

Friends of the Earth
Soil Association
Noise Abatement
Abth. Factory Farming
Conservation Society
Vegetarian Society
C.P.R.E.
Family Planning Assoc.
OXFAM
Pre-retirement Assoc.
Community Action

Nat. Cncl of Churches.
Child Poverty Action
Ancient Monuments Soc.
World Community Assoc.
B.S.S.R.S.
World Federalists.
Christian Aid
C.N.D.
World Wild Life
Mental Health
Nat. Fed. Self Employed.
National Trust
Transport 2000
Henry Doubleday
Alternative Society
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National Society of
Leisure Gardeners.
Peace Pledge Union.
Soc. of Herbalists.
Schools Eco Action.
Common Cause.

Ratepayers Assoc.
Third World First.
Future Studies Centre
Canal Societies.
Community Land Trust.
Vegan Society.
E.C.O.
Planned Parenthood.
Heathrow Anti-noise.
Coast Anti-Pollution.
Protection of Birds.
New Villages Assoc.
The Ecology Party.

Organisations with
similar/related aims.

THE CATALYST FOR ALTERNATIVES
AND ALL WHO SEEK TO LIVE IN
HARMONY WITH NATURE.

DIGEST

Waste Recycling The Road from Utopia **Land Reform**

ARTICLES

Freedom -v- Survival **Cancer**

POLITICS

Fear of Power

REPORTS

Council of Europe/Agriculture



Incorporating the Ecology Party Newsletter.

New Buildings Trinity St. Coventry Tel. 22048/9

Journal

January

10-11th HABITAT. People and Their Settlements: Aspects of Housing, transport and Strategic Planning in the U.K. - two day conference to be held at the Architectural Association 34 Bedford Square WC1

March/

April

30-1st "Appropriate Technology for the U.K." University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

STOP PRESS.

Jan. 18th. West Midlands CLAP fair at the Arts Lab, Tower Street, Newtown, Birmingham. It will commence at approx 12 noon until 9p.m. approx. and will be a social get together for all those interested.

Jan. 11th. Ecology Party N.E.C. committee meeting at 44 Upper Batley Low Lane. Batley. Yorks. All members welcome.

Too bad "There are always some little clouds on the horizon and one is 'imitation' chicken from General Mills - a vegetarian protein production that is said to contain the equivalent of 3lbs. of chicken in 1 lb." - Editorial Poultry World, 18.9.75

Iron Ore for Coal Negotiations have continued with a view to the exchange of Brazilian ore for metallurgical coal from the Canadian province of Alberta. The operation is rendered feasible by the fact that, although Canada is itself an important producer and exporter of iron ore, its iron mines are near the Atlantic coast, which makes Canadian ore very expensive for the steel plants in western Canada, owing to the high cost of transporting it across the country. On the Brazilian side, lack of metallurgical coal has been an obstacle to the greater expansion of the steel industry.

And other Poisons. Ewes on an arable farm were affected by "convulsions, with legs paddling, staggering, mouth breathing and high temperatures. Three died within 24 hours of being examined! The previous day a contractor had applied methaldehyde to control slugs on an adjoining field, and claimed that the label on the bag stated that the contents were toxic to fish but harmless to other animals. (Veterinary Record 7.9.74)

DDT is being increasingly banned because of accumulating evidence of its side effects, especially on the central nervous system. A group of research workers at Winsconsin University suggests that it may affect maternal behaviour and thus, indirectly, the survival of the young. Abnormal parental behaviour associated with DDT has been observed in hawks and in rats, which tend to eat their young more often and nurse less and to be more active than rats not exposed to poison (New Scientist 22.5.75) DDT is known to retain its effectiveness for many years.

Hedgehog hand carding
and spinning
equipment



WHEATCROFT
ITCHINGFIELD
HORSHAM, SUSSEX
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T. J. Willcocks

The future of industrial training

"We trained hard - but it seemed that every time we were beginning to form up into teams, we would be reorganised. I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet any new situation by reorganising, and a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency and demoralisation.
Attributed to Gaius Petronius more than 1,900 years ago.

GREENPEACE EXPEDITION ENGAGES SOVIET WHALERS

Early this summer, two ships set sail from Vancouver, Canada, to sabotage this season's whale hunting in the North Pacific. The sabotage was organised by the Greenpeace Foundation, which in the past few years has sent ships into nuclear test areas to protest against the test's damage to the environment. Their first such venture was to Alaska, where the Americans were detonating a nuclear blast in Amchitka in the Aleutian chain. However, the scheme was bungled when the Canadian crew set foot in Alaska without first reporting to U.S. Customs & Immigration. Their ship was impounded and the planned nuclear sabotage aborted.

MURUROA

The second nuclear sabotage was in the South Pacific, where the French were testing a nuclear device in the atmosphere over Mururoa, near Tahiti.

RUSSIANS

After sixty days at sea, the Greenpeace expedition finally ran to earth a whaling fleet of nine Russian vessels off the coast of Oregon. The Russians appeared to have been killing whales at random, for one dead whale which the Greenpeace crew measured was only 23 feet long - well below the International Whaling Commission's limits.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Cont. from September issue.

17. Do a craft to find meaning and possibly generate income.
18. As much as possible, do what you like to do. A simple concept, but most people spend their lives doing what they have to do to generate income. Get your skills together and generate income in ways consistent with your being.
19. Don't overbuy insurance if you use it - buy through a mutual co. where dividends build on premiums.
20. Find alternative sources for staples: many farmers sell eggs, butter, milk very cheaply if you provide your own containers.
21. Seek out others who can help you to simplify your lifestyle with whom you can pool ideas.
22. Knowing who you are and where you are is essential to develop an alternative lifestyle. So, spiritual energy is required as well as the external changes you make in behaviour, style, etc.
23. Think of yourself as part of the cycle of nature and respond to it, rather than stand apart from it. Where there is a choice of means seek the approach most in harmony with the natural order, interfering with nature reluctantly and to the minimum consistent with the end.
24. Pressurise your grocer, Sainsburys, Marks & Spencer etc., for "Free Range" eggs and other natural products.

projects places **PEOPLE**

Miss Ariane Loening had an article in Communitas June/July on reducing meat consumption and reported that a questionnaire answered by people at Oxford University showed that the majority were in favour of reducing the amount

In issue 4 we published an article by Peter Lonsdale, but unfortunately omitted to mention that this article first appeared in "New Humanity" Journal issue No. 2.

of meat served in halls and colleges so long as adequate protein was ensured by (well cooked) vegetables.



Clive R. Lord. National Secretary, 44 Upper Batley Low Lane, Batley, Yorks. Age: 41 Former Parliamentary candidate for Leeds N.E. against Sir Keith Joseph. Married with 2 children (boys). Probation officer with West Yorkshire.

C. R. Lord

C. R. LORD.



Elizabeth Devenport. Director for Membership 1975/6, 2 The Old Vicarage 26 Main Road, Kempsey, Worcs. Age:31 Former parliamentary candidate for Birmingham Northfield. Married to John, an area sales manager with Heinz foods, she lives in an old vicarage with large gardens where she is able to pursue self-sufficiency in miniature.

Elizabeth Devenport

REPORTS

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONGRESS ON
EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE
Amsterdam 21-25 October 1975.

The following are SUMMARIES of the reports presented.

Theme 1: "Conservation of the architectural heritage in the context of urban and regional planning".

Mr. Bacquet in his report clear the distinction between urban and regional planning.

It must be sought to establish or re-establish the general legitimacy of architectural conservation which, despite its growing popularity, is a relatively recent and still rather fragile concept.

Theme 2: "Responsibilities of Local Authorities and Citizens."

Mr. Reint LAAN Jr. Netherlands.

The work of the first European symposium on historic towns split Yugoslavia in 1971 projected, in the philosophy of town planning, a new concept for the environment which must respond to man's profound hopes for beauty, diversity and health. Factors which have been so often neglected in industrial societies. Governments and local authorities must have the will to translate this concept into fact.

Theme 3: "Social problems of integrated conservation".

Mr. Jacques HOULET (France).

In most European countries, historic town centres have frequently become the areas with the largest supply of cheap housing, because of their lack of facilities and their age. The more dilapidated they are, the lower the rent and the greater the need for restoration. Anyone embarking on work to rehabilitate such centres immediately comes up against one of the most difficult problems of contemporary society.

What economic machinery is set in motion by work in historic centres? In order to repair them, restore their original beauty and make them fit to live in, money must be spent. In a free economy, all expenditure must be offset by a profit. In the property business, the profit is achieved by increasing a builder's value and

that public money is very often spent on saving the architectural heritage in this way. It is a case of culture versus the poor.

The simplest generous reaction is to declare that whenever an old area is rehabilitated, all its former occupants must always be rehoused on the spot. Is this always possible? Is it even desirable? When an area is sick it is wrong to preserve some of its disease, such as social segregation or over-crowding. Palaces or mansions teeming with squatters cannot be restored unless the squatters leave. The same is true if they have been turned into warehouses, barracks or prisons.

What we need is a standard subtle enough and flexible enough to tell us when people can legitimately be evicted and when they cannot. After all, while it may be necessary to clear some magnificent palaces, there is no need to evict tenants from houses that have been made habitable just because they are not well-off.

It is therefore proposed that two tables be drawn up for old buildings and centres; they will be easily understandable and will reveal the best solutions in terms of both of the town's cultural value and its inhabitant's comfort.

The first table would take the form of an archaeological typology, which would classify every building according to an ascending scale. At the top of this would be the priceless architectural monuments, such as Pantheon, St. Sophia in Constantinople, the Coliseum, etc. that must be preserved at any cost, even if they are not used. At the bottom would be the unobtrusively pleasing facade in a pretty street; what is done behind the facade does not matter. The gap between them spans the whole of our architectural heritage. The large social sacrifices justified at the top of the scale decrease as the scale descends.

Not least of the difficult questions outstanding is how public authorities can prevent certain people being forced out of restored historic centres. The law of the market condemns the very poor to move out when the operation meets with the public's approval; otherwise, the operation itself grinds to a halt. However, the law of the market is always distorted when low-cost housing is involved. Nowadays it is customary for public authorities and public money to intervene. In the cases under study, the funds spent in Europe have been used for two completely different purposes, aid for restoration and aid to the tenants.

As well as its social consequences, integrated conservation also has the advantage of giving a second life to declining areas through tourism and of offering more people access to the culture embodied in architecture. By no means the least of the social advantages occurring from integrated conservation might be to contribute to the demystification of culture.

Theme 4: "Legislation and Administration" Mr. Constant PIRLOT (Belgium).

Integrated conservation means the integration of the architectural heritage into the life of the community: the buildings can be saved only if they are adapted and rehabilitated to form a useful function for the community. Conservationists therefore have new social and economic objectives to add to their existing archaeological, artistic, technical objectives and they must work closely in conjunction with economists and town planners, as well as with architects, archaeologists and technicians. Conservation schemes should accordingly be very much part of urban and regional planning.

In the second part - the adaptation of national legislation - he urged European governments to amend their legislation on the architectural

new doctrine and particularly in regional planning, urban planning and housing legislation to ensure that policies, through better co-ordination and reform, do not favour demolition and new construction at the expense of rehabilitation.

Co-operation particularly between the Minister responsible for the Cultural Heritage and the Minister responsible for Regional Planning.

Increased financial resources are essential if revitalisation and rehabilitation of architectural complexes is to succeed. The lowering of property taxes, the deduction from taxable income on money spent on maintenance, and cuts in estate duties.

Theme 6: "Financial means for conservation and restoration operations"

Mr. Viggo NIELSEN (Denmark)

Highlights the effect of some existing fiscal legislation on land and property, the need for local authority, planning to control traffic systems, impose low coefficients on land utilisation, revise rating and valuing systems for buildings in historic areas and compile inventories of buildings.

The financial arguments for rehabilitation are reinforced by the importance of saving the resources of society and of recycling existing resources which, Mr. Nielsen points out, include buildings.

Public authority subsidies should be made to owners of historic buildings; these should be sizeable enough to arrest dilapidation of buildings and encourage owners to maintain their houses.

Mr. Nielsen then examines the attitude of commerce and industry to preservation and argues for a greater respect by this sector for buildings of historic value, and for a greater realisation that in many conservation schemes the commercial sector often gains e.g. increased profits as a result of pedestrian precincts. Finally, the role of private trusts and syndicates, such as Revolving Fund schemes, are examined and local authorities are exhorted to make more use of them.

MEANS FOR CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OPERATIONS"

Mr. Peter BREITLING (Germany).

The practical aspects of rehabilitation can be divided into three types of problems, namely:

- technical problems resulting from structure, material or condition, such as the renovation of roofs, timber structures, foundations, masonry and facades and protection against rising damp. Processes which make it possible to secure damaged building components "in situ" without replacing them are of particular significance for practical rehabilitation;
- problems connected with the layout of the town, the situation and the layout of the building. Here questions of the provision of daylight, sun and open spaces and the alteration of group plans are dealt with and examples produced to show that many problems can be solved not by rebuilding but by controlling the use of a building and changing the structure of the town;
- technical problems resulting from increased demands. This covers the installation of modern sanitary fittings, pipes and wiring, other problems connected with the modernisation of old buildings and, above all, the problem of accommodating car parks and garages.

In fact, important single monuments are usually very successfully rehabilitated whereas historically insignificant old buildings that are no less important for environmental quality are spoilt or disfigured by renovation.

We encounter social and economic questions, the extremely strong influence of systems of taxation and incentives, of building and fire regulations and other laws and regulations with an anti-conservation effect, and realise what a negative influence the lack of interest in the building trade, the insufficient skill of many workers and the vanity and incompetence of many architects have on the atmosphere of an old town.

The most urgent need revealed by the practical problems of rehabilitating unimportant buildings, street and areas is the need to improve the basic

and able to do practical rehabilitation work and set some excellent examples.

Conference Notes

Report on The Ecology Party Sheffield Regional Meeting November 1st 1975.

Unemployment

Peter Allen opened with a statement about problems of unemployment at present and in the foreseeable future. At present, now that more people than ever are employed in service industries, large numbers of white-collar workers are experiencing unemployment, as well as manual workers. However, the present problems could become less serious in the immediate future since the lack of capital investment in industry over the last 30 years could mean that labour intensive methods might temporarily regain prominence. Nevertheless, these tendencies will probably be cancelled out by resource scarcities, and the complex values of the EEC and other bodies will cause capital costs to rise again.

It was clear that we need to be able to predict accurately the relationship between labour and capital in a situation of slow or zero growth - for example, how many workers will be needed to run small scale, local, labour intensive bakeries, compared with the numbers now involved in the organisation of large scale automated bakeries? Peter Allen was keen to study this sort of problem in detail, suggesting that we needed the aid of a computer - he appealed for help from any ecologists with access to one.

In the discussion we kept coming back to the need for small scale, community based industry, so that the social aspects of technology were not engulfed by economic considerations, as they tended to be at present. This would also make the redeployment of highly specialised technical skills less painful too. The point was also made that full encouragement must be given to people who stayed at home, to produce food,

ever influencing ordinary people in ecology - he quoted Val Steven's recent "Alliance" article. Several people thought he was being too pessimistic, citing the gradual change in peoples attitude towards us over the past few years. Whereas previously we were written off as cranks, now at least middle class people are aware of ecological problems.

Various ideas were put forward to publicise the E.P. and the principles we stand for:

1. Practical and positive schemes - Joyce Allen cited the Leeds Reclamation Centre run jointly by E.P., FOE and a housewives organisation. Peter Murray suggested specific campaigns against certain blatantly unecological practices in Britain. Both these would be useful for their own sakes, and would bring publicity for the E.P.
2. We should always strike to use exemplary ecological methods in all our activities. Mary Marston (Mansfield) pointed out the irony of working within the conventional framework of advertising and money. Many agreed with this, but Eric Jones said that our decentralisation policies should help and make us different from other parties.
3. Work with the Conservation Society Friends of the Earth and other organisations - Peter Allen was anxious to point out that the E.P. is the political wing of the whole ecological movement, and that we must function together.
4. The continuing need for open letters to local councillors and M.P.'s, and for monitoring the media was stressed by Elizabeth Davenport. Les Harris (Sheffield) thought friendly, personal relationships with media people should be fostered - this had certainly helped several Con. Soc. campaigns.

The Sheffield meeting produced publicity for us on Radio Sheffield, with an item on their breakfast time programme, followed by the comment - No jam today, no jam tomorrow! We

Book Review

Publishers invited to submit books, booklets, e.t.c. for review and to advertise them in these columns

Transport 2000 has published a number of valuable reports and statements. The Nottingham Transport Policy costs 15p and gives a very comprehensive, detailed account of the Nottingham Transport scheme, with particular emphasis on the bus service. The report is offered so that other local authorities may be encouraged to emulate Nottingham, and also that concerned opinion such as pressure groups may have solid information with which to try and influence their own, possibly unenthusiastic, councils. Nottingham is really the only example in Britain of the determined implementation of a pro-public transport scheme which has followed the abandonment of urban motorway proposals of the sort proposed for many British cities in the 1960's.

Why we need the Railways more than ever before. This report also costs 15p. It provides overwhelming detail about all aspects of inland transport from 1950, the vast increase in road traffic, the blindness to the importance of the Railway, the piece-meal reductions in mileage, and pathetic attempts at pruning to try and take short cuts in the vain attempt to make a profit. There are obvious environmental resources and safety reasons why railways have important advantages. The vital role that railways have to play in the future is discussed in detail. Britain's transport policies are already firmly linked to those of the EEC. A new EEC document proposes that railways should be rationalised so that they "Pay their way", and that grant aid to their network be discontinued. These proposals threaten the future of British Rail, and are based on a narrow economic interpretation (a la Beeching) of providing a transport system at "the least cost to the community".

Transport 2000 is working to persuade the authorities that much greater emphasis must be placed on recognising the full environmental and resource costs of transport.

A Transport Policy for Today. 10p. This is a general report on the subject, dealing with roads, freight, waterways, railways, buses, cycling, and pedestrians. It decries the fact that Britain has no national transport plan. The result of the piecemeal approach is that we now have an unbalanced transport system with congested roads and under-utilised public transport facilities. The general principle in EEC policy (with which we are now linked) is that Governments should provide financial support for the infrastructure of all transport modes so that they may then freely compete with each other. This clearly ignores the differing social and environmental cost and benefits of each form of transport. Transport 2000 stress that we must fight for a national transport plan, effectively linked to land-use planning and housing policy, and recognising the environmental, resource, health, and ecological aspects of each method of transport, not just the economic cost.

"Energy and Food Production": Gerald Leach (International Institute for Environment and Development, 27 Mortimer St., London W1A 4JW £1.00)

A most valuable research document, packed with facts, figures, diagrams and tables, showing the energy input required to produce food by industrial methods in comparison with subsistence and peasant farming. To feed each person in the U.K. and U.S.A. requires nearly .8 tonnes of oil equivalent or three times the amount of fuel-use per head of the population of the developing world for all purposes. An obscure English farmer, W. Dickinson, in the 1840's, by returning all animal and human wastes on his farm to the land, grew 100-125 tonnes of ryegrass per hectare (one of the highest grass yields ever recorded in temperate climates) cutting it as often as 7-10 times for forage conservation. Only 8.3% of farmland in the U.K. provides food directly to man and nearly all the remaining 92% is devoted to feeding

a food, land and energy disaster in global terms; and if any kind of siege economy is on the way they could and probably will be one of the first luxuries to be trimmed" is that of many experts and of our own Plan for Agriculture. Mr. Leach also expects that the use of manures on the land will increase" not least because of a gradual swing back to traditional farming".

DIGEST

Harwell's hazardous materials service (2) and Chemsafe by Margaret Hamilton.

Waste Recycling

The Harwell hazardous materials service team (HMS) are still the country's most highly specialised consultants on tip research, but their work on the disposal of hazardous waste has now gone further, and encompasses the study of eliminating waste at source by extraction or by redesigning a process, or of reclaiming it for re-use.

In view of the cost, and in some cases scarcity, of industry's raw materials this is an extremely important field of research which is likely to gather momentum with the growing necessity to husband resources, and also to comply with the new Control of Pollution Act.

Warren Spring laboratory, with whom the Harwell team co-operate closely, is in the forefront of research into reclamation and recycling, which is becoming an expanding industry in its own right, with an annual turnover of £1,800 m. Lubricating and cutting oils can be cleaned and re-used; such valuable substances as mercury, silver and nickel recovered from the process and recycled, and old tyres (previously burned) granulated and made into sheeting. Commercially viable processes have been developed for recovering and re-using paper, glass and a variety of metals.

process to eliminate or reduce waste generation. This often results in considerable financial savings to the company either by recovery of a saleable by-product, or one which they themselves can re-use, or by eliminating waste which formerly cost money to treat to avoid pollution. As an example of the long-term cost benefit, the US Dow Chemical Company is saving \$5 m a year by minimising its waste generation, and the total capital expenditure involved was only \$15 m. HMS are currently involved in a big project overseas as consultants for the design of general pollution control in a large chemical complex.

INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

APPEAL FOR FUNDS AND INFORMATION.

Anyone with relevant information or who can assist the commission please contact Peter Burgard Lawellan, Withiel, Bodmin, Cornwall.

FUNDS please to Treasurer, c/o New Buildings, Trinity Street, Coventry.

Since the onset of farm mechanisation 99.9% of our farm horses have been slaughtered and their employment being considered uneconomic the slaughter still continues.

THE HEAVY HORSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

begs for donations for a rescue fund to buy and care for a few of the survivors... Gifts of jewellery, old coins used stamps, clothing or anything else for sale in the Societies shop are also most welcome.

So far the Society has bought seventeen horses.

This is the final hour of need for animals that have served us all so faithfully and so well. Help is now urgently needed and deeply appreciated. Send to : HEPS Treasurer.

Old Rectory,
Whitchurch, Salop. SY13 1LF

Millions in the third World starve while their land and labour grows feed for our animals and non-essentials for us.

Britain could be self sufficient on a truly economical, humane, healthy vegan diet. Send for "First Hand : First Rate" with 6 dozen ideas and recipes plus notes on self-sufficiency gardening. 40p post free or send stamp for free leaflets. Vegan Society, Dept F47 Highlands Road, Leatherhead, Surrey.

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be a sudden or phased withdrawal. British Leyland, faced with the need to reduce labour by 50% overall, are unlikely purchasers. In any event they must welcome the prospect of reduced competition.

Far from being cast out, Chrysler should be held up as an example of what should be done. But then that would require a complete change in the values of our society - or a man with the wealth of an oil sheik and a heart just as big to fight with.

the answer to all our problems and which allow public officials to claim rights superior to those of the men and women who have elected them.

In a letter to Edward Carrington, Thomas Jefferson wrote that, "The natural progress of things is for liberty to yield and government to gain ground". He noted that "one of the most profound preferences in human nature is for satisfying one's needs and desires with the least possible exertion; for appropriating wealth produced by the labour of others, rather than producing it by one's own labour...the stronger and more centralised the government, the safer would be the guarantee for such monopolies; in other words, the stronger the government, the weaker the producer, the less consideration need be given him and the more might be taken away from him."

Politics



The Founding Fathers' Fear of Power

ALLAN C. BROWNFIELD

Americans are subjected to a maze of rules and regulations by what is becoming an increasingly powerful governmental apparatus.

Government now feels that it has the right and the power to tell us to buckle our automobile seat belts, what drugs we may take, what race and sex a job applicant must be to be hired, what distant school our children will be bused to attend, what kind of gasoline we must use in our cars.... and this is only the beginning. On the horizon are plans for governmentally controlled medical care, national zoning in the form of land use legislation, national data banks which will know everything about us and our personal lives, and a host of other interferences in what we once believed was meant to be a free society....

The Founding Fathers were deeply suspicious of centralised governmental power. It was this fear of total government which caused them to rebel against the arbitrary rule of King George III. In the Constitution they tried their best to construct a form of government which, through a series of checks and balances and a clear division of powers, would protect the individual. They believed that government was a necessary evil, not a positive good. They would shudder at popular assumptions which regard government as

At the beginning of his Administration Jefferson wrote a friend that, "The path we have to pursue is so quiet that we have nothing scarcely to propose to our Legislature. A noiseless course not meddling with the affairs of others, unattractive of notice, is a mark that society is going on in happiness."

Today, of course, there is almost no aspect of our lives that some agency of government does not consider within the province of its authority and control.

That government should be clearly limited and that power was a corrupting force was the essential perception held by the men who made the nation.

The political philosopher who had the most important impact upon the thinking of the Founding Fathers was John Locke. Locke repeatedly emphasised his suspicion of government power and believed that if the authorities violate their trust, the regime is to be dissolved.

It was Locke's view, in addition, that the legislative branch of government - that branch closest to the people and most subject to their control - should be the most powerful governmental branch. In his Second Treatise, Locke notes: "Yet the legislative being only a fiduciary power to act

The Utopians, however, fall back on a further delusion: that society can avoid malting the masses by taking income and capital from the few. Hence such sterile and expensive activities as the Diamond Commission. Personal wealth is the price paid by society in exchange for services rendered. If perfect equality were achieved, the result would be the same as if all prices for all goods and services were identical. Many products and many people would disappear from the market and the economy.

Some of the losses, no doubt, would be tolerable. Socialist politicians used to gibe at the 'candy floss' economy. But there is a sound defence for candy-floss: people like it. There is even sounder justification for entrepreneurial riches: people liked the entrepreneur's innovation or variation enough to push large sums of money voluntarily into the enterprise.

What innovation has state socialism, established in Russia for five decades and in China and Eastern Europe since the Second War, produced to compare with those of the West? Outside the defence industries, effectively as socialised in America as in Russia, the socialist economies have spent Western products - without even showing the savings grace of post-war capitalist Japan, which is greatly to improve what is imitated. Yet the Utopians continue to believe that you can have enterprise without entrepreneurs, saving without riches, higher output per man without fewer men, differential efforts without differentials - even accountability without proper accounts (as in some nationalised industries alas).

Why have the Ministers, civil servants and managers responsible for the existing nationalised industries allowed a series of dreadful results to be reported over the last two decades, with no real improvement? The Utopian thinker only ignores the realities of the future, but those of a present in which the low productivity

The first sign of retreat from Utopia by the Wilson Government came from its commitment to eliminate the nationalised deficits which were among the most bizarre and inflationary legacies of the Heath anti-inflation policy. This commitment has turned out to be lip-service: not surprisingly, given that cost control in the public industries is often so loose. No sensible private manager would allow a deficit-ridden subsidiary to recoup its position by price increases alone. The Government should have insisted on tangible and great evidence of economies, of real improvement in managing, as the price of its support. As it is, the nationalised industries have blank cheques. Its best managers would much prefer to have the harsher discipline of full exposure to the market.

Market forces will not suddenly turn coal or the railways or the posts into paragons of performance. That was the Utopian dream, for instance, of the Beeching era. Politicians are by instinct Utopians, because they always assume (like the left-wing economic planners) that once a problem has been seized it has been solved. The illusion is reinforced by the hero factor: not only will the problem be seized and solved but the wonder man of the moment will provide the necessary grasp. Thus the politicians are absolved from continuing responsibilities: and thus national tragedies like the exorbitantly costly assumption that the railways could be made to pay.

The Ryder Report on Stokes aftermath was a classic illustration of both failing: over-reliance on The Man and under-estimation of the realities. The Commons sub-committee which salvaged both Ryder and the Government in fact performed precisely the function that should have been carried out in the first instance. Starting from no prior position, the MPs listened to those who had opinions and facts to offer, evaluated what they had to say and made their judgment

The real question was what should be preserved, and how.

The same process of starting from the conclusions has bedevilled much of the decision-making of British Governments since the war. An aerospace capacity must be preserved? Very well: then Concorde must be built. We need a Third Airport? Excellent: then where shall we put it? Begged questions produce botched answers; the system, alas, begs questions all the time. For example, nobody among the politicians who buy after more egalitarianism has bothered to enquire into its consequences or its benefits.

Each ill-considered proposal, moreover, involves new legislation: and each new law involves new expense. Parliament gets deluged with expensive bills which it cannot debate adequately and which often achieve inadequate benefit to counterbalance their cost. But still the measures tumble onward: entirely because Ministers and civil servants alike believe that, if a problem exists, it must be legislated away. In this Utopian, fairy-tale world, the truth that problems are inherent in human affairs, and that most solutions create new ones gets ignored. Thus the rights of women to equal earnings must be protected, even if the consequence is that fewer women will have earnings made equal: politics in the ideal sense has taken over from politics in the real sense.

The consequence is that politicians all too often achieve the reverse of their intentions - which is how the result of the Benn efforts to save the motor-cycle industry has been virtually to destroy it. What is true in the micro-economic sphere is equally valid on the larger stage. The Wilson Government was elected in February 1974 on the pledge to get Britain back to work. A year and a half later, unemployment is at higher levels than ever the dreaded Heath policies achieved, living standards are falling more sharply than ever before, industrial investment and confidence are waning into invisibility, and Utopia has given way to harsh reality.

In the short term, that disillusion is all to the good. But the real retreat from Utopia has to be conducted on a far longer term-scale if short-term horrors are to be avoided again. Politicians who believe that their genius is the only element which has been missing in the national prescription are as great a menace as managers who believe in their universal competence. The shattering of Harold Wilson's dreams since 1964 has cost the nation far more than it cost him. For both the man and his country, however, the outcome would have been far better had the dreams of glory never been dreamt. Yet the Utopian process is all to recur: and the lesson of 1973-75 is surely that this country cannot continue to run its affairs as in the past. There must be a change, not necessarily in men, but certainly in both means and end.

(Well readers are we all being too Utopian? - Editor).

LAND REFORM - Colin Hodgetts.

India's greatest need is for land reform for between 75 and 80 per cent of her population are rural. Yet one per cent of land owners have 11.6 per cent of the agricultural land, 5 per cent of them have 20 per cent of the land and 75 per cent have only 31 per cent of the land. Between 1961 and 1971 the number of farming families decreased by 43 per cent and the percentage of landless labours increased from 16 to 26 per cent.

Attempts by the Government to control the situation have not only prevented genuine reform but have benefitted vested interests. Stories of illegal forceful evictions and the grabbing of land reserved for the landless of powerful politicians, officers and their landlord relatives are common. The ceiling acts have loopholes which benefit the rich. Although the

ceiling is 50 acres, which is still ridiculously high, families can be found owning several hundred acres. 'Charitable' or 'religious' institutions are set up with members of the same family as trustees. Thus they gain additional tax and other advantages.

In Bihar land is the main resource of income. 58 per cent of its income is derived from agriculture as against a national average of 45 per cent. In 1971 agriculture employed 80 per cent of the work force compared with 71 per cent in 1961.

The net cultivated area is about half the total area of the state. The proportion of the net area sown to the total cultivated area has actually declined from 77.9 to 73.1 per cent. There has also been a consistent increase in the area of current fallow and cultivable waste lands. It is little wonder that the State is 9000,000 tons short of minimum grain requirements.

ARTICLES

Freedom - v - Survival

The more I think about it, the more I question the compatibility of democracy and ecological survival. It is almost inevitable that, in a system whereby the mass of people choose a representative from a variety of candidates they will choose the man or party which offers them the most in personal advantage.

Imagine a massive space-ship (again!) out of control. Controversy grows as to the captaincy. A vote is arranged. One contender asserts that once given power he will have the ship back on course in a few days, that he will personally ensure that the standard and quality of food is immediately improved; that hours of work will be cut, and that all kinds of entertainments will be laid on to alleviate anxiety. Another says that the only way to avert disaster is to prepare for many weeks of privation. Crew members will have to work far harder to repair the controls; meanwhile rations will be cut by a half and

many systems will be run only sporadically to conserve resources since it may be a long time before a safe landing can be made. How many would vote for number two?

I'm sure our politicians have a hazy notion that our spaceship is running out of control. But they daren't propose swingeing changes because it would make them unpopular; get them voted out. And least of all dare they suggest that enshrined democracy itself ties their hands. Perhaps government by the people for the people just results in the global tragedy of the commons, with everyone demanding his right to the best, now. Perhaps only an elite which could have a clear overview of what all this collective striving was leading to, could govern justly for the people, in the broadest sense. Isn't that what China has got? - A compassionate, restrictive, paternal autocracy?

Within a strict centralised framework of rules and enforcement, local participation and decision making should be possible, so there is no necessary conflict with the Ecology Party's theme of decentralisation. But someone is going to have to make it happen that way. We'll never get it if we wait for the popular vote.
- Val Stevens.

CANCER

This planet has skin ^{cells}. Malignant cells are proliferating over most areas of its skin. This malignant growth has the unusual name of 'Polluters Extraordinary - Oblivious that Planet's Life Endangered' (P.E.O.P.L.E. for short).

As in the human body, cells of many kinds reproduce continually, some faster than others. But this reproduction is governed by a 'braking system' which only allows maintenance or gradual growth of the parts of the organism. When this braking system fails - through faulty or insufficient nutrition - in the case of humans, growth will proliferate. 1 cell becomes 2, 2:4 4:8, 8:16 (do this a few hundred times and see what you get!). These runaway cells increase at a tremendous rate until they cause pain, throttle the functions of the body and eventually kill it. Planet Earth is already

But, as with human cancers which can be cured by certain nutrients, e.g. raw beet or beet juices, grapes, or specific raw diet, as this planetary cancer can and must be cured by correct nutrition - spiritual nutrition. We have had plenty of time to forget what the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Winchester proclaimed. But they hit the nail fairly and squarely on the head when they let us into the close guarded secret that we're all too damned greedy. If we strive for not what we want, but for what we need, this will relieve the strain on the world's resources, enable deprived peoples the world over to build for themselves a mere satisfactory life-style, and ultimately increase our own satisfaction with what is now a pretty hectic existence. A little more emphasis on culture - the spiritual side of our existence - rather than material gain means more fulfilment in life for all.

Evidence seems to show that exposure to carcinogens cause the destruction of varying nutrients in the body, presumably because these are required in massive doses to repair the damage caused and to remove damaged tissue. In the absence of these nutrients in sufficient quantity, especially vitamins A, B complex C, E, protein and certain minerals, these functions cannot be carried out satisfactorily and the cancer will proliferate.

Lets inject the vitamins (love, consideration, respect, tolerance) into our everyday life.

Dennis Nightingale-Smith

The other tragedy of "Chrysler UK" EDITORIAL

Chrysler should be regarded as the best motor manufacturer in Britain. Despite manifold attempts to lay the blame for their present demise, they should in fact be congratulated.

There are several good reasons why, but the following three will do. Firstly and contrary to current popular criticism, because they have not produced new models. Secondly, because it is alleged their products cost too much. Thirdly, because in an international industry of giants they have managed to remain relatively small.

"But" you may say, "these are precisely the reasons why they have failed".

This is exactly the point. That is "the other tragedy of Chrysler UK". For here is a company which, by accident or otherwise, was/is ecologically the most desirable in its class. Products were designed and built to last, but in consequence cost too much. Making durable, hard wearing, long life motor cars inherently decried design change and new models. These symbiotic policies; inhibited growth and maintained (relatively) small, more human plants.

Yet they are the ones to fall. Our crass, mass, trash products age encourage only those who promote rapid obsolescence. To be a wastemaker is now an honourable pursuit.

The machinery of our collectivised society is geared to the fastest possible depletion of non-renewable resources. Governments, unions and business institutions are careful to protect those concerns capable of growth - by whatever means.

How many of the workers in British Leyland would accept that they are likely to become "Scrap makers to H.M. Government?"

Now its all over bar the shouting - or so it appears. Are Chrysler going to pull out of the U.K.? The only argument seems to be whether this will

be a sudden or phased withdrawal. British Leyland, faced with the need to reduce labour by 50% overall, are unlikely purchasers. In any event they must welcome the prospect of reduced competition.

Far from being cast out, Chrysler should be held up as an example of what should be done. But then that would require a complete change in the values of our society - or a man with the wealth of an oil sheik and a heart just as big to fight with.



Politics

The Founding Fathers' Fear of Power

ALLAN C. BROWNFIELD

Americans are subjected to a maze of rules and regulations by what is becoming an increasingly powerful governmental apparatus.

Government now feels that it has the right and the power to tell us to buckle our automobile seat belts, what drugs we may take, what race and sex a job applicant must be to be hired, what distant school our children will be bused to attend, what kind of gasoline we must use in our cars.... and this is only the beginning. On the horizon are plans for governmentally controlled medical care, national zoning in the form of land use legislation, national data banks which will know everything about us and our personal lives, and a host of other interferences in what we once believed was meant to be a free society....

The Founding Fathers were deeply suspicious of centralised governmental power. It was this fear of total government which caused them to rebel against the arbitrary rule of King George III. In the Constitution they tried their best to construct a form of government which, through a series of checks and balances and a clear division of powers, would protect the individual. They believed that government was a necessary evil, not a positive good. They would shudder at popular assumptions which regard government as

the answer to all our problems and which allow public officials to claim rights superior to those of the men and women who have elected them.

In a letter to Edward Carrington, Thomas Jefferson wrote that, "The natural progress of things is for liberty to yield and government to gain ground". He noted that "one of the most profound preferences in human nature is for satisfying one's needs and desires with the least possible exertion; for appropriating wealth produced by the labour of others, rather than producing it by one's own labour....the stronger and more centralised the government, the safer would be the guarantee for such monopolies; in other words, the stronger the government, the weaker the producer, the less consideration need be given him and the more might be taken away from him."

At the beginning of his Administration Jefferson wrote a friend that, "The path we have to pursue is so quiet that we have nothing scarcely to propose to our Legislature. A noiseless course not meddling with the affairs of others, unattractive of notice, is a mark that society is going on in happiness."

Today, of course, there is almost no aspect of our lives that some agency of government does not consider within the province of its authority and control.

That government should be clearly limited and that power was a corrupting force was the essential perception held by the men who made the nation.

The political philosopher who had the most important impact upon the thinking of the Founding Fathers was John Locke. Locke repeatedly emphasised his suspicion of government power and believed that if the authorities violate their trust, the regime is to be dissolved.

It was Locke's view, in addition, that the legislative branch of government - that branch closest to the people and most subject to their control - should be the most powerful governmental branch. In his Second Treatise, Locke notes: "Yet the legislative being only a fiduciary power to act

And thus the community perpetually retains a supreme power of saving themselves from the attempts and designs of any body, even of their legislators, whenever they shall be so foolish or so wicked as to lay and carry on designs against the liberties and properties of the subject...."

When the Articles of Confederation were being considered, fears of excessive concentration of authority were often expressed. The town of West Springfield Massachusetts, to cite one example, reminded its representatives of the "weakness of human nature and growing thirst for power.... It is freedom, Gentlemen, it is freedom, and not a choice of the forms of servitude for which we contend, and we rely on your fidelity, that you will not consent to the present plan of Union, till after the most calm and dispassionate examination you are fully convinced that it is well calculated to secure so great and desirable an object."

Today, unfortunately, government seems to be out of our control. Non-elected officials - bureaucrats - make rules which have the effect of law, controlling more and more aspects of our lives. Government is no longer viewed in negative terms, but is now viewed positively, as the answer to almost all of our social, economic, and political problems.

"It's All Happening"

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.

ACTION

by Damon Thompson.

At a recent meeting of Friends of the Earth here, an umbrella organisation was formed joining all forces opposed to nuclear power and its implications. Participants are Edinburgh Friends of the Earth, Fife, Lothians and Tayside branches of the Conservation Society; the Ecology Party, Edinburgh; and Workers Revolutionary Party, Edinburgh.

The campaign comes under the name of S.C.R.A.M. (Scottish Campaign to Resist the Atomic Menace). Our first act was a rally (on Remembrance Sunday November 9th) at Dunbar (Lothians) to oppose the building of a heavy-water nuclear reactor at a nearby village - Torness. About 60 people attended the meeting where speeches were given by Professor Hendry of Edinburgh University, Engineering Department and Adrian Grant, Scottish Co-ordinator for the Conservation Society. There then followed a march to the proposed site of the power station. Everyone present thinks that the rally was successful though media coverage was lacking. However, six inches of column space was given in the 'Scotsman' newspaper which is quite an achievement considering the paper is probably the most out-dated, bourgeois publication in Britain.

The next stage of the campaign will involve publicising our views to the people of Dunbar, where the work-force for the building programme is likely to come from, picketing of the site will be on a regular basis, depending on the weather.

Finally a new newspaper has been launched in Edinburgh - 'Spaceship Earth' which will be used to publicise campaign activities in Scotland. Copies can be obtained for 5p or 60p for a year's subscription (12 issues) from Damon Thompson, 36 Drummond Place, Edinburgh EH3 6PW.

ADVERTISING: For other organisations and ecologically sound products is invited. Cost is only 2p per word or 11 per col. inch.

ARE YOU BEING 'FOXED'?

ASKS J M Bryant



A rescued fox-cub, safe in caring hands.

The image of the fox as a devilish, marauding killer of poultry and lambs, is so deeply ingrained in the minds of the public, that the fox will probably be the last British wild animal to be granted legal protection from cruelties of the snare, the gun, poison and the 'chase'. And yet, if the fox does eventually gain the status of a 'protected animal' it will be due to Man's insatiable appetite for scientific knowledge - ironic when one considers the number of animals which have suffered satisfying that same appetite.

Unfortunately, the fox's image is not only ingrained in the minds of the disinterested general public, but also in the minds of many of those who are loud in their opposition to traditional fox hunting. The result is a continual argument between hunt supporters and 'antis' as to which is the best method of killing foxes. Not surprisingly, hunt supporters often come off better in these arguments, simply by pointing out the cruelties of snares, traps, poisoning and indiscriminate shooting etc.

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

Organisations/Societies are invited to send brief reports of their activities for inclusion in this section.

AN ALLIANCE OF INTERESTS



Association
of World
Federalists

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...aim to build a system of world order by the following programme:

- * Strengthening the authority of the United Nations, and by radical revision of the Charter giving it clearly defined powers adequate to provide security but limited so that it may not become a world dictatorship.
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peace
is more than the
absence of war:
peace is the presence
of law, order and
justice; in short, it is
an attribute of government

national peace-keeping force.

- * Building institutions of world law and developing the authority and prestige of the International Court.
- * Establishing a World Development Authority which would be provided with the resources needed to tackle the problems of poverty, hunger and social justice.

Membership of the Association of World Federalists costs only £1.00 per annum. This entitles you to attend and vote at meetings of the association. Members also receive free of charge the association's periodical *Federalist World*. - 40 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W.1.

P.A.G

PLANNERS AGAINST GROWTH are a loosely structured organisation comprised mainly of town (and occasionally country) planners, practising in public authorities and in educational establishments, and are associated with the Friends of the Earth.

Our mutual concern is that planners are not addressing themselves seriously enough to the problems that are beginning to appear as a result of using the world's finite resources as though they are inexhaustible. We are endeavouring to persuade the planning profession and other interested groups of the importance of creating a sustainable society. To do this, we are starting by drawing up a manifesto which puts into perspective the resource implications of existing policies and practices in the fields of transport, food production, housing, employment, population, energy, natural resources and in the social and political structure of our society. It will also indicate the form of alternative policies that are needed to evolve a life-style designed for permanence, throw up the problems of transition from one life-style to another, and suggest areas which planners can have an immediate influence.

Membership of the group is in no way limited and there are as yet no subscriptions to be paid.



THE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST exists to preserve our land heritage and to provide land for the landless. The Trust will hold in perpetuity, on behalf of the community, land acquired by gift or bequest or purchased with donations

Land will be used for the social and economic benefit of the community in general and its underprivileged members in particular. The Trust intends to create new co-operative farming settlements and to provide land for the use of existing villages and communities.

Stewardship and good husbandry are central objects of The Community Land Trust which will attempt to renew the tradition of care for land, plant and animals. If you support the aims, we invite you to join the Trust and to further its work by contacting The Secretary, The Community Land Trust, 3 Salubrious, Broadway, Worcs. WR12 7AU.

SERA

socialist environment and resources association

Activities: Branches organise meetings and conferences and, of course, work within socialist organisations and trade unions. Examples of conferences so far held are ones at Manchester on Nuclear Power and on 'Is Socialism the answer to the environmental crisis'. S.E. London Branch had a conference in October on 'Jobs and the Environment', speakers included Lucas shop stewards, Audrey Wise MP and Patrick Kinnersley, author of 'Hazards at Work'.

Brief policy statements are being prepared on agriculture, transport, energy, population, public services, town & country planning, etc. Membership is £2 p.a. (£1 for students and all pensioners). Membership Secretary: Jennifer Oakley-Hill, Tidy's Cottage,

and stable environment.

- b) To identify the social and economic problems affecting the environment and to formulate socialist policies to deal with them.
- c) To disseminate information throughout the Labour Movement and to enlist its support for the Association's policies.
- d) To demonstrate the relevance of a socialist strategy towards environmental problems both to other environmental organisations and the general public and to participate in campaigns on environmental issues.
- e) To develop close relations with similarly motivated organisations in other countries.
- f) To assist in securing for the workers by hand or by brain the full fruits of their industry, and the most equitable distribution thereof that may be possible upon the basis of the common ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange, and the best obtainable system of popular administration and control of each industry or service.
- g) To assist in the return of Socialist candidates, for local and parliamentary elections, who accept the constitution and policies of the Association.



TRANSPORT 2000

9 Catherine Place, Telephone:
London SW1E 6DX 01-828 6650

TRANSPORT 2000 have produced a number of good documents, available free of charge (in limited quantities from 9 Catherine Place, London SW1E 6DX (01-828-6650). Titles include: 'Energy in Transport', 'A Transport Policy for Today', 'The Nottingham Transport Policy'.



The Values Party has increased its support by 300% in 3 years

The Values Party is fairly closely identified with the youth vote, but also has a lot of support in academic circles, and in the educated middle-class. Some of their economic policies are to the left of the very right wing labour party, and some of the younger trades-unionists are becoming interested in them. If that trend

continues they could become a force to be reckoned with. The other thing is their close identification with the 'women's movement' and the fact that they are the only party to have a policy on certain controversies like abortion law reform, homosexual law reform, and drug law reform, all issues where the relatively elderly members of Parliament have been shown to be significantly behind general public opinion.

Their leader is a 28 year old lawyer called Reg Clough. He is quite well known apart from the Values party, as he is prominent in civil rights law suits, in particular in defending a very ethical abortion clinic which has been under attack from anti-abortionists. Their Deputy Leader is a very articulate 'house-wife' of about 32, called Cathy Wilson. She is very prominent in the women's movement and is vaguely equivalent to Germaine Greer.

Their constituency extends beyond the ecology vote to include quite a lot of ground covered by the Liberal Party in Britain. (The Social Credit Party used to occupy that ground, they have just overtaken them). Ecology and 19

stable-state ideas are the basic stuff of the Values Party with the social justice issues being super-imposed.



FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

Priority item this month is **Whale week**. This will take place from Dec. 6th -

13th. Mr. Bishop, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, will be given a present of actual substitute sperm whale oil samples, and a huge Christmas card signed by F.O.E. and M.P.'s sympathetic to the ban. Hopefully an M.P. will raise a parliamentary question on the subject the same afternoon. F.O.E. groups are planning whale week activity throughout the country. Contact your local branch for details.

TRANSPORT

F.O.E. have an exhibition stand at Brighton for the Institute of Civil Engineers conference, 'Transport for Society', which opened on Nov. 11th. The theme of their stand is 'Why the Government Traffic Forecasts are Wrong'. Mick of F.O.E. has written a booklet for the WEA called Transport for Society, presenting an overall view of transport in Britain and dealing with all the present problems and issues. Price 35p from Poland Street.

The M16 Evidence is to be published by Transport 2000 sometime in Dec.

BOTTLES Redbridge FOE submitted a proposal to the B.S.I. about the standardization of glass bottles and containers. Now the Federation of Soft Drink Manufacturers has invited Redbridge and Poland St. along to discuss it. They say that they are taking it seriously so hopefully some progress will be made towards standardization, with the eventual aim, of course, of facilitating reuse.

War on Waste FOE were among the groups represented at this conference which was organised by the Conservation Society at Stoneleigh. Papers given covered specific possibilities for the reclamation and recycling of plastics, rubber, minerals, general industrial waste and farm waste. Industrialists, local authorities, voluntary organisations and

environmentalists were represented. The general message was 'We know we could and we know we should - but we won't or can't unless the reclamation and recycling scheme is immediately profitable (i.e. within a year). This obviously limits the number of schemes likely to be tried, unless the Government can be persuaded that reclamation is sufficiently in the national interest to justify subsidising the initial stages of local schemes. Mean-time co-operation between local authorities and charity groups can reduce the cost of reclamation schemes. Examples of schemes operating in Rugby and Huddersfield were discussed. FOE Durham have produced a leaflet 'Wrap up Warm', a guide to cheap insulation techniques. Available from them at 1p plus postage.

NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY

Environmental Studies Group and Student Conservation Society has arranged a series of evening lectures on 'Man in the Environment'. Titles and lecturers sound as though Tuesday evenings in Nottingham will prove very interesting. Further details from, The Secretary, Conservation Society, Portland Buildings, University of Nottingham.

Sarvodaya Conference

A conference is taking place on Dec. 13th in London, which could prove to be an historical turning point in the field of co-operation between the many different facets of the environmental and alternative movement. Satish Kumar of the London School of Non Violence and Edward Goldsmith have brought together such diverse speakers as John Seymour, E.F. Schumacher and Geoffrey Ashe. The conference is entitled, "Sarvodaya Conference a vision for a communitarian society". It will be held from 9.30a.m. to 6p.m. at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. The next day, those most interested will be invited to meet at Eastbourne House, Bullards Place (Bethnal Green) E2. to draft a plan for future action. Tickets are 1l from the latter address.

SCHOOLS EDUCATION GROUP

Affiliated to Friends of the Earth,
The Conservation Society and I.Y.F.

I am hoping that S.E.A.G. will expand in new directions, mainly in the way of personalising things a little more. I am hoping that I will be able to visit the various schools groups next year and join in projects with them, in this way I hope to find out each groups interests and

needs.

I am also hoping that with the Future Studies Centre 7,000 or so contacts we will be able to link S.E.A.G. groups up with their local contacts both active groups and individuals so that their work can be more effective. We would greatly appreciate any suggestions or comments on how people would like to see S.E.A.G. develop. We would also like to hear from any active groups or individuals who have not had previous contact with either S.E.A.G. or the Future Studies Centre, about their work. - June Wormold.



THE FARM AND FOOD SOCIETY

37 TANZA ROAD, LONDON, N.W.3.

Please address all correspondence to 4 Willifield Way, London, NW11 7XT.

01-455 0634
01-435 2596

Telephone No: 01-455 0634

"It must be remembered that the Roman Empire declined and fell when the peasant farmers were replaced by slave labour (which is a form of power farming) and the resulting fall in production made the country dependent on imported food; until, finally, when unable to maintain its trade routes, the whole Roman system collapsed. The same thing could happen today; if Britain were unable to import tractor fuel, the people would starve in a war simply for lack of sufficient capable peasant farmers and a fertile soil. Large-scale farming in this country is the writing on the wall" - George Henderson "The Farming Ladder.

Major Anthony Ette, who has had very wide business and other experience and now farms in Norfolk, has accepted nomination as Chairman in place of Mr. Barry Brook, who has had to resign. Mr. Brook guided us through a difficult period before becoming seriously ill.

Dr. Anthony Deavin, scientific director of Ewell County Technical College, who has organised the highly successful courses on organic farming there in recent years, has accepted nomination for the Committee. We shall be further aided by advice from Mr. George Davies.

TRANSOFT 2000

Witney By-Pass

The Ombudsman, Sir Alan Marre, has decided to investigate a complaint made by Transport 2000 about the behaviour of the Department of the Environment over the recent Witney By-Pass enquiry. It seems that the general obstructionist tactics, obsolete statistics, inaccurate information, and refusal to show material, were not unique to the Witney case. It is a matter of serious concern, and the outcome of the ombudsman's investigation should be interesting.

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newsletter

NOTES FROM NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

MANIFESTO for a SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY now available...
 Send 50p + 10p P & P to:
 Secretary for your copy.

Officers:

Secretary : Clive R. Lord 44 Upper Batley Low Lane. Batley Yorks Tel: Bat. 472767.

Treasurer : Peter Murray, 6 South Way Liverpool Tel : 051-722-4328.

Membership: Elizabeth Davenport, 2 The Old Vicarage 26 Main Rd. Kempsey Worcs. Tel : Norton 820489.

Participation : Eric Jones. 18 Buttemere Close, Anston, Sheffield.

Policy : Peter Allen, 16 West Park Rd. Leeds. 8 Tel: Leeds 664669.

Communications : K. Michael Benfield New Buildings Trinity St. COVENTRY Tel : Cov. 22048.

Campaign : Vacancy exists Offers/nominations please to secretary.

Bankers : Barclays High St. Wavertree Liverpool. 16.

NEW MANIFESTO : now available 50p & p.&p. from Treasurer.

ABRIDGED MANIFESTO:- now available price 15p + p.&p. from Secretary.

NATIONAL SECRETARY'S STATEMENT

"Readers of Alliance may have been puzzled by changes which first appeared on the front and back pages of Alliance No. 2 (Sept. 1975), in the reference to the Ecology Party, and subscriptions to Alliance. In fact these changes reflect a fundamental change in the relationship between the two, of which readers should be aware.

"That Alliance has been anything more than a 4-side newsletter is due largely to the personal resources, of time and effort as well as considerable financial support, contributed by the Editor, Michael Benfield. However, in the light of criticisms on detail which have inevitably occurred occasionally, Michael has decided that he does not wish this investment to be subject to the control of the NEC. He has therefore unilaterally dissociated Alliance from EP, but has offered the 'piggy-back' arrangement which has been the format in Issues 2 & 3, in return for a payment by the EP roughly equivalent to 17½p per head on current circulation. The reference to subscriptions by EP members to Alliance in Issue No. 2 can be ignored. Alliance (full price 25p & postage) will be sent free to EP members. This arrangement takes into account that EP resources have also been involved, and that the initial readership of Alliance was provided by the party. The NEC is aware that individual donations have been made in circumstances where it was unnecessary to distinguish between Alliance and the EP. If anyone wishes to make representations, the next NEC meeting will be held at 44 Upper Batley Low Lane, Batley, Yorks on 17th January 1976.

"Material for the EP newsletter should now be sent to: K.M. Benfield, New Buildings, Trinity Street, Coventry. Tel: 22048

- Clive Lord, National Secretary.

FUND RAISING: Treasurer reports that initial response to his appeal had been good, over £100 already having been received.

RADIO SHEFFILED: gave good interview to both Peter Allen and Eric Jones at the Sheffield Conference.

LOCAL & REGIONAL ELECTIONS: All party members are urged to offer themselves individually as candidates. This appears to be the only way (apart from objectionable demonstration) that we can get reasonable press coverage. It also enables you to directly challenge local politicians on their own

Executive Committee held on 1st
November 1975 at 16 West Park Road,
Leeds. (Extracts)

d. Discussion paper "Some Features of a Stable Society". Discussion paper for a Regional Meeting, which would then lead to a pamphlet being prepared.

f. Conference of experts. EJ reported no further progress.

n. Ian Peasley and Damon Thompson are working on pamphlets under the titles "Urban Food Production" and "Rural Food Production". Suggestions for assistance are welcome. Agriculture may be the subject of a regional meeting in 1976.

b. Anti-nuclear waste campaign. PM explained that radioactive waste was being shipped to Barrow-in-Furness and the first such shipment from Japan was due to arrive on 13th Dec. A dockside protest is due to take place convening at the Town Hall Barrow-in-Furness 1.00p.m. Dec. 13th (Saturday)

4a. That the NEC should request KMB to withdraw from the editorial of the EP newsletter. PMA proposed, which CRL seconded. EJ proposed, and ED seconded an amendment adding:

"unless he accepts responsibility to the NEC for the newsletter, adds to the title of Alliance 'Incorporating the Ecology Party newsletter' and displays prominently in each edition the words 'Only the EP newsletter necessarily reflects the view of the Party'. PMA's motion as amended was then carried by 3 votes (EJ ED & CRL) to 1 (PMA), KMB abstaining, KMB said he accepted the motion.

CRL proposed and KMB seconded that the next issue of Alliance should include the statement circulated by CRL with the Agenda for this meeting (which informed the readership of the changed circumstances and the background to them). This was passed nem com.

EJ proposed and EP seconded that the EP newsletter section should include a report of the debate which had just taken place, including the precise words of the motion commencing "The NEC should request KMB to withdraw"... "The voting was 2-2, KMB abstaining. PMA cast the Chairmans vote in favour of the motion.

not merely from the NEC, but from the Ecology Party. He has done so because the NEC did not support his motion at a meeting on 1st November to remove Michael Benfield from the editorship of the EP newsletter, on the grounds of Michael's unilateral dissociation of Alliance from the EP. Peter believes that the NEC has taken a step towards dictatorship and away from democracy. He says: "The NEC showed that it was willing to compromise on matters which I regard as fundamental in a democratic party. The enterprise and initiative of the editor was praised highly at the meeting and in the vote these qualities were placed higher than consent and consultation".

In fact the only difference between Peter and the rest of the NEC free to vote (Elizabeth Davenport, Eric Jones and myself) was that we felt that a statement explaining the changed situation, and the publication of a motion censuring Michael was sufficient at this stage. The reference to the enterprise and initiative of the editor was made by an observer, and it is not the opinion of the NEC that these are higher than consent and consultation. If any members have views on this issue we should like to hear them.

The above is an agreed statement by the NEC. I should like to add a personal comment to the effect that if ever I feel so strongly on an issue, my commitment to consultation is such that I would want to know the views of members before taking drastic action.

- Clive Lord, National Secretary.

Letters to the Editor

UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE ECOLOGY PARTY

Dear Sir,

I thought that it might be possible in a depressed area of a city, helped by community groups, to take over some derelict land and to use it as an allotment for the unemployed, and also use the lend-a-garden scheme.

- Francis Miller, Property House,
Epsom College, Epsom, Surrey.

The Archbishop asks me to thank you for your letter of 17th October and the manifesto you enclosed.

The first sentence at Teat of your manifesto seems to be closely in line with a booklet published by our Church's Board for Social Responsibility only a few years ago and called "Man in his Living Environment". It is available from Church House Bookshop, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BN, and you might care to read it and see where we agree and where perhaps we differ. H.H.A. Whitworth, Lay Assistant to the Archbishop, Lambeth Palace, SE1 7JU

Dear Sir, **Wider Distribution Hopes**

I really like the journal contents etc., format also, and think that it will expand beyond anything people may think. It would be wonderful if in time it gets much wider distribution.

Johan Quanier, 51a York Mansions, Prince of Wales Drive, London SW11.

Dear Editor, **Meat or Veg?**

Thank you for Daniel Grotta-Kurska's article "Meat or Veg". It was very clear and on the whole well balanced. However from an ecological point of view the recommendation to take soya-milk and simulated meat products seems to me to be regrettable. Why waste time, labour and fuel and encourage dependance on unnecessary technology? Why not eat beans, or simple home made dishes for variety and palatibility? Plant milks such as Plamil and Granolac are performing valuable functions during infant weaning and in cases of Galactosaemia. They are simulated meat products are similarly useful in weaning adults from dependance on baby foods and meat but the process should be recognised for what it is. In the face of the environmental challenge "reform it altogether" should be the slogan for dealing with wastful habits.

Thanks also for the Editorial. How long before the scales drop from the "experts" eyes and it is realised that passing plant products through animals cannot give greater bulk or effectiveness than using the same products direct with composting and ploughing-in techniques. We know that plants are the only means by which the vital energies of the sun are combined with the elements of air, water and soil and thus made available to other forms of life. Bacteria are effective means of transformation but from the human point of view mammals and birds are competitors and in view of the human population "explosion" we have got to stop breeding them. In a vegan world so little land, comparatively, would be required for food production that there would be plenty for wild life.

- K. Jannaway, 47 Highland Road, Leatherhead, Surrey.

Dear Sir, **Overseas**

Thank you for the mention in Alliance. It has not yet produced anything. I don't even expect to achieve anything in Hamburg this time. It's no easy matter to contact the people you want. Imagine arriving in London - not speaking English very well - and discovering Mike Benfield in Coventry! It would take some time I think. I'll keep on trying.

- Betty Garcia, 28 Brookhurst Court, Leamington Spa.

Dear Editor, **Cost?**

.... I am already selling 30 'Good Earth's' each edition at 8p - and is easier reading for most people.

I wish some way of merging the two publications could be found - but I know there are difficulties. But 'Alliance' simply costs too much.

- Val Stevens

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