

TURNING POINT

NEWSLETTER, February 1977

This newsletter is going to about 1000 people in this country and abroad, mainly in North America. The next issue will go out in the autumn. Please send us items for it by the end of August, and tell us how we can improve it. Our sincere thanks to the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust which is helping to cover the cost of these 2 issues.

WHAT IS TURNING POINT?

We are not an organisation, but a loosely knit network of people. At our first meeting in November 1975 200 of us discussed the current constellation of changes in lifestyles, values, sex roles, science and technology, and the political and economic institutions of society. A year later 250 of us discussed links between employment, energy and the economy: do we have to have unemployment today, an energy gap in 15 years' time, and a burnt-out "growth" economy by the year 2000? or is there an alternative? In general, we see that powerful trends are leading to the breakdown of old values, old lifestyles, and an old system of society, and that new growth points are emerging which could combine to create a breakthrough to something better.

We find this a helpful guide to action. But we have no doctrine, no manifesto, no resolutions. We operate as volunteers who help, and seek help from, one another. Our finances are small. The sale of tickets for meetings, together with small individual donations (for which many thanks), keeps us afloat. We hope the newsletters will become self-supporting financially in 1978.

The Turning Point ad hoc committee includes Peter Cadogan, Colin Hutchinson, Alison Pritchard and James Robertson. Enquiries and communications should be made by post to Alison Pritchard, 7 St. Ann's Villas, London W11 4RU; or by phone to her (01-603 6572) or to Peter Cadogan (01-242 8033).

1977 TURNING POINT EVENTS

23rd April: Turning Point meeting in Conway Hall, London, on:
THE POLITICS OF TOMORROW

- JAMES ROBERTSON - Chairman
- PETER CADOGAN - "The Politics of the Volunteer"
- MANUELA SYKES - "Economic Democracy and Local Needs"
- BRIAN JOHNSON - "Devolution: The European and International Context"
- BETTY WILLIAMS - "Women and the Politics of Peace"

Enclosed, for addressees in this country, is a fuller note about the meeting and an order form for tickets. This meeting will take place simultaneously with the Conservation Society's conference in Sheffield on the economics of tomorrow (see page 16), and each will add to the significance of the other.

11th-13th November: Turning Point weekend course at The Hill, Abergavenny on MODERN SOCIETY AT THE TURNING POINT: NEW DIRECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE. Fee - about £15. Numbers are limited. So, if you are interested, please write at once to: C.W. Stockham, The Hill Residential College, Pen-Y-Pound, Abergavenny, Gwent, NP7 7RP.

26th November: Turning Point meeting in Conway Hall, London. Suggested topic, "Religions and Spiritual Values: part of the problem, or part of the solution?"

CORRESPONDENCE

Many appreciative letters about the November TP meeting on Employment, Energy and the Economy. Constructive ideas and suggestions for the future too. Here are a few extracts (edited to save space).

"As regards the next Turning Point meeting, I believe that we must move from the diagnostic and analytical to the action phase, i.e. we must put forth as concrete and pragmatic proposals as we can muster. Is it really out of the question to become truly political and discuss civil disobedience, e.g. refusing to pay that proportion of taxes which finances the share of the national budget spent on armaments, nuclear reactors, and other asocial programmes, and putting it aside to be spent on agreed social purposes at a later date?"

Renee-Marie Croose Parry, Flat 7, 81 Onslow Square, London SW7.

"We need to try to clarify how Turning Point itself is going to be involved in the politics of tomorrow, and how it is going to assist in bringing about the sort of tomorrow we want to see. Any movement that has objectives must, if it is to be effective, decide sooner or later on a strategy for reaching them. One course is to work through existing organisations (political parties, trade unions, churches, etc.) with a view to modifying their policies to come into line with the general Turning Point ideas. Another course is to renounce any intention of exerting political influence directly, but to act as a fountain of ideas, a meeting place for people of goodwill to come together and exchange ideas." Basil Mager, 27 Balcombe Road, Haywards Heath, Sussex. (The ad hoc committee's view is that, as a non-organisation, Turning Point itself will take the second course, and that many of the people involved in Turning Point will no doubt find their own ways to pursue the first.)

"The November Meeting should have put more emphasis on women's role in society. Concentration on unemployment generally can easily gloss over the fact that female unemployment is increasing at double the male rate and the position is even worse in practice as many women do not register as unemployed. There is also the plight of the single parent family (one in ten, and the sole parent is predominantly a woman.) Unsupported mothers often find difficulty in working due to lack of nursery facilities. Moreover the cuts in public services (brought about by a disregard of the criterion of Social Utility) affect women more than men (both as consumers of the services (e.g. child care) and employees (e.g. teaching, hospitals.))" Michael O'Gara, 36 Marjorie Grove, London SW11 5SJ.

Several correspondents suggested improvements for subsequent TP meetings - don't go on so late at night, no platform speakers in the evening, better directed discussion groups, more emphasis on ideas and action for the present than on long term ideas on the future. Many thanks.

"In her 'Observer' article of 19th December 1976, "Is your elephant really necessary", Katherine Whitehorn gave examples of people being tired of the way bureaucracy didn't solve their problems, and attempting something themselves; for example the Essex villagers who organised their own bus service, the Macclesfield residents who refurbished houses for themselves, and the single parents in Edinburgh who help each other. Much is also being done by people in tenants', neighbourhood and community organisations. Much more will

be accomplished when more of us are persuaded that we should get off our backsides and join with others in our community to tackle such things as the loneliness of the old, the insulation of homes, the setting up of playgrounds and creches, and share-a-garden schemes. A stimulus for this might be the public spending cuts. With many people campaigning against them, the message should be: "Don't rely on Big Brother to do everything; if he isn't prepared to pay for something essential, then do it yourself." Many problems could be solved in this way.

"This approach also starts to deal with another problem; that of devolution of power. Some people rather naively think that when (real) power is devolved, the people will be able to make it a success. I do not think this will happen so easily, so it is essential now for people to start asserting their identity as a group and to start exploring in order to find where centralised government isn't necessary.

"Having accepted this analysis, the main question is how to publicise it. Trade Unions, community groups and other organisations might be interested, but how is this point of view going to get across?"
Francis Miller, Falklands, Harrow Road West, Dorking, Surrey.

POLITICS AND IDEOLOGIES

In the February/March issue of Undercurrents, Mike Cooley of the Lucas Aerospace Shopstewards Combine (who spoke at our November Turning Point meeting on "Socially Useful Work: A Basic Right") explains some of the political implications of the campaign for the right to work on socially useful products. He says that the campaign has raised in very specific terms whether society can go on basing its future on ever-increasing consumption. But the questioning of such consumerism will have to take place within an entirely new political framework. It is simply not on for well-heeled middle class intellectuals to go round lecturing the working class on the need to consume less.

The Socialist Environment and Resources Association (SERA) is actively engaged in promoting discussion of environmental issues throughout the Labour movement. Contact: Stan Rosenthal, 236 The Welkin, Lindfield, Sussex.

The Ecology Party was formed about 2 years ago. The contents of its manifesto will appeal to environmentalists. It will be fielding 20 or 30 candidates in the local elections in May. Contacts: Steve Lambert, 19 Cheyne Walk, London SW3 and John Davenport, 2 The Old Vicarage, Kempsey, Worcestershire.

Do the Conservatives, the Liberals, or any of the other parties have environmentalist groups? Information please.

The editor of "Ecological Humanism" by Henryk Skolimowski says "The aim of this ambitious Tract is to restore the unity, to return man to the flux of nature, to assert that man is out in nature and that nature is within man and that the relationship between the two is dynamic. In an industrial age, which has lost its sense of solidarity with nature and which merely utilizes it for its own commercial purposes, to develop such a philosophy is, at the same time, to lay the foundation for an alternative politics, the politics of the post-industrial society. The politics of ecology not only contrast with both Capitalist and Communist formulations but, furthermore, reveal

that the politics of Right and Left have their roots in the same assumptions deriving from the Enlightenment. It is not, then, surprising that the politics of Right and Left begin to look very much like variations on the same theme. What ecological humanism seeks to establish is another theme, answering to the dark threat of unlimited industrialism and suggesting fresh possibilities for the development of man." Cost £1. Enquiries to Peter Abbs, the editor of Tract, Gryphon Press, 38 Prince Edwards Road, Lewes, Sussex. "A Study in Ecological Humanism" is also the sub-title of "Be Human or Die", published in 1973 by Charles Knight, by Robert Waller, 175 Earham Road, Norwich.

Alternative Socialism seems to be thriving in Birmingham, London, Sussex, Manchester, Leeds and elsewhere. For ideas about an alternative socialist strategy, contact Keith Paton, 36 Anderton Park Road, Mosely, Birmingham 13.

"Countering Fascism: Towards An Alternative Approach" is well worth 10p + 6½p postage (payable to Birmingham Counter-Fascist Group) from Sarah Lewthwaite, 360 Franklin Road, Cotteridge, Birmingham 30.

The Radical Bulletin Group appears to represent alternative liberalism. Contact: Simon Hebditch, 740 Fulham Road, London SW6.

What about alternative Conservatism? The Common Market Monitoring Association and the National Federation of the Self-Employed seem to be somewhere in that area. The CMMA will shortly publish "The Banned Articles of C. Gordon Tether" - a paperback containing over fifty of the articles banned by the editor of the Financial Times, with an account by C. Gordon Tether himself of how he was sacked after having written the celebrated Lombard column for over 20 years. Price 75p including postage, from CMMA, The Nook, Hook Village, Warsash, Southampton.

The Register of Individuals has been started by Oliver Stutchbury (among others), who is also a prime mover in the campaign to abolish the Greater London Council, and author of "Too Much Government". Meanwhile, as he says, "the career politicians at Westminster sit through the night passing more and more laws of hideous complexity which no one understands and very few people want". Contact: Oliver Stutchbury, 45 South Street, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 4UT.

The New Humanity Journal claims to be the world's first spiritual political journal. It promotes New Age ideals in politics, economics, industry, arts and culture. Price 30p from 51A York Mansions, Prince of Wales Drive, London SW11.

Proposals have been put forward for a non-party-political London Association, to develop a growing body of well informed opinion about the internal government of London, the future of which cannot be left to local or national politicians and officials or to journalists and the media, who are all part of the problem. If you are interested, contact Peter Cadogan, 1 Hampstead Hill Gardens, London NW3. Incidentally, Peter's pamphlet "Direct Democracy" is attracting growing interest and attention. Copies 30p direct from him.

Bob Welke regards the Ibo as the "Swiss of Africa", and wishes that Karl Marx had spent some time among them. He writes that the

Ibo and Swiss present the most emphatically instructive models for people elsewhere who are working toward decentralisation. Swiss and Ibo have been practicing direct democracy for centuries and both peoples are currently doing quite well, in spite of turbulent centralist tides on all sides (the Ibo achieved recent renown for largely engineering the abortive Biafran secession). For details about the direct democracy of the Ibos, write to Bob Welke, Zietenring 7, D-6200 Wiesbaden, West Germany.

EMPLOYMENT

Jobs for Coventry's main project is "As Good As New". This involves the complete renovation and re-upholstery of donated second-hand furniture (which would otherwise be tipped or incinerated by the Council). The furniture is then sold at cost price to the DHSS. The project, funded under the Job Creation Programme of the Manpower Services Commission, employs 18 people, sends them all to technical college, and trains them in carpentry, upholstery and electrical work. It is in its second six-month phase and hopes to become permanent later this year - and ultimately self-sustaining. So far eight serious delegations from other cities have studied Jobs for Coventry. "Jobs for Wolverhampton" and "Jobs for Birmingham" are among the similar organisations that may start in the next few months. The factory premises are at 5-7 Victoria Buildings, Coventry. Visiting parties are welcome. Contact: Keith Hudson, 79 Sutton Av., Coventry CV5.

The Swindon Local Enterprise Trust is being set up to support local small scale co-operative enterprises. Contact: Stan Windass, Rookery North, Adderbury, Oxfordshire.

Urban and Economic Development Group (URBED) is an independent, not-for-profit research and consultancy organisation concerned with the economic regeneration of inner city communities. Particularly interested in how to encourage small businesses in areas of London like Covent Garden and Rotherhithe Docklands. Contact: Nick Falk, 46 Ainger Road, London NW3 3AH.

Wandsworth Borough Council is encouraging self-initiated common ownerships and new small co-operative enterprises in order to tackle structural unemployment. The Business Studies Department of the South Thames College is involved. Contact: Manuela Sykes, 8 Sussex Street, London SW1.

South East London SERA Group's paper on "What Jobs? A Social Planning Alternative based on Worker Co-operatives" aims to stimulate discussion about a planned regeneration of employment in a borough which has traditionally been short of industrial development and is currently subject to a rapid decline in employment opportunities. Appendices contain lists of industries and services which might be appropriate. Address: 312 Devonshire Road, London SE23.

Harford Thomas's "Alternatives" Column in the Guardian newspaper has dealt several times recently with the importance of small firms, and the need to release their potential. "There is the need to use the skills of those without jobs, and those who will come to be without jobs. Some might like to set up small firms on their own, possibly as co-operatives. They require a workplace and starting capital. They have neither. And they are frightened off by the complexities

of the legal requirements any business, however small, must meet - the tax and planning and building and employment regulations which put up obstacles that may defeat them."

The Committee for Parliamentary Liaison for the Small Business and Self-Employed Sector has support from both Labour and Conservative MPs. One idea under discussion is a "social contract" for small businesses and the self-employed. Enquires to: John Coleman, The Nook, Hook Village, Warsash, Southampton.

People in the big business system are becoming aware of the need to encourage small, local enterprise. The Action Resource Centre, 7 Strutton Ground, London SW1P 2HY, an organisation to encourage the participation of business in the community, has arranged a number of business secondments to small enterprise projects providing jobs for the currently unemployed. The editor of the Journal of General Management believes that big businesses have a responsibility to generate new businesses and employment opportunities. Contact: Keith MacMillan, Administrative Staff College, Greenlands, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 3AU.

NEW THINKING ABOUT WORK

"The Future of Work", prepared by David Elliott and published by the Open University Press, provides an excellent starting point and contains recommendations for further reading. "The work/non-work split has important cultural, economic and social implications because activities, tasks and responsibilities such as housework, child-rearing, voluntary social work and artistic creation, while being vital to the maintenance and health of society, are not perceived or rewarded as "work". The way work will change in the future will depend to a considerable extent on how these culturally sustained divisions change or develop, that is upon our values and norms and our attitudes to work and non-work." Contact: David Elliott, 39 Holland Park, London W11 4UB.

Basil Mager (see p.2) writes: "In capitalist society much work is done that is not socially necessary but is profitable for shareholders and entrepreneurs; if it were not done there would be greatly increased unemployment. In a rational society, conscious of the need for conserving resources, such work would indeed be eliminated, and the resulting unemployment would mean more leisure for all. Most of the proposals put forward by Turning Point people are utopian, in the sense that their implementation in the immediate future cannot be envisaged, but this idea of escape from toil has a wide and immediate appeal to common sense"

The Vanier Institute of the Family are exploring the concepts and realities pertaining to work, income and the economy, and are particularly concerned with the evolving meanings of these three terms as they relate to the attempt to better our lives as persons, families and communities within the overall societal fabric. They plan to publish their findings in a document similar to the Whole Earth Catalog, though on a more modest scale. They would like to hear from people who are looking at, writing about, living out, experimenting with or developing new approaches. Contact: James Anglin, Vanier Institute of the Family, 151 Slater, Ottawa, Canada K1P 5H3. "The first step towards ensuring the survival of families and

communities is to recognise that our so-called 'economic' life and 'social' life are one and the same fabric. Only then will we be able to alter our 'economic' priorities to truly place our families and communities first. The question of whether or not jobs should be created then becomes 'How can we best help persons to become more healthy and complete, and families and communities to maintain healthy relationships, through fulfilling and productive work?'" W.A. Dyson, Vanier Institute of the Family (see above).

The spring newsletter of Environmentalists for Full Employment (EFFE) will focus on energy consumption and economic growth; energy consumption and jobs; solar energy and jobs; the politics of solar energy; and occupational safety, energy and jobs. Contact: Richard Grossman, EFFE, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington DC 20036. Incidentally, Hazel Henderson (see p.9) is closely associated with EFFE. So is Byron Kennard, Chairman of the National Council for Public Assessment of Technology, also at 1785 Massachusetts Avenue NW.

"Changing concepts of work, whether at the personal or at the community or social level or both, are inescapably related to a changing sense of purpose - of what it is useful to do. ... the labour market cannot much longer elicit credibility as an organising device for the activity of working or distributing income ... the concept of work as something that must be socially productive in the eyes of the beholder is coming to be used to sort meaningful from empty jobs. ... A whole new concept of work is emerging which will dismiss as work much which now passes for it and will embrace as work much which is not now included in it. ... Local Initiative Programs and similar schemes, designed out of a labour market mentality which was concerned to "create jobs", have served another and much more important purpose, the redefining of work for some of those who were ready to move in this direction. ... We are going to need to rely increasingly on individuals and communities to define their own concepts of work. ... The enormous intellectual and social ferment of our times (whether we label it as future shock, or the transition to post-industrial society, the emergence of Consciousness III or the stable state, or childhood's end) is the context for changing concepts of work." These quotes are taken from "Re-working the World: a Report on Changing Concepts of Work" by Gail Stewart and Cathy Starrs, The Public Policy Concern, Room 600, 71 Bank Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5N2, Canada.

HOUSING, TRANSPORT and the ENVIRONMENT

"Why can we not simply see a house built as a house built, needing only to be lived in and maintained? We insist on inventing for it an asset value. ... A house once built should never be sold except in exchange in whole or part for another house to be lived in. On the death of its occupants it should pass into the possession of the community". From "The House-Demolishers" by Peter Ecker, Mount St., Breaston, Derby DE7 3AJ, who has also written on "Living Hopelessly" and a "Message from the People of Mars to the People of Earth".

The Centre for Alternatives in Urban Development is moving to Stock Place, Grenade Street, London E14 shortly where it will become one of the Local Resource and Information Centres in the international housing network initiated at the 1976 Habitat Forum, UN Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver. Contact for the Centre: Peter Stead, 3 Provost Road, London NW3. Contact for the Network: John Turner, 2A Woodsome Road, London NW5 1YR.

"Places for People", edited by Harford Thomas, contains articles by Barbara Ward, John Turner, Colin Ward, E.F. Schumacher, Jon Tinker and others, including Harford Thomas himself and other well known Guardian columnists. A teaching and study kit, devised by Leslie Smith, is also available. Enquiries to: Guardian Publications, 2nd Floor, 21 John Street, London WC1N 2BL

Study groups, comprising a cross-section of people working in the Port of London, have agreed on the need for a National Integrated Transport Policy, incorporating a waterways and ports policy. The movement of freight from docks and wharves in London on to roads is wasteful of resources and ignores a freightway which needs no construction - the Thames. Suitable sites and equipment for interface between road, rail and water should be identified and utilised. Contact: The Rev. Frank J. Hackett, Chaplain in the docks, London Industrial Chaplaincy, 51 Courtenay Gdns, Uppminster, Essex RM14 1DH.

The following hypothesis is put forward in a presentation by the Center for Human Mobility. "A positive correlation exists between energy consumption per head (particularly energy for transport) and the erosion of time per head available for self-fulfilling activities". Contact: Tim Benjamin, Center for Human Mobility, 10 Quai Paul Doumer, 92401 Courbevoie Cedex, France.

Tony Beamish, 4 Mountfort Crescent, London N1, writes "Local groups concerned by motorway threats to their areas may like to know about a recent meeting of representatives from groups in North London, with speakers from LATA, Transport 2000, CALM, FoE, ConSoc, etc., and Mr. John Tyme as special platform speaker. The meeting agreed that there was a need for better liaison between motorway protest groups in general, for exchange of information and mutual support. No new organisation was set up, but Diane Rudin will collate names and addresses and circulate them to interested parties. SAE's would be appreciated. Address: 42 Holmesdale Road, London N6.

Environment Canada recently published an exciting report called "Canadians in Conversation about the Future" by Cathy Starrs (see p.7). Here are a few quotes from it. "We may be losing sight of the fact that democracy can only be healthy when leadership comes from the people, not only from their elected representatives." "I'm becoming increasingly impatient with bureaucrats, academics and others who portray growing pessimism about where we're headed. The way to get rid of the pessimism is to get out and do things with people. Then you discover there is all sorts of room to solve small problems and in the process to raise consciousness about larger issues." "This new perception of the function of planning would consciously examine the ethics of planning for others as if planners knew what was wanted." "As our problems become ecological, our solutions must become ecological, and therefore our thinking must become ecological, integrating the cognitive and the affective, the descriptive and the ethical." "Canadians in Conversation about the Future" is available in English or French, free of charge to libraries, institutions, and interested citizens while the limited supply lasts. Write to the Office of the Science Advisor, Environment Canada, Ottawa and ask for "Report No.12".

Polytechnic, and the City University. The aim is to investigate the nature of management in groups, institutions, organisations and activities where conventional notions of authority and the rights of ownership do not apply. Contact: Ronnie Lessem, City University Business School, 23 Goswell Road, Lionel Denny House, London EC1; or Prof. Charles Handy, London Business School, Sussex Place, London NW1.

In "Symptoms of Tomorrow" (Plume Press) Curth Higgin, Professor of Continuing Management Education, Dept. of Management, Loughborough University of Technology, Loughborough, Leics LE11 3TU, argues that "industrial culture is experiencing something akin to a centroversion crisis" - or crisis of middle age. His current research programme at Loughborough starts with the hypothesis that the changes currently apparent, and those that seem likely, in Britain and in the world's economic and social systems may in sum constitute a change in kind, not only in degree. The objective is to test this hypothesis and to explore the changes in factual bases and assumptions that it may imply, as well as to attempt to build new models, both theoretically and through action research, of a kind more relevant to any changed conditions.

Grigor McClelland's 1976 Swarthmore Lecture (90p from the Friends Home Service Committee, Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ) is called "And A New Earth: Making Tomorrow's World Better Than Today's". Grigor McClelland is Director of the Manchester Business School. He argues for "seeking further improvement by working within, and where necessary seeking to amend, the sort of society we have got, rather than seeking in some way to overthrow it, or to contract out, and - if that were possible - to start again."

Colin Hutchinson, Kingswood, Beatrice Road, Oxted, Surrey (a member of the TP ad hoc committee and author of the ConSoc pamphlet "The Crisis of Life Styles") is now working as an independent consultant, advising and helping with the management of change.

Social Ecology Associates is a non-profit consulting and research organisation. It aims to promote processes of development which enhance human freedom and creativity, deepen social insight, and encourage co-operation in society. Contact: Peter Burger, 6 St. Peter's Close, St. Albans, Herts.

PEACE, DISARMAMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS and DIY DEFENCE

We are delighted that Betty Williams of the Northern Ireland Peace People, Upper Crescent, Belfast 7, is to be one of our speakers at the Turning Point meeting on 23rd April. We only wish that Eileen Egan, The Catholic Worker, 36 East First Street, New York, NY 10003 and Russ Johnson, American Friends Service Committee, 48 Inman St., Cambridge, Mass. 02139, USA, and other peace people in the United States could be there too.

Write to Peter Cadogan, 1 Hampstead Hill Gardens, London NW3 for information about his proposal Peace Action: Atlantic to the Urals.

A conference on "Development and the Arms Race", jointly organised in January in London by the United Nations Association and the Society for International Development, brought out clearly the links between

disarmament and the new international economic order, and also the relevance of ecology, decentralisation, appropriate technology and the principle of humanity (as opposed to masculinity). Brian Johnson, Bryckden Place, Waldron, Sussex, who will be one of our speakers at the Turning Point meeting on 23rd April, was conference rapporteur. Reports of the conference are to be published. Enquiries to: Audrey Davies, UNA, 93 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TX.

How do so many decent people feel able to make a living out of the arms trade today, especially when there is so much else to be done? Why did so many good Christian gentlemen feel able to make a good living out of the slave trade 200 years ago? A question of consciousness?

The Centre for Human Rights and Responsibilities (Richard Hauser, 64 Millbank, London SW1) is the British affiliate of the Federation Internationale des Droits de l'Homme. Its work includes social education, or the preparation of children and adults living in the rapidly changing conditions of the present and future; social value planning, or the know-why; the unlearning of stereotypes and conformity-producing blockages; and the building up of a more positive social climate, not burdened with the apathy and violence that are most people's response to the frustrations of modern life. The Centre works with people in a wide variety of urban breakdown situations and in conflict areas, and has a particular concern for minorities under pressure anywhere in the world.

Bob Welke (see p.5) has developed some stimulating ideas on "DIY Defense." He says, "To decentralise at all, and to keep it that way, all spheres of social life must decentralise: politics, technology, economics, religion, education, recreation, finance, health care, communications, housing, and the military." Speculating why decentralists have paid so little attention to security and defense, he says "perhaps the subject of the military is simply distasteful. But realities must be faced. Providing for security and defense is one of them."

TRY BEING HEALTHY (That Goes for the Economy too!)

The Unit for the Study of Health Policy have a lot of good ideas in "Health, Money and the National Health Service" (60p including UK postage), and "Economic Policy and Health" (40p), the cover of which carries a Warning - Economic Policy Can Damage Your Health. "The economist's typical prescription for health - hold back on health services so that you can create more wealth and then you will be able to buy more hospitals - reveals a complete misunderstanding of what is important for health ... To the growth economists it doesn't matter whether the products of industrial activity are more sweets to rot the children's teeth or insulating blocks for houses. Essentially, the concern is with measured economic busyness rather than with purposes. The difficult but essential distinction between socially useful and socially damaging production is lost if all are mesmerised by such heterogeneous categories as growth, gross national product, and rates of employment." Contact: Peter Draper, USHP, Guys Hospital Medical School, 8 Newcomen Street, London SE1 1YR.

!Try Being Healthy" and "Try Being Human" are the titles of two books

by Dr. Alec Forbes, Laundry Cottage, Down Thomas, Plymouth, Devon, a consultant physician whose message is that the answer to the problems of society, like those of the individual, is for each person to take responsibility for himself and try to live as a human being, not as a creature of habit.

The autumn 1976 issue of "Health for the New Age" contains a section on Improving the Quality of Life in our Society. "What we see more clearly now is that individuals, families and communities are sick. Once adequate positive health education is introduced within the framework of a caring community, all sorts of benefits will follow." Marcus and Marika McCausland, Health for the New Age, 1a Addison Crescent, London W14 8JP.

Bernard D. Nossiter of the Washington Post (6th December 1976) wrote a perceptive diagnosis of Britain's situation, "Having reached a tolerable standard, Britons appear to be choosing leisure over goods ... It is too soon to insist that the New Jerusalem will never be built in Blake's 'green and pleasant land'. Indeed, there is some reason to think the leisurely Britons may have already laid the corner stone."

But let's give the last word on health to the doctor. Here is Peter Draper again - best bedside manner - speaking to the British economy: "You seem to be going through a kind of middle-age crisis, you are on the edge of a new phase of life, what some social physicians have called a "post-industrial" state. Try to sort out what it is you want to accomplish; talk about it, so that appropriate courses of action will make themselves more apparent. And don't, please, go on holiday with any of the other hypochondriacs in your neighbourhood. If you need company, choose friends who can concentrate on goals and values. You have the age and experience to sort things out - and only you can decide what you want to make of your life."

ENABLING PROFESSIONS

"If poverty is basically the absence of power, social action must involve giving people part of this power back. We lawyers should be training people to understand the law and apply it to represent themselves." "This 'Me God, you stupid' attitude of the doctor towards the patient which stems from professional insecurity, is a kind of refined violence." "The question we must seriously ask ourselves is to what extent are we as physicians prepared to disappear? What we should be asking in our relationships with patients is 'What have I done so this person can manage to do without me in the future?'" "Among the social pitfalls fostered by the professions is the trend towards overdependency which verges on helplessness. Among the questions we professionals must ask ourselves is whether we are helpers or hinderers. Are we creating an endless production of services that draw us further into a trap? Do we, through the framing of laws and other structures create barriers that we then must spend valuable time breaking down again?" These quotes are from a recent conference held by the Vanier Institute of the Family (see p.6).

"The complexity of English law has by now reached a degree where the system is not only unknown, but unknowable, save to the extent of a few of its departments, even to the professionals." From "Law Reform Now" by Gerald Gardiner (subsequently Lord Chancellor) and Andrew

Martin, 1963. (In the following decade 1963-1972 a further 18,000 pages of new legislation were added to the statute book).

Ivan Illich is one of the authors of "Disabling Professions", to be published in June by Marion Boyars, 18 Brewer Street, London W1R 4AS in the Ideas in Progress series. Other books in the same series include "Profit Or People?" and "Power, Money and Sex" by James Robertson and "Housing By People" by John Turner.

"The great majority, if not all, housing, building and planning agencies, and most of their professional and administrative agents, are locked into the procedural and conceptual assumption that government housing actions are categorical programmes. That is a specific category of goods and services for a specific category of users. Any new or newly perceived problem, therefore, is promptly seen as a demand for a new programme." From "Housing By People" by John Turner, 2A Woodsome Road, London NW5 1YR.

In a 1976 lecture called "Is Planning Really Necessary", Alice Coleman, Kings College, Strand, London WC2R 2SL, describes an approach to environmental planning which would widen the range of options for people, not narrow them.

John G.U. Adams, Geography Dept., University College, London WC1, in recent papers on "The National Traffic Forecasts" and "Saturation Planning", has shown that present methods of traffic forecasting are neither sound nor fair. In "And how much for your grandmother?" and "You're never alone with schizophrenia" he deals with cost/benefit analysis and mathematical models of society. "Such models are the modern planners' stock-in-trade. ... They may represent, for some shrunken souls, the essence of society. But rather I suspect they represent a retreat from a reality that is too alarming to contemplate. They represent a proper Laingian case of schizophrenia, in which a real world that is frightening and obviously out of control is replaced by a more comforting fantasy world in which the planner is master."

"The Barefoot Psychoanalyst", by John Southgate and Rosemary Randall is obtainable (price £1) from The Association of Karen Horney Psychoanalytic Counsellors, Burleigh House, Bell Common, Epping, Essex. The Association's major goal is to aid untrained people to gain skills in psychoanalytic self-analysis. It aims to build up a basic group of highly skilled counsellors and teachers, and to introduce co-operative methods on as wide a scale as possible. It intends also to train people working in neighbourhood, community, voluntary and health projects.

The Community Branches of the Royal Bank of Canada are designed to provide banking services "to people on welfare as well as to the working poor, in order to begin to build bridges from the culture of poverty into the mainstream of Canadian life. This includes counselling and referral services and provides meeting space in front of the branch for the people in the community so that they can teach themselves how to manage their funds, assess their financial problems, and derive workable solutions." Alfred E. Levin, Manager (Public Affairs), Royal Bank of Canada (Head Office), Montreal, Canada.

MISCELLANEOUS

Michael Riddell, The Ockenden Venture, Guildford Road, Woking, Surrey tells us that in August 1977 a Festival of Hope for Mankind is being initiated by the Ockenden Venture. Also that visitors are welcome to visit Ockenden, and that Ockenden have openings for co-partners with experience and skills in a wide range of fields.

Ray Bomber, 84 Rye Road Hoddesdon, Herts, has information about the Sonnenberg International conferences and seminars on educational, political and social subjects. There are nearly 60 of them in 1977. Contact him, or Gordon Burnett, Educational Interchange Council, 43 Russell Square, London WC1 5DG.

For information about "The Globe Workshops", write to Bill Edwards, The Globe, Weedon, Northants.

"Today, in this period of transition into a new age, responsibility lies squarely on the shoulders of men and women of goodwill to hold the vision of a new world clearly before them and to create the subjective climate for its growth." World Goodwill, 235 Finchley Road, Hampstead, London NW3 6LS.

Ian Hopton, 100 Cornwall Gardens, London SW7, has a useful one-page information sheet about organisations and individuals interested in Site Value Taxation of land.

National Centre for Alternative Technology. After building a solar heated exhibition hall and a conservation house last year, the Centre is now converting the old quarry engine sheds into a lecture room, with teashop, wholefood store, laboratories, etc. The organic garden and fish culture project are being expanded, a smallholding is being prepared, and improvements and additions are being made to existing equipment, including the dozen windmills and the solar panel display. The Centre plans to open a wholefood shop in Machynlleth, the nearest town; and an educational programme for secondary schools, with slide packs and folders, is being prepared. Visitors welcome, daily from 10am to 5pm. Contact (please enclose SAE): Roderick James, NCAT, Llwyngwern Quarry, Pantperthog, Machynlleth, Powys, Wales.

Alternative Society

AS Working Papers are available on Education, Housing and Land (others to follow). "A characteristic of all three papers is the tone of reasoned commonsense. The solutions offered recognise that amendment of existing institutions is often preferable to abolition. The prime duty of the central government should be to guarantee access to resources, finance and land, the duty of the individual is seen as acceptance of responsibility for his or her own wellbeing." - Ian Hopton's review in Resurgence. Alternative Society now plans to increase its membership substantially. Contact: Stan Windass, Rookery North, Adderbury, Nr. Banbury, Oxon.

Lower Shaw Farm is now operating independently as a residential centre for meetings connected with alternatives. Contact: Dick Kitto, Lower Shaw Farm, Shaw, Swindon, Wilts.

Alternative Society's newsletter for January 1977 reports that "the movement for Rural Resettlement is gathering force. An overall grouping of individuals and organisations working in this field has been set up to provide an information network." Contact: Tony Harris, 1 Circus, Bath.

"Despite numerous warnings from ecologists about the wasteful and dangerous society we have constructed, our social policy experts have failed to consider the possibility of lessening unemployment by encouraging a small-scale and ecologically sound agriculture. Indeed, the very language of "jobs" and "employment" serves to preclude consideration of seemingly obsolete notions such as self employment and independence". From "Ten Per Cent In Agriculture" by Michael Marien (see p.9).

The Network Alternative. "It becomes increasingly clear that social scientists and practitioners are seeking a new vocabulary, one that would provide a means for demystifying the complexity of the organisational problem and other networks by which we are surrounded and in which our activity is embedded." A preliminary meeting was organised by the Science and Human Affairs Programme, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada, in November 1976. The International Foundation for Social Innovation in Paris (see p.16) was among the bodies associated with this meeting.

John Davis of Intermediate Technology Development Group is undertaking a project on appropriate technology for the UK. His January 1977 newsletter (AT-UK Exchange No.2) is full of interesting information. Address: 10 Grenfell Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks.

James Robertson and Alison Pritchard met many good people actively concerned with social change during their 2½ months travel last autumn in the USA and Canada. Their card index now contains about 200 people and organisations, supported by a good deal of written information and publications. Please write to them, sending SAE, for specific information, or for the 4-page note on their visit.

A Safe Energy Petition is being launched in support of policies to divert funds to Safe Renewable Energy Sources and to phase out Nuclear Power. This will be a continuing petition, perhaps over several years, to persuade governments that there is nationwide concern and MPs that this is a live issue for their constituencies. Suggestions are available on ways and means of collecting signatures. Please send for forms, stating how many signatures you hope to collect initially and enclosing SAE to: Jane Pink, The Safe Energy Petitioners, c/o 19 Cheyne Walk, London SW3.

Write to Val Stevens, 77 School Road, Birmingham 28 for anti-nuke stickers, if you want to spread the message about the dangers of nuclear power. £1 per 100. Cheques to Val Stevens or to Friends of the Earth, Birmingham.

For details of the new Self-Sufficiency Association and its magazine "Survivalist", contact D.J. Mackridge, 34 Crescent Court, Surbiton, Surrey.

If you want to start local TP activities, it's up to you. The following are interested, so why not contact them, if you live in their area? C. and V. Ruffley, 11 Wymond Street, Putney, London SW15 and Ralph Pryke, Millington House, Danbury, Chelmsford, Essex.

STOP PRESS: Write to Guy Dauncey, Holne Cross Cottage, Ashburton, Devon, for information about SHERRACK'S Unemployment Handbook.

SOME INTERESTING MEETINGS IN 1977

1st March: SERA meeting on HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT and the ECONOMY, with Peter Draper and Gordon Best of USHP (see p.11). 6.30pm, Lamb and Flag Pub, Rose Street, Covent Garden, London WC2.

28th-30th March: Study Meetings of the INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION in Paris. Topics include Small Communities, Coping with Complexities, the Business Enterprise, Social Fiction, World Forum. Enquiries to: International Foundation for Social Innovation, 20 Rue Laffitte, 75009 Paris, France.

15th-20th April: INDUSTRY, THE COMMUNITY and APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY (ICAT 77). Five days of events in Leeds and the North of England. Enquiries to: Roland Chaplain, Future Studies Centre, 15 Kelso Road, Leeds LS2 9PR. (The FSC's February newsletter is full of interesting information.)

19th-24th April: FESTIVAL OF MIND AND BODY, Olympia, London. Enquiries to: 159 George Street, London W1.

23rd and 24th April: THE END OF ECONOMIC GROWTH - WHAT NEXT? Conservation Society Open National Conference at Sheffield City Polytechnic. Among those billed are: the Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Sir Richard Acland, Lord Avebury, Alice Coleman, John Davoll, Nigel Forman MP, Joan Maynard MP, Councillor Michie, Bishop Montefiore, Prof. Page, Leonard Taitz, and Jack Wadsworth. ConSoc expect this to be "an important national occasion, and indeed a turning point". Not only members of the Society but many other people involved in industry, agriculture, planning, and central and local government are expected to take part. Conference Fee £3.00 + £1.50 for lunch on Saturday and £1.50 for lunch on Sunday. Cheques payable to Conservation Society (Sheffield Conference). Enquiries and correspondence to Richard Baker, Hardingley, Cawley Lane, Holmfild, Sheffield S18 5SD.

21st May: the MAY LECTURES on SCIENCE, MIND and the SPIRIT OF MAN, organised by the Scientific and Medical Network, at the Royal Society of Medicine, London. Speakers:

- Dr. D.M.A. Leggett on "The Wind of Change"
- Prof. Derek Bryce-Smith on "Morality as Natural Law"
- James Robertson on "Breakdown or Breakthrough"
- Dr. E.F. Schumacher on "The Economics of Permanence"

Fuller information and tickets, costing £6 (including Coffee, Lunch and Tea), from: Dr. Patrick Shackleton, Sidmouth House, Cotmaton Road, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 8ST.

5th-7th September: A conference at Newcastle University on APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY and INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE will discuss the role of our present institutions, the barriers they present to changes in the direction of appropriate technology, and the need for "enabling alternatives". Enquiries to: Colin Marsh, AT Conference Secretary, Dept. of Civil Engineering, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Claremont Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU.

8th October: A conference in London about the changing purposes and concepts of WORK is being organised by the TEILHARD CENTRE FOR THE FUTURE OF MAN, 81 Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BW. James Robertson is helping to arrange the programme and will be a speaker.