, joyous imagination is much more active than fear and the need for total

action and of stretching our moral imaginations beyond the village and nation.

Editors Note: Description of Dartmouth House:

Since 1971, Dartmouth House, a spacious conference centre on the edge of Blackheath has provided a relaxed and informal meeting place for groups and individuals to mount their own programmes or find a place for withdrawal and reflection.

Dartmouth House invites you to join for a few days or a few hours to share your life and your insights and to find refreshment and ideas which you can share with others, providing a pattern of alternatives which will help to guide us all in the difficult times ahead.

YOUR REPORTS on any meetings or other functions are welcome for inclusion in this section.

REMEMBER everyone not only wants but needs to know whats going on throughout the country - Editor.



Conference Report

Minutes of the second national Conference of The Ecology Party (originally PEOPLE) held at the Lanchester Polytechnic, Coventry on 28th/29th June 1975.

1. After an introduction by Tony Whittaker (National Chairman), brief reports were presented by the National Executive Committee: Clive Lord (National Secretary); Lesley Whittaker (Treasurer); Mike Benfield (Communications); Peter Allen (Policy Revision); and Steve Fagg (Fund Raising).
2. The draft revised Manifesto was then formally proposed and 362 amendments submitted. The amended Manifesto was finally carried unanimously apart from one abstention.

There was however one matter left outstanding. On amendment 39, in which Clive Lord proposed the insertion of a fourth section to Part 1 under the heading "Some Features of a Sustainable Society", there was a clear vote in favour of such an insertion, but in view of two specific criticisms it was agreed to defer discussion to allow overnight drafting by Clive. However, on resumption Jonathan Tyler objected that it was not possible to debate the re-drafting paragraphs adequately. It was resolved that the text of Amendment 39 be referred to the NEC for consideration as a separate pamphlet, or alternatively to re-submit such a section to the next annual Conference. This effectively reversed the earlier Conference decision.

3. Party Name. An overnight informal poll on a list of some 25 names had revealed PEOPLE as the strongest single contender, with "The Ecology Party" and "British Ecological Party" as its nearest rivals. There was however an overwhelming vote in favour of a motion that the name be changed by this Conference. A motion by Steve Fagg that in view of the lack of prior notice Conference had no power to change the name, was not carried.

After considerable indeterminate discussion Tony Whittaker proposed "The People's Ecological Party". Successive amendments proposed the substitution of "PEOPLE, the Ecology Party", "Ecology for People"; "The People Ecological Party"; "The Ecological Party"; "The Ecology Party"; "PEOPLE, the Ecology Party"; and "The New Values Party"; Clive Lord formally proposed a suggestion made by Betty Garcia that instead of following the conventional rules related to amendments, there should be a series of ballots on all these proposals together, those receiving the lowest total being eliminated until only one name remained. Mike Benfield proposed that the final name should go forward to a ratification vote at which it must receive 75% of the votes of those persons then present. "The Ecology Party", which had held a clear lead throughout the voting, was duly ratified.

4. Ian Mawson (North Yorks) suggested that a precis of the new

Manifesto was needed, in view of its greater length and more academic tenor than the 1974 Manifesto. It was agreed that the NEC should pursue this, subject to cost.

5. Joyce Allen (Leeds) proposed that the Manifesto be sent to relevant groups and organisations in Europe. This was approved. Steve Fagg undertook to obtain the addresses of National Students' Unions throughout Europe.

6. A motion that there should be no smoking at any party meetings was carried overwhelmingly (but not enforced).

7. D. Butt (Cumbria) proposed that amendments to the Manifesto should in future be submitted by groups, not individuals, to prevent the proliferation which had occurred this year, Mike Benfield said that where groups do exist, they should have to submit group amendments, but it was pointed out that this was physically impossible for many, and isolated members did pay a higher subscription. Lesley Whittaker drew attention to the out going NEC decision that the NEC should settle Conference rules each year, and ask that the matter be left to their discretion, bearing in mind the points raised. John Trevelyan pointed out that over half of the amendments had been submitted by the NEC, who could have submitted an agreed draft. Tony Whittaker said the NEC had not wished to bulldoze their views in this way.

8. Mike Benfield proposed that the Ecology Party should promote active resistance to all un-ecological activities within the present society, for example planning applications. Eric Jones (Sheffield) said we should as individuals join e.g. FoE and help them, and then call on them to support us. Betty Garcia said there should always be an Ecology Party representative at any demonstration equipped with literature. The motion was passed nem. con.

CHAIRMAN: It was agreed that the rapid development of the party required as many members as possible to be experienced in the duties of chairmanship. Accordingly the office of Chairman shall rotate from meeting to meeting between all members of the N.E.C.

SECRETARY: Clive Lord, 44 Upper Batley Low Lane, Batley, Yorks. Tel: Batley 472767. In addition to the normal functions of general correspondence, keeping minutes and other records of the party, Clive will be responsible for establishing a network of area secretaries, recruiting extra assistance.

TREASURER: Peter Murray, 6 South Way, Liverpool, 051-722-4328. Not only will Peter receive all subscriptions and donations and keep all financial records, he will also be responsible for FUND RAISING and preparing forward budgets for the party.

MEMBERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT: Elizabeth Davenport, The Nook, Littleworth, Norton, Worcester Tel: Norton 820489. Elizabeth will be concerned with recruiting new members, encouraging the growth of existing branches and developing new branches. This also involves educating people to a full awareness of our existence and purpose. She will also help with arrangements for organising new groups and provide official party speakers for recruitment meetings.

PARTICIPATION Director: Eric Jones, 18 Buttermere Close, Anston, Sheffield. Eric's task will be to ensure that all members and groups are productively involved in our affairs. He will be responsible not only for national meetings and conferences but also for local meetings. Public Conferences, Speakers (including selection and training) and encouraging social activities. He will co-ordinate party activities and wherever possible avoid clashes of timing of other events.

16 West Park Road, Leeds 8.
Tel: 664669. Manifesto amendments updating and additions also place Peter in the ideal position to be responsible for occasional publications to explain in detail areas of policy and develop philosophical argument.

COMMUNICATIONS Director: K. Michael Benfield, New Buildings, Trinity Street, Coventry. Tel: 22048.

As well as producing the party's regular journal, Michael will continue with his activities of the last 12 months in attempting to strengthen links with all other eco-Organisations attending their functions whenever possible, producing general publications and acting as P.R.O. He has co-opted as

CORRESPONDENT: Reg Vidler, "Arden" Chalmington, Dorchester, Dorset. Reg will act as "listening post" to all radio, T.V. and other media, filtering out all those likely to be interested in our approach or of help to us and using the "letters" columns and "phone-in" programmes to promote our cause.

CAMPAIGN Director: No appointment made. It was felt that as and when elections come around, local groups should be responsible for organising their own campaigns, although it was agreed that overall co-ordination would be necessary from the N.E.C. This also leaves open the question of Strategy, Selection of Candidates Appointment of Agents and promotion of general resistance to anti-ecological forces as agreed at the conference; for N.E.C.'s collective decision.

MEMBERSHIP OBJECTIONS: Should any member object to either the split of functions or their allocation they are invited to write to any member of the N.E.C.

OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE: As will be seen, the N.E.C. has this year adopted a somewhat more structured approach to the development of the party. For it to be successful each one of your offices will require all the assistance he or she can get. If you feel that you could help in any way at all please write to them direct.

Letters to the Editor

REVISINGS HARD WORK

Dear Michael,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped in the revision of the PEOPLE party manifesto during the last twelve months. There were over forty individuals involved and their efforts resulted in a fairly comprehensive document being submitted to the 2nd Annual Conference. I hope that when they see the finalised, published document they will agree with me that the 360 amendments discussed at the conference led mainly to improvements. At the end of the conference there was no resolution calling for revision of the manifesto. However, the manifesto is a continually evolving document and I hope that the conveners of the working groups continue their research in the next twelve months. Certain sections, Public Administration and Government, Economy and Land Tenure in particular, need to be re-examined, while the full implications of the policy on Decentralisation have to be closely examined. Hopefully all these matters can be discussed in some depth at the next annual conference.

Yours faithfully, Peter Allen, 16 West Park Road, Leeds 8.

SUPPORT FROM "ECO-MOVEMENT"

Dear Mr. Benfield,

The Current number of People newsletter is very good... Unfortunately the xeroxing of p.12 was very bad, but I can dimly discern what it is about....I hope you put my name among the London contacts. Through the ideology of the G.P.O. my home number is not in the telephone book. It is 01-584-1848 and in the day I can be reached on 01-385-6834. I hope you will publish these numbers. Here is some money, and I shall have a token amount for the Stonehouse election, if and when there is one.

The current newsletter is a vast improvement apart from the Xeroxing... Yours Sincerely, S.S. Eustace, 11 First Street, London S.W.8.

CRITICISM FROM "OXFAM"

Dear Mr. Benfield,

The invitation to attend your conference this weekend is one that I am afraid neither I nor anyone else can take up at at such short notice (it was only received yesterday). I hope, however, that the Manifesto works out well.

You have kindly sent me another Newsletter. Like the last one I got,

several pages are simply not legible and most of it is so grey as to be distinctly putting-off. I wonder if you might not deserve criticism for wasting paper if the reproduction is not better.

Yours Sincerely, Philip Jackson,
Communications Director, OXFAM, 274
Banbury Road, Oxford.

APOLOGIES FROM PRINTER

... I would confirm that the quality achieved on certain pages is well below the standard we would like and apologise for any inconvenience that this has caused...

I would also confirm that the problem occurs when two quality typings are put next door to each other - on each occasion the blacker copy reproduces but the lighter copy causes problems. To achieve good reproduction may we recommend that the typing is done on a slightly heavier quality paper, with preferably a carbon copy taken or backing sheet used...

Yours Sincerely, J. Ernest Parbury,
Managing Director, J.E. Parbury Ltd.
147 Albany Road, Coventry.

THE WAY WE SAY IT?

Dear Sir,
Thank you for recently sending me the items of PEOPLE literature... I still cannot bring myself to accept the basic validity of the PEOPLE ~~lets~~ as expressed. Frankly, they not make fully acceptable practicable bases for balanced comprehensive action. Can any "society" ever be "stable". Man is a war-seeking, war-developing organism. ... Britain is a small entity in a vast instable world - with millions starving and illiterate, millions involved in fierce wars and political upheavals. Can we isolate ourselves from these external storms?

Yours sincerely, Ronald Long, 21
St. Nicholas Church Street, Warwick.

WAR ON "WAR ON WASTE"

Dear Michael,
It would be churlish of me to dismiss "War on Waste" as a waste of time, but when the problem is carved up into £5 sessions, so that all the assorted interests can have their platform, the simple and obvious solution is easily buried.

Yours Sincerely, Joan Pick, 23
Maybourne Grange, Turnpike Link,
Croydon CRO 5NH

BOMBS, BEES AND BIKES

Dear Mike,

I'd like to apologise to the militia supporters for kicking the ball into my own goal.

I would like to bring up this subject again next conference. But I don't see the need for any full time militia men. I would like to see every male over the age of 18 trained to use a) revolver, b) knife, c) unarmed combat and possibly d) grenades. The whole population could also be initiated in passive resistance although the drawback with using this alone is that an enemy can take and shoot hostages to disuade use of this method. With the potential of bullets from every window around 360°, no enemy would invade us to start with. The arms should be stored at every police station throughout the country and be freely available in the event of invasion. A refresher course could be held annually for a couple of weeks.

Re: New name "Ecology" to most people means bees, birds, butterflies and trees. Therefore I consider it essential to have a definition of ecology on the front of the manifesto and just

ary. How about:- Ecology: "The study of the initial interrelationship between each and every aspect of life"?

There's a lot of useless junk on the market. Could E.P. have a 'survival rating' scheme on every product, say 1 to 100 e.g. bicycle rated at 100; ornamental plastic dog rates at 1, and a tax levied accordingly? The criteria would be - how much did the product contribute towards the survival, happiness and sanity of people. Just an idea?

Sincerely, Dennis, Greenways.
(Nightingale-Smith)

Dear Michael,
I must say that I find your newsletter very useful with all its news and views, and I enclose one pound as a contribution to the postage expenses which must be very heavy.

I am going to the Conference of the Institute of Workers Control this coming weekend at Sheffield. I am very interested in the subject because I have long realised that it can only be in stationary conditions that workers control can be realised, and that in fact in stationary conditions workers control would inevitably come about.

At the moment, of course, the whole issue is tied up with Tony Benn's ideas about the need for economic growth, but I shall be interested to see if there are some conservationist minded members of the Institute at the Conference.

I am very sorry that family affairs necessitated my going to Exeter at the time of the People conference in Coventry. I am looking forward to the next edition of the Manifesto to see where you all got to in your discussion.

Sincerely, Margaret Laws-Smith,
White Oak Green, Hailey, Witney
Oxen.

able to send a brief report of this conference for inclusion in the next issue - Editor).

Dear Mr. Benfield,

...your letter of May 30th with which you sent me some interesting information about PEOPLE.

As far as your question about the group of six is concerned I have to inform you that the group is no longer existing at the moment. The Dutch Labour Party asked a couple of years ago 6 men (I was one of them and also the present Prime Minister) to study the political consequences of ecological difficulties in Holland. The group made a report that was adopted by the National Party Conference of the Dutch Labour Party. They are still working with it. It is a pity indeed that the report was not translated in English but only in French. If you should like to have the French copy I will of course send you one.

With my best wishes for you and the People Party.

Sincerely, Dr. S.L. Mansholt,
Oosteinde 18, Wapserveen (DR)

AN INVITATION TO COMMUNICATE:
ALLIANCE is circulated to most environmentally orientated bodies and the interested press. If you would like news of your society/activities to be included please send details.

EDITOR: K. Michael Benfield, New Buildings, Trinity St, Coventry. 22048

DEADLINE: For news, views and articles to be included in next newsletter is Saturday 30th August 1975.

Advertising: For other organisations and ecologically sound products is invited. Cost 2p per word or £1 per column inch (min 50p)

National Mailing: Available to all members /subscribers FREE OF CHARGE. Please send items to Editor.

PLEASE CIRCULATE TO ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR GROUP AND OTHERS INTERESTED