

TURNING POINT 2000

August 1993

TURNING POINT 2000 is about an enabling (for people), conserving (for the Earth), one-world human community for the 21st century. As the year 2000 comes closer, systematic programmes of change in this direction - personal, local, national, international - are taking shape. We aim to encourage these, to report our own activities and ideas and those of others, to bring out potential links and synergies between them, and help readers to take part or initiate projects of their own, and to press governments, businesses and other organisations to move in the right direction through the 1990s.

NEWSLETTER AND MAILING LIST

The newsletter comes out twice yearly - the next issue in March 1994. Please send items for it by mid-February. Space being limited, we shall give priority to news about programmes and initiatives targeted through the 1990s. We shall give preference, other things being equal, to mentioning new people and organisations rather than repeating ones in previous issues. (Some back issues are available for new readers who ask us for them.) If we don't include an item you send us - and even if we do - please use the newsletter to make contact directly with people likely to share your concerns.

Suggested Annual Subscriptions. Personal, voluntary groups, NGOs, etc.: UK and Europe, £5; Worldwide outside Europe, £6. Business Corporations and Government Departments: £20. Other institutions: £10. Reduced charge or free to people, especially in Third World and Eastern European countries, who cannot pay the suggested rates. Donations towards this are welcomed from people who can pay more. All payments in sterling please. Cheques to Turning Point please.

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TURNING POINT 2000 SEMINAR: Saturday 13th November

James Robertson will lead a seminar here on INCOMES AND TAXES: A QUESTION OF VALUE - FOR CITIZEN, SOCIETY AND PLANET.

How might incomes and taxes reflect what we really value - the value we place on people and how their activities affect society and nature? How can institutional systems and structures, like taxation, be reshaped in accordance with emerging new values and perceptions?

A leaflet is enclosed for readers in the UK and Europe. If anyone further afield would like to have details, please let us know.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE TURNING POINT 2000 SUMMER SEMINARS

"The era that flowered in the 18th-century Enlightenment and the Industrial, American and French Revolutions is coming to an end. Euro-American political economy - the conventional modern approach to wealth and work, development and progress, knowledge and power - is under pressure everywhere. The Marxist, Keynesian and Thatcherite revolutions have all failed to rescue it. A new post-modern political economy is beginning to emerge. What are its key features? How can we help to shape it?". That was the subject for the three seminars we held here in May and June. The following were among the many points they brought out.

More Freedom or More Restriction? Most people's gut feelings point one way or the other. Ours point to more freedom, as at (4) below, in contrast with the three conventional answers.

- (1) **Political Right.** Enlarge people's freedom to diminish the freedom of others, as in the conventional "free market". So "free trade" compels poor countries to trade with rich on disadvantageous terms, and a "free labour market" compels poor people to work for rich for low pay.
- (2) **Political Left.** Restrict people's freedom by government regulation and control. Leads toward the command economy of communism and state socialism.
- (3) **Political Centre.** Regulate the market economy by corporate consensus between governmental, business, financial, trade union and professional elites. The conventional social democratic philosophy.
- (4) **The new political economy will call for a regulatory and institutional framework that**
 - * gives people (and regions and countries) freedom to insulate themselves to some extent from the compulsions of the market economy, and
 - * thereby makes it acceptable for the market economy to operate even more freely than it does now.

Economic Efficiency, Ecological Sustainability, Social Justice. It is nonsense to suppose that these are in conflict with one another and that "trade-offs" have to be made between them. Each of the three depends on the other two. They have to be defined in terms of one another. In particular, economic efficiency has to be defined in a way that recognises the inefficiency of activities which damage ecological sustainability or the wellbeing of people.

To All According To What They Are Entitled To Receive; From All According To What They Take. This principle responds to the two previous points. It supports a Citizen's Income; the abolition of taxes on activities that add value (including Income Tax, VAT, and company profits taxes); and their replacement with taxes on activities that subtract value (including the use of land and energy and other "commons" - i.e. resources and facilities provided by nature or society). Our current study of these proposals will provide material for the seminar on 13th November - see page 1.

One further point - which links many items in the following pages. **Centralism or Pluralism? Monoculture or Biodiversity? One Faith or Many? One Culture or Many? One Kind of Knowledge or Many?** The same question - in the political, economic, biological, spiritual, cultural and epistemological fields. How shall pluralism flourish in a one-world society, in one global ecosystem, and within one shared framework of human experience and understanding?

WORK

"What comes after full employment? That question underlies all serious discussion about the future of work. Sensing this, many people now switch off when politicians, businesspeople, trade union leaders and economists trot out the stale old arguments about how full employment is to be restored. This unemployment crisis is not just a short-term hiccup. Stop-gap measures to tide people over for a few months, or even a year or two, are not enough. New ways are needed for organising and distributing work".

That is what we said in the 1981 Turning Point paper on "The Redistribution of Work". Twelve years later it seems more obvious than ever that the combination of labour-saving technologies, a competitive international labour market and the demands (as in the European Social Charter) of organised employees for decent pay and conditions, now make it uneconomic for employers to provide jobs for all. Even those still committed to full employment now admit that it will have to be "full employment" of a very different kind. Perhaps it won't be much longer before common sense begins to break out.

Following a successful national conference in June on "Beyond Unemployment: Future Strategies for Work, Wealth and Worth", RESPOND! (98 Dovecot Street, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland TS18 1HA - contact Nina Boydell) has launched a 3W Initiative in support of people active for change in the area of work, wealth and worth.

An encouraging two-day meeting on work and society in Europe was held in June by the Cellule de Prospective (Future Studies Unit) of the European Commission (A 25, 8/9 Rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium - contact Marc Luyckx). Participants from various EC countries included James Robertson. We eagerly await the follow-up.

"As things stand now, the tail wags the dog. Rather than working in order to produce what we need, in large measure we produce (and then try to market what we produce) in order to give people work to do... So long as we must continue to create new jobs in order to keep people working, we will have to persuade people to buy more than is good for them or for the environment". Paul Wachtel, in "Healthcare, Jobs and the Environment: Unrecognised Connections", in HUMAN ECONOMY Newsletter, June 1993 (Economics Department, MSU 14, Mankato State University, PO Box 8400, Mankato, MN 56002, USA), also points out that requiring employers to finance the healthcare of their employees will dissuade them from reducing working hours and taking on additional workers.

In WORK FOR ALL: A NEW DEAL FOR SOUTH AFRICA Dr. Irwin Friedman (SEED - Sustainable Employment, Enterprise and Development, PO Box 140, Botha's Hill, 3660 South Africa) proposes a "Public Orientated Work for Empowerment and Reconstruction" (POWER) programme. Based on people-centred and community-centred work initiatives to build local economies, it should aim to mobilise the energies of the 50% of South African people now excluded from participating in the economy.

Flexible working is good for business and good for families, according to NEW WAYS TO WORK newsletter, June 1993 (New Ways To Work, 309 Upper Street, London N1 2TY).

Thought for the Day. The job ethic - the obsession with the creation of jobs, and the prevalent idea that work for an employer is the only valid form of work - is a damaging form of social "monoculture".

NEW ECONOMICS

The conventional debate about Europe - Maastricht and all that - has been misconceived on two points. The right choice never was:

- * either a centralised European economic and monetary union or the preservation of national economic sovereignty,
- * either a government-dominated Europe based on a social democratic corporate state or a business-dominated Europe based on "free-market" big-business capitalism.

Now, with the virtual collapse of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM) and the obsolescence of the Maastricht Treaty, there could be space for a constructive alternative vision for Europe.

On the first point, the new vision must be both internationalising and decentralising. It must be about strengthening both the supranational capacity of Europe's peoples to control our (economic) affairs and our subnational capacities to do so in our regions and cities. On the second point, it must enable people to become less dependent on all the so-called "social partners" - big business and big finance as well as big government and big trade unions.

REINVENTING EUROPE: THE OTHER EUROPE REPORT by Nick Robins (f10 from New Economics Foundation, 88/94 Wentworth Street, London E1 7SA) is even more relevant now than when it came out in December 1992. Its emphasis on "self-sustaining local and regional economic development within the framework of a multi-level pan-European economic system" is welcome. We particularly liked its three scenarios for Europe 2000 - business as usual, backlash and The Other Europe.

LEARNING FROM EUROPEAN EXPERIENCES: EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC REGENERATION POLICIES IN CRISIS REGIONS (158pp, in German and English, DM10 + postage from Zukunft im Zentrum, Rungestrasse 19, D-10179 Berlin, Germany) is the proceedings of an important congress in Berlin in November 1992. One of the principal organisers was Karl Birkholzer (Technical University of Berlin, IFP Lokal Okonomie, FR 4-8, Franklinstrasse 28/29, D-10587 Berlin, Germany).

James Robertson's contributions to the Berlin congress (above) were published in FUTURES, March 1993 as "The Fallacy of Single-Level Control: Local Economies in a Changing Global Environment".

Two papers we have recently received on local development, both of them useful and practical, are:

- * A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - LEARNING FROM ABROAD by Perry Walker (New Economics Foundation - see above)
- * LETS SAVE OUR TOWN by Ted Trainer (School of Social Work, University of New South Wales, PO Box 1, Kensington, NSW 2033, Australia).

The IN LOCO Association (Rua da Marinha 8, AP 603, 8000 Faro, Portugal; contacts Priscila Soares and Alberto Melo) works in association with the Faro Polytechnic to promote local development and the improvement of local living, cultural and material life by means of community-rooted initiatives in the mountainous hinterland of the Algarve and Alentejo regions.

In an important series of articles in the May/June 1993 RESURGENCE (Ford House, Hartland, Bideford, Devon EX39 6EE), James Robertson, Charles Handy, Hazel Henderson, Paul Ekins and Richard Douthwaite propound a range of new economic approaches.

Canadian families "have entered into a zone of income slowdown since the mid-70s, and younger families have been the most seriously affected. No longer can the younger generation expect to match their parents' incomes, and they should not harbour any expectations that their real incomes will rise over time". In "Changes in Family Incomes and Labour Market Participation in Post-War Canada", in TRANSITION, March 1993 (Vanier Institute of the Family, 120 Holland Ave, Suite 300, Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 0X6, Canada), David Ross and Clarence Lochhead question whether consumer spending can be expected to lead the country out of recession.

"It is neither realistic nor legitimate to attempt to separate business activity from the life of the local and global community, or from the needs and values of people within those communities. Society needs to assess the impact and behaviour of business organisations from social and ethical perspectives as well as their need to survive financially in the market place." AUDITING THE MARKET: A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO SOCIAL AUDITING (55pp, £2.50 from New Economics Foundation - see p.4) by Simon Zadek and Richard Evans is about developing a methodology of social audit, based on Traidcraft's decision to institute regular social audits with the help of NEF.

"Corporate environmental reporting is an emerging business requirement, driven by regulatory, market and business-to-business pressures.... To date, the reporting companies have tended to view the data as valuable in their own right - and as an indicator of corporate commitment to openness. Increasingly, however, the data will need to be used to assess the environmental sustainability of products, processes, companies, industry sectors and even entire economies." THE CORPORATE ENVIRONMENT REPORT by John Elkington and Nick Robins (July 1993, 36pp., from NEF - as above) was written for the UNEP's Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre.

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTING is the twice-yearly newsletter of the Centre for Social and Environmental Accounting Research (CSEAR, University of Dundee, Dundee DD1 4HN, Scotland; Editor Rob Gray).

"What can big business do, in its present form, to tackle the really important problems: eliminating world poverty; reducing worldwide waste and pollution; enabling people to take more control of their lives; bringing an end to ignorance, ill health and crime? Is big business part of the problem, perhaps rather than part of the solution? The demise of communism and socialism as a serious threat to capitalism is making it increasingly difficult to dismiss these questions as mere Dave Spart propaganda". BREAKING THE MOULD, No.14, June 1993 (77 St. John Street, London EC1M 4AN) included "Future Shocks: Business Must Be Prepared" by James Robertson.

HARD TIMES, Winter 1992/93 (Grossbeerenstr. 70, D-1000 Berlin 61, Germany: editor Jurgen Enkemann) included interviews with James Robertson about the need to change the direction of economic progress and with Titus Alexander (32 Carisbrook Road, London E17 7EF) about the popular planning approach of the former Greater London Council.

In a recent note on "A Healing Economy", Titus Alexander (above) identifies the PARENT NETWORK as an example of education for empowerment. PARENT LINK (44-46 Caversham Road, London NW5 2DS) is a 12-week, 30-hour course organised by the Parent Network and run by parents for parents.

ECOLOGICAL POLITICS AND VALUES

US society "is riddled with patriarchy and racism and sits astride the entire world, not only as a consumer of its wealth and resources but as an obstacle to all attempts at self-determination at home and abroad...This kind of society is inexorably counterposed to a life-oriented world...The highest form of realism today can only be attained by looking beyond the given state of affairs to a constructive vision of what should be". Murray Bookchin is one of the contributors to Vol.1, No.3 of SOCIETY AND NATURE, the international journal of political ecology (1449 W Littleton Blvd, Suite 200, Littleton, CO 80120, USA - managing editor Takis Fotopoulos), on "The State and an Ecological Society".

"The Natural Step is a consensual approach to environmental issues which is rapidly raising commitment to fundamental changes at all levels of Swedish society". Plans for a Natural Step in Britain are now in their pilot phase (June 1993-Summer 1994) to be followed by a public phase (Autumn 1994-Autumn 1995). Information pack from John Pontin (JT Group, Bush House, 72 Prince Street, Bristol BS1 4HU).

The quarterly journal ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES (The White Horse Press, 10 High Street, Knapwell, Cambridge CB3 8NR) publishes original academic contributions from philosophy, law, economics and other disciplines, on the principles and assumptions underlying environmental policy issues. Vol.1, No.4, Winter 1992 included a 40pp Interdisciplinary Guide to Sustainability by John Pezzey.

Education for Sustainability is not "a bolt-on package for a body of educational theory and practice which itself remains largely unchanged. Instead, it provides a new challenge, a common vision and purpose for education at a time when it seems to have lost both". The Earth Summit's educational implications are discussed in GREEN TEACHER, June/July 1993 (Machynlleth SY20 8DN; Ed. Damian Randle).

The WorldWide Fund For Nature (Tony Long, WWF European Office, Chaussee de Waterloo 608, B-1060 Brussels, Belgium) is deeply concerned that the World Bank's Global Environment Facility "will produce a seemingly handsome portfolio of projects that actually are only of peripheral relevance to the central development issues that threaten the viability of the biosphere". WWF has published two detailed reports on how the GEF should work. One - THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY: SHAPING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BIOSPHERE - sets out WWF's own recommendations. The other - THE SOUTHERN GREEN FUND: VIEWS FROM THE SOUTH ON THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY - contains the views of developing country NGOs.

Climate scientists and energy modellers have shown that, contrary to what some industrialised nations and the fossil fuel lobby say, it is technically and economically feasible to phase out fossil fuel use in order to control climate change. Nuclear power could be phased out by 2010. Energy efficiency and renewable energy could meet all the world's energy needs by 2100. FOSSIL FUELS IN A CHANGING CLIMATE is a well-produced, easily readable, 48pp report from Greenpeace International (Keizersgracht 176, 1016 DW Amsterdam, Holland).

"The Chernobyl accident has cost an estimated \$300 billion and at least 10,000 lives so far", according to ACID NEWS, No.3, June 1993 (Swedish NGO Secretariat on Acid Rain, Box 245, S-401 24, Goteborg, Sweden) in a discussion of the implications of an energy system dominated by fossil fuels and nuclear power.

"Poverty Alleviation is Essential for Environmental Sustainability" (April 1993) and "Why Northern Income Growth is not the Solution to Southern Poverty" (May 1993), are Divisional Working Papers of the Environment Department, World Bank (Washington, DC 20433, USA). Send a peel-off address sticker to Robert Goodland for free copies.

Solving environmental problems in the former Soviet Union must be part of the agenda of the worldwide conservation community. SURVIVING TOGETHER is a quarterly magazine from ISAR - formerly the Institute for Soviet-American Relations (1601, Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 301, Washington, DC 20009, USA). Vol.11, Issue 2, Summer 1993, includes an open letter to western organisations offering assistance to environmental NGOs in the FSU - "Domestic conservationists have come to expect that foreign organisations will seek to dominate, subordinate and patronise in-country groups, rather than establish equal partnerships". Also a three-part series on Russian women in Soviet and post-Soviet society, including a report on "Women and the Post-Socialist Reversion to Patriarchy".

Jennie Sutton is Co-Chairwoman of BAIKAL ENVIRONMENTAL WAVE (664033 Irkutsk, Lermontova 297"B"-75, Russia), a small voluntary organisation developing projects on environmental education, involving young people in environmental monitoring and hoping to start up a centre for alternative technology. She would like to build up an international network of contacts.

"Environmentalism is the new religion of our age, but it is only a Sunday morning religion. We discuss Aldo Leopold at dinner parties and clean up riverbanks on weekends, but still reserve the right to sell the land we cultivate to the highest bidder". In LAND: THE CHALLENGE AND THE OPPORTUNITY, March 1993, from the E.F. Schumacher Society (Box 76, RD3 Great Barrington, MA 01230 USA) Susan Witt describes Community Land Trust's and reports on a community land trust project on the west bank of Lake Baikal.

An alternative to the Land Trust approach is to introduce a tax on the ownership of land, according to its annual rental value, as originally proposed by Henry George. This principle of paying rent for using Earth-given resources should apply to the use of biological and genetic material, argues The Biodiversity Coalition (c/- PO, Cygnet, Tasmania 7112, Australia) in Newsletter No.4, March 1993.

TREE-FREE PAPER. "An entirely new paper...made without wood-pulps or timber derivatives, only from indigenous, annual plant fibres of hemp, or flax, and cornstraws...in a small bespoke mill in Scotland". Details from CHT (Malthouse, Lyme Regis, Dorset).

"In August 1992 Lufthansa Airlines transported 110 long-tail macaques from Indonesia to Florida via Frankfurt. All 110 monkeys on board were found to be dead on arrival. They had died from shock and stress caused by freezing temperatures and loss of proper ventilation". In June the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection launched a campaign to persuade airlines not to transport monkeys for research. Details from Kevin Daws (Campaigns Organiser, BUAV, 16a Crane Grove, London N7 8LB).

GLOBAL FORUM '94 will be held in Manchester from 25th June to 3rd July 1994. Details from Cathy Brooks (North West Focus, PO Box 532, Town Hall, Manchester M60 2LA). The Women's Pavilion programme at Global Forum '94 is being organised by the Manchester Women's Electronic Village Hall (23 Mount Street, Manchester M4 4DE).

BOOKS RECEIVED

Vandana Shiva: MONOCULTURES OF THE MIND: PERSPECTIVES ON BIODIVERSITY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY: Zed Books, 1993, 184pp, pbk, £9.95. "Diversity is an alternative to monoculture, homogeneity and uniformity. Living diversity in nature corresponds to a living diversity of cultures. Natural and cultural diversity is a source of wealth and a source of alternatives". A precondition for human liberation is to redefine and democratise knowledge to include diverse local ways of knowing.

Zia Sardar, Ashis Nandy and Merryl Wyn Davies: BARBARIC OTHERS: A MANIFESTO ON WESTERN RACISM: Pluto Press, 1993, 99pp, pbk, £7.95. "Instead of an encounter, Columbus' voyage inaugurated a sundering of Europe from Other People, a rupture that has yet to be healed and overcome". 1492 endorsed and legitimised a great lie. Not only have Europeans perceived non-Europeans as barbarians, to be destroyed and plundered and enslaved. The Others were perceived as "people of a past age that Europe had transcended. Other people had remained static.. while Europe had progressed spiritually, intellectually and physically beyond the confines of the ancient world".

Tariq Banuri and Frederique Apffel Marglin: WHO WILL SAVE THE FORESTS? KNOWLEDGE, POWER AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION: Zed Books, 1993, 195pp, pbk, £11.95. Four case studies from India, Finland and Maine (USA) show that "modernity as a system of knowledge has been used to marginalise as well as disfranchise the knowledge of rural non-industrial communities. The modern system of knowledge, along with its associated set of values, has been elevated to the highest status, while alternatives are at best viewed as inferior forms of knowledge and at worst as non-knowledge".

Vithal Rajan (ed): REBUILDING COMMUNITIES: EXPERIENCES AND EXPERIMENTS IN EUROPE: Green Books, 1993, 278pp, pbk, £9.95. Set in a global context, these examples of the resurgence of community spirit in Europe - Switzerland, Finland, Scotland, England, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece and Sweden - are presented as the wave of the future. "We must relearn the art of community building by actually living the community in reality. Perhaps, having conquered the world and having reduced other peoples to dependency, Europeans, for their own survival, will return to a gentler memory".

Jeremy Seabrook: PIONEERS OF CHANGE: EXPERIMENTS IN CREATING A HUMANE SOCIETY: Zed Books, 1993, 242pp, pbk, £9.95. An alternative worldview is seeking its way towards self-expression. We are witnessing a change of perception, that most subtle and irresistible of all revolutions. "Existing versions of the world, the old ideological taxonomies, are melting away". The achievements of Right Livelihood Award winners between 1980 and 1990 are described under four headings - Protecting Diversity, Making Visible, Popular Empowerment, and Towards A New Paradigm.

Joke Schrijvers: THE VIOLENCE OF "DEVELOPMENT": A CHOICE FOR INTELLECTUALS: International Books (distributed by Jon Carpenter Publishing, PO Box 129, Oxford OX1 4PT), 1993, 63pp, pbk, £5.99. In her inaugural speech as Professor of Development Studies, University of Amsterdam, the author discusses an alternative approach to development, "based on building egalitarian ties, and respecting and caring for nature and fellow human beings instead of dominating them. ...Other values, other actors are the starting point of these new development concepts, not the bankers, directors, technicians, politicians and bureaucrats who dominate the development discourse".

Herbert Girardet: THE GAIA ATLAS OF CITIES: NEW DIRECTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN LIVING: Gaia Books, 1992, 191pp, pbk, £9.99. "Can cities be sustainable? Can an urbanised world be ecologically viable? ... The inefficiency of the current linear metabolism of cities is of staggering proportions and threatens to affect the wellbeing of Gaia". This informative and finely-produced book suggests how we can set about creating a "world of eco-cities".

Cristovam Buarque: THE END OF ECONOMICS? ETHICS AND THE DISORDER OF PROGRESS: Zed Books, 1993, 172pp, pbk, £12.95. "This has been the century of economics as much as the century of technology. Technology has been the instrument for transforming the world, economics the rational basis of this transformation... To become the century of ethics, the 21st century will have to review the way economics justifies, explains and intervenes in the world". This important book approaches new economics from a Brazilian perspective. The challenge for the coming decades is "the social integration of each individual of the human species in a single, better world where cultural diversity will be acceptable... European intellectuals do not seem prepared to take up this challenge".

Michael Barratt Brown: FAIR TRADE: REFORM AND REALITIES IN THE INTERNATIONAL TRADING SYSTEM: Zed Books, 1993, 226pp, pbk, £10.95. This informative critical guide to the present world trading system argues that an alternative could be developed out of the growing number of Alternative Trading Organisations. These are "consumer-producer unions which deliberately link consumers and producers in the First and Third Worlds". Now flourishing in Western Europe, North America, Japan and Australasia they are linked in the International Federation for Alternative Trade (IFAT) in Amsterdam.

Victor Anderson: ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES: Routledge, 1993, 91pp, pbk, £7.99. A concise analysis of policies needed to cut CO₂ emissions and promote energy efficiency. An Appendix on applying cost-benefit analysis to global warming explains its bias against poorer countries, future generations and other species.

John Peet: ENERGY AND THE ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS OF SUSTAINABILITY: Island Press, Washington DC, 1992, 309pp, pbk. A biophysical systems understanding of the world differs markedly from the scientific and economic understanding of most people now influential in government, commerce and the professions. A very useful guide to the issues, based on an authoritative synthesis of natural and social science.

Marianne Frances: SMALL CHANGE: Greenprint, 1993, 80pp, pbk, £5.99. This "Pocketful of Practical Actions to Help the Environment" covers the home - kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, living room, garden, etc. - travel, leisure and saving, and Christmas and birthdays.

Nicholas Albery, Matthew Mezey and Peter Ratcliffe (eds): SOCIAL INNOVATIONS - A COMPENDIUM: Institute for Social Inventions (20 Heber Road, London NW2 6AA), 1993, 180pp, pbk, £9.85. 200 new and imaginative ideas, products and visions include "More News from Nowhere" - Peter Cadogan (3 Hinchinbrook House, Greville Road, London NW6 5UP) looking back to the 1990s from the year 2050.

Keith Suter: GLOBAL CHANGE: ARMAGEDDON AND THE NEW WORLD ORDER: Albatross (Australia) and Lion (UK), 1992, 360pp, pbk. "Chaos around the globe should be viewed not as the automatic prelude to Armageddon, but as the components of a new stage in humankind's continuing history". A Christian viewpoint.

BOOKS RECEIVED (Continued)

Sven Hamrell et al: PRESCRIPTION FOR CHANGE: NATIONAL DRUG POLICIES, SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION AND THE MEDIA: Philippines Centre for Investigative Journalism and the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation (Ovre Slottsgatan 2, S-753 10 Uppsala, Sweden), 1992, 143pp, pbk. "The major part of health-related reporting has not served the needs of the medically disadvantaged or empowered consumers to become self-reliant, competent and truly well-informed". Addressed to health journalists and activists in voluntary health associations.

Jamil Salmi: VIOLENCE AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY: NEW APPROACHES TO HUMAN RIGHTS: Zed Books, 1993, 134pp, pbk, £12.95. "Violence is a pervasive feature of many if not most human societies, socialist, capitalist and theocratic alike". This book, concerned primarily with the capitalist case, discusses violence under four categories - direct, indirect, repressive and alienating. It concludes that "within each society, defending an unbiased conception of human rights will imply acknowledging that democracy is not only a political notion, but also encompasses the ecological, social and economic dimensions of human life".

Waldemar Hopfenbeck: THE GREEN MANAGEMENT REVOLUTION: LESSONS IN ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE: Prentice Hall, 1993, 326pp, hbk, £35. The business response to rising environmental awareness "must be more than merely a package of market strategies aimed at a target group of 'green' consumers. A holistic philosophy is required which permeates all areas and functions of business enterprise". Includes many examples of European and American companies which lead the field in environment-friendly production methods and products.

Nick Love: COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE FROM THE BOTTOM UP: Caistor Ltd (20 Buttermarket, Caistor, Lincoln LN7 6UB), 1993, pbk, £10. Well-produced practical guidance, with case studies, on setting up a community enterprise. For community enterprise groups, and the volunteers who work and give of their time week in, week out.

Marcus Colchester and Larry Lohmann (eds): THE STRUGGLE FOR LAND AND THE FATE OF THE FORESTS: Zed Books, 1993, 389pp, pbk, £12.95. "Denied alternative lands and livelihoods, impoverished people are moving into the tropical forests in increasing numbers. Massive and accelerating deforestation is the inevitable result. This process can only be reversed by broad-based agrarian reforms which make it easier for the poor to secure lands and defend their livelihoods in the areas they are presently fleeing". Case studies of landlessness and deforestation in Guatemala, Brazil, Zaire, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines show that agrarian reform is essential to the survival of forests, as well as for poverty relief, social justice, human rights, national security, economic productivity and democracy.

Joseph H. Vogel: PRIVATISATION AS A CONSERVATION POLICY: Centre for International Research on Communication and Information Technologies (CIRCIT, 4 Riverside Quay, South Melbourne, VIC 3205, Australia), 1992, 170pp, pbk, £15. Landowners should enjoy property rights over genetic information occurring on their land, analogous to intellectual property rights (e.g. patents and copyrights).

Daniel Querol: GENETIC RESOURCES: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO THEIR CONSERVATION: Zed Books, 1993, 252pp, pbk, £13.95. A hands-on guide for those concerned with the collection, conservation and use of the Third World's genetic resources.

FEMINISING THE FUTURE

"We see the spread of violence as the culmination of patriarchal projects in which the potential for death and destruction is far greater than for the sustenance and reproduction of life... The feminist response to violence against women, against nature and against people in general attempts to make the production and sustenance of life the organising principle of society and economic activity... Across the world women are rebuilding connections with nature, and renewing the insight that what we do to nature we do to ourselves". DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE; 1992 1-2, (Dag Hammarskjold Foundation - see p.10) contains an important set of papers on "Women, Ecology and Health: Rebuilding Connections" by women, predominantly from the South, including Mira Shiva and Vandana Shiva.

"Today, as our ecological disasters accumulate and male-controlled cultures seem intent upon continuing high-risk ecological brinkmanship, many are trying to understand what went wrong. Women wonder if these social diagnoses will name every '-ism' from socialism to industrialism to capitalism to consumerism, and never mention the '-ism' of male privilege and patriarchy". THE EGG Eco-Justice Quarterly, Winter 1992/93 (Anabel Taylor Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, USA) is on "Women and Eco-Justice" - guest-editor Elizabeth Dodson Gray.

Gandhi said, "If non-violence is the law of our being, the future is with women". In "Feminist Resurgence in India: Towards a Gandhian Framework" in GANDHI MARG, Vol.14. No.3 (see p.13) Clymes Augustine and A.K. Sharma report that Indian feminists are increasingly supporting civil rights, ecological, health and other related social movements, in order to seek alternatives in every walk of human life.

The inadequacies and injustices of the existing tax and benefit systems affect women worse than men because benefit entitlement often depends on former labour market participation and earnings. Citizens Income would provide women with improved income security, more equal treatment compared with men, tangible recognition of the value of unpaid work, increased financial independence within families, improved work incentives, income maintenance during study and training, and guaranteed pensions in old age. It would strengthen family life. CITIZENS INCOME AND WOMEN, ed. Hermione Parker (74pp, £3 from Citizens Income, St. Philips Building, Sheffield Street, London WC2A 2EX).

"Efforts to promote equal opportunities for women have tended to focus on women's position in the labour market and on the continuing segregation of women into certain occupations, forms of employment, education and training". But studies by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions on the role of local community groups in disadvantaged urban areas emphasise that women are often the driving force in local action to improve childcare, care for the elderly and handicapped, health and education, and general quality of life. Wendy O'Conghaile reports in NEW SECTOR, April/May 1993 (Society Place, West Calder EH55 8EA).

Poverty affects more women than men, and women play a more active role in neighbourhoods and communities, in the social economy of unpaid productive work. The European Network of Women (ENOW, 29 rue Blanche, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium - contact Marie-Francoise Stewart) has recently reported on specific measures needed to support women's organisations helping women facing poverty and social exclusion.

CULTURE AND RELIGION

"Be it studies on the changing role of Islam, attempts to map out the different contours of Hinduism, works on thinkers like M.K. Gandhi.. and Rabindranath Tagore or new socio-religious movements like Swadhyaya, the position of tribal communities in our society or the search for social justice by the poor and the powerless - there is a growing need to locate.. political and social research or policy studies within the realms of indigenous philosophies and civilisational values." Research Report 1993, CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF DEVELOPING SOCIETIES (29 Rajpur Road, Delhi 110 054, India; Director, Ashis Nandy) interestingly describes the Centre's work.

"We are today in the midst of an era of radical reformation of the role of human life and Planet Earth. It is a transition which spans all aspects of human existence from the inner soul of the individual through our worldviews, our value systems, our social institutions and our lifestyles. It involves the transformation of education, economics, health, energy use, families, communities, material consumption, world governance, industrial control, agriculture, the distribution of resources, and all of our cultural, economic and political systems". The 1993 Annual Report from TRANET (Box 567, Rangeley, ME 04970, USA) includes an interesting review of TRANET's role in "that global cultural transition".

"The unconscious goal underlying the formulation of futures studies is to shape the future of all cultures in the images and desires of the West... Orientalism colonised the history of non-Western cultures. Anthropology colonised the cultures of non-Western societies. Development colonised the present of the Third World. Futures studies is becoming the tool for the colonisation of the last frontier - the non-Western future itself". In FUTURES, Vol.25, No.2, March 1993, Zia Sardar criticises futures studies as "the exclusive domain of a selected group of white, male Americans".

"Marxism is in a crisis. Does that mean the end of Liberation Theology which drew inspiration from Marx? Islamic and Hindu fundamentalism is rampant. Does that mean that no liberating values are to be found in these great religions? African animism and Afro-American Voodoo are looked down upon. Does that mean they have nothing to offer in the great symphony of spiritual traditions, for example in the area of a new environmental consciousness? In a senseless world, spirituality can help us all to find meaning and direction in our lives and our social and political commitments". A special May 1993 issue of CULTURES AND DEVELOPMENT (South-North Network, 174 rue Joseph II, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium - ed. Thierry Verhelst) is on "Cultures and Religions".

RELIGIONS CONFRONTED WITH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY by Marc Luyckx (see p.3) is a 202pp report for the European Commission. He suggests that "humanity is going through a fundamental change in its way of perceiving the world in the post-industrial age, and that a new worldview is being ushered in which is synthetic, holistic, non-hierarchical, participative, spiritual and more open to women and to cultural diversity. Rationalism is no longer an absolute and incontestable yardstick but one that must interact with other values such as spirituality, ethics and cultural diversity in a new inclusive vision. Certain sciences traditionally seen as rational - e.g. physics - seem to have already embarked down this road. The question of how long it will take economics to follow the same course is the drama of our time".

"The environmental crisis is, at heart, a spiritual crisis". Following sixteen seminars with ecological thinkers and theologians, Friends of the Centre (8th Floor, Rodwell House, Middlesex Street, London E1 7HJ - contact Robert Vint) are initiating a series of Religion and Environment teacher training courses. The Archbishop of Canterbury has given his blessing.

Launched in 2020, the Church of England's share issue "20-20 Vision: Your Share in the Future" encouraged congregations to buy shares in the national church entitling them to discounts for weddings, funerals and baptisms, and a small dividend each year if the Church Commissioners' property speculation had gone well. Churches were encouraged to opt out of their diocese, in order to compete with other churches. Bishops no longer had the exclusive contract for a diocese but 'floated' in competition with one another in the Episcopal Exchange Rate Mechanism. Martyn Percy's "The Churchgoer's Charter: A Fantasy" is in SIGNS OF THE TIMES, Issue 2 (Modern Churchpeoples Union, The School House, Leysters, Hereford HR6 OHS).

Nuneham Park (Nuneham Courtenay, Oxford OX44 9PG) is a new Global Retreat Centre for the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University.

HOLISTIC SCIENCE AND HUMAN VALUES, 1992, is the first Transactions of the Theosophy Science Centre (Adyar, Madras 600 020, India).

CREATION SPIRITUALITY Mail Order Book and Tape List, Spring 1993 from Alan Shephard (14 Beckford Close, Warminster, Wilts BA12 9LW).

PEACE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND A MORE DEMOCRATIC WORLD

In "Convergence of Peace Models", in GANDHI MARG, Vol.14, No.2 (Gandhi Peace Foundation, 221-223 Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg, New Delhi 110 002, India), Hanna Newcombe finds that the long-range, fundamental proposals which have come from the peace movement over the years basically reflect two models. "One is world federal government and the other is principled non-violence". She argues for a convergence between the two, aiming "at constructing a multi-level world, going from the individual to neighbourhood to municipal to provincial to national to continental to global government," in which - according to the principal of subsidiarity - "problems should be solved at the lowest level at which there are no significant external effects". (Note the parallel with the suggested move toward a multi-level structure for economic decision-making - page 4 above.)

In "Towards a Barefoot School of Non-Violence" in THE GANDHI WAY, Spring 1993 (Gandhi Foundation, Kingsley Hall, Powis Road, London E3 3HJ) Thomas Clough Daffern suggests how a school of non-violence might be set up and what it might be like.

In 1991 military expenditure by the world's governments was 1877 times as much as they contributed to UN peacekeeping. The permanent members of the UN Security Council share the dubious distinction of possessing nuclear weapons and being the world's leading arms exporters. "The question facing the international community now is whether a strengthened UN peacekeeping system can offer a workable and affordable alternative to the use of force by national governments and their adversaries". These are among the points made in CRITICAL JUNCTURE: THE FUTURE OF PEACEKEEPING by Michael Renner - Worldwatch Paper 114, May 1993, (\$5 from Worldwatch Institute, 1776 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC 20036, USA).

PEACE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND A MORE DEMOCRATIC WORLD (continued)

"I advocate reform of the UN... to strengthen a system that has already recorded breathtaking advances on the great canvas of world history". In IN A TIME BEYOND WARNINGS: STRENGTHENING THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM, 1993, 28pp, £1.95 from Pax Christi (Christian Peace Education Centre, 9 Henry Road, London N4 2LH), Erskine Childers proposes the reform and democratisation of the UN. The present permanent members of the Security Council and their right of veto are "utter anachronisms from the age of bully-powers. I do not see how any self-respecting country advocating democracy in the world can in the next breath insist on retaining these totally undemocratic privileges from another age...".

On 26th June 1995 the UN will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter in San Francisco, and on 10th January 1996 the 50th anniversary of its first General Assembly in London. Details of the UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION programme in the UK from Tony Samphier (UNA-UK, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL).

"The UK defence industry matters. It contributes 11% of national industrial output, generates around 450,000 jobs and is a key source of R & D and high technology. And it's in a mess. Global arms sales fell by 59% between their 1987 peak and 1991. Some 120,000 defence related jobs have gone in the UK in the past two years, and a recent study has estimated that up to a third of employment in the industry in Western Europe could go over the next six years". In UPDATE, Spring 1993, Saferworld (82 Colston Street, Bristol BS1 5BB) calls for the political will to meet the challenge of diversification.

THE TRIUMPH OF UNILATERALISM: THE FAILURE OF WESTERN MILITARISM (69pp, £3 + p&p from Project on Demilitarisation, Suite 26, Vassalli House, 20 Central Road, Leeds LS1 6DE) is the first of a series of briefings on "The New Militarism". Having pursued collective security by increasing the massive military superiority of NATO instead of responding to Gorbachev's commitment to common security, and having failed to give effective support to economic restructuring in the Soviet Union (as it was), "the West has reduced its ability to support political and economic reforms in the East or the South. In neglecting economic, social and environmental threats to our security," NATO has helped to undermine it.

Among the recommendations in HUMAN RIGHTS IN ASIA: THE STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN DIGNITY (12pp pamphlet from Just World Trust, PO Box 448, 10760 Penang, Malaysia) is that NGOs in the North should "use the democratic space available in their societies to increase public awareness of how Northern control and domination of the international system curbs and curtails the basic human rights of people in Asia".

"The World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in June, has been condemned by the world's press as an abject failure and by the General Secretary of Amnesty International as 'a sham.. a total flop'. Was it really that bad? Sadly, the answer has to be Yes." From a report in AROUND EUROPE, August/September 1993 (Quaker Council for European Affairs, 50 Square Ambiorix, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium).

The UN has called a World Summit on Social Development, to be held in Copenhagen in 1995, to develop "a shared world-wide commitment to put people at the centre of development and international cooperation". Contact Dept of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (Room S-3060, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA).

PEOPLE AND PROJECTS

THE HYPERACTIVE CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP needs a number of non-hyperactive children aged four or over to act as a control group in an important piece of research. Parents prepared to take their child(ren) for a gastogram test in London - simple, not painful - swallow pill and take two drinks - please contact Mrs. I.D. Colquhoun (Mayfield House, Yapton Road, Barnham, West Sussex PO22 0BJ).

Anthony Judge (Union of International Associations, rue Washington 40, 1050 Brussels, Belgium) is developing a MEETING PARTICIPANT CONTRACT, based on an analysis of the roles played by participants in meetings, with the aim of transcending the negative dynamics that often occur. "New insights into more creative approaches to the major intractable problems of wider society may emerge".

The BUSINESS NETWORK has mutated. Details from The Breakthrough Centre (7 Poplar Mews, Uxbridge Road, London W12 7JS). Probono (176 Sutherland Avenue, London W9 1HR) is another new initiative for a caring, supportive, professional and global business environment.

"Self-Esteem is our psychological immune system...poor self-esteem manifests itself in thousands of difficult behaviours and causes untold turmoil and unhappiness". Self-Esteem Network newsletter is published from 32 Carisbrook Road, London E17 7EF.

PLANET NEWS (87 Kirkstall Road, London SW2 4HE) "is an exciting new idea in radical publishing. A short, sharp, cheap paper with something in it for everyone, from peace activists to anti-road campaigners" - published and distributed by Janet Alty and others.

"Most of the 'knowledge' acquired and marketed by the hired mercenaries whom we know as professional, including academic 'experts', ... perpetuates a false type of consciousness". TRANSNATIONAL ANARCHY is based on the personal learnings from a lifetime of education" by Douglas Ogilvie (Dept of Education, University of Queensland, Brisbane, QLD 4072, Australia).

STIRRING TIMES newsletter promotes North-West Basic (Citizens) Income - editor Kevin Donnelly (20 Nan Nook Road, Manchester M23 9BZ).

DOVETALES by Christopher Gilmore (100 Hart Lane, Luton LU2 0JG) are "modern mini-sagas for cross-curricular activities" to facilitate more integrated teaching.

BOOKS BY JAMES ROBERTSON

Recent translations include:

ECONOMIA COMPATIBILE: Red Edizioni (via Volta 43, 22100 Como, Italy), 1993, 240pp, pbk. Italian translation of FUTURE WEALTH in Red's international series "Le Radici del Futuro".

LA ALTERNATIVA SENSATA: 1993, 177pp, pbk. Spanish translation of THE SANE ALTERNATIVE. From Pedro di Girolamo (Av. Pedro de Valdivia 1801, Santiago, Chile): Americas, \$7.50; elsewhere, \$9.

Copies of *The Sane Alternative*, *Future Work* and *Future Wealth* are available by mail order from us at The Old Bakehouse, Cholsey, Oxon OX10 9NU. Please ask us for an order form.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

6-9 September, Barcelona. ASSEMBLY OF THE FOURTH WORLD. Speakers include Richard Body, Edward Goldsmith, Leopold Kohr, John Seymour. Fourth World (24 Abercorn Place, London NW8 9XP; 071-286 3944).

17-19 September, Durham. GRASSROOTS MOVEMENTS FOR GLOBAL CHANGE. COMMACT (Commonwealth Association for Local Action and Economic Development) Europe Annual Conference. Speakers include Paul Ekins, Bishop of Durham, Karl Birkholzer and Wendy O'Conghaile. Sue Temperley (Commaact Conference, 32 Old Elvet, Durham DH1 3HN).

17-19 September, Kingston. COMMUNITY COMPUTING NETWORK (CCN) NATIONAL CONFERENCE. David Hopson (45-B Blythe Street, London E2 6LN).

24-25 September, Bergamo, Italy. BANK SAFETY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO THE CONSUMER. Speakers include Ralph Nader, James Robertson, Pat Conaty and Shann Turnbull. i.A. Bianca Haane (Institute for Financial Services and Consumer Protection, Grosse Bleichen 23, D-20354 Hamburg, Germany).

25-27 September, New York. GLOBAL GOVERNANCE AND UN DEMOCRATISATION. Jeffrey Segall (CAMDUN, 308 Cricklewood Lane, London NW2 2PX).

25 September - 1 October, Fort Collins, Colorado. International Conference on SUSTAINABLE VILLAGE-BASED DEVELOPMENT. Maurice L. Albertson (Room 203 Weber Building, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523, USA).

2 October, Bristol. CULTURE AND CREATION. 1993 Schumacher Lectures by Jonathan Dibleby, Sir Crispin Tickell, Jerry Mander. Schumacher Society (Ford House, Hartland, Bideford, Devon EX39 6EE).

4 October, 8pm, Knutsford. VISIONS OF A NEW RENAISSANCE. First of Knutsford Lectures (PO Box 118, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 8TG).

9 October, 10am, London. CITIZENS INCOME AND THE LEFT. Socialist Society (25 Horsell Road, London N5 1XL).

22-24 October, Dartington, Devon. ECONOMICS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE. Speakers Hazel Henderson, Helena Norburg-Hodge, Vandana Shiva, Sara Parkin. Schumacher College weekend conference linking two courses on managing the environment and ecological economics. 1993-4 programme from Schumacher College (The Old Postern, Totnes, Devon TQ9 6EA).

30 October, London. THE FUTURE OF WORK. New Economics Foundation's annual Supporters' Meeting. Speakers will include James Robertson. NEF (88-94 Wentworth Street, London E1 7SA).

8 November, London. First International Conference on ECOLOGICAL TAX REFORM. Gerry Matthews (WBMG, Suite 610-611, Linen Hall, 162-166 Regent Street, London W1R 5TB).

13 November, Oxfordshire. TURNING POINT 2000 SEMINAR. See p.1.

3 - 5 December, Olympia, London. GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP '93 Exhibition. Global Partnership (PO Box 1001, London SE24 9NL).

24 January, 8pm, Knutsford. FUTURE WEALTH: A NEW VISION OF PROGRESS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY. James Robertson, see Knutsford Lectures above.