

# TURNING POINT 2000

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January 1996

TURNING POINT 2000 is about an enabling (for people), conserving (for the Earth), one-world human community for the 21st century. The newsletter comes out twice yearly. Please use it to make direct contact with people and organisations mentioned. The next issue will be in August 1996. Please send items for it by mid-July.

**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.

Enquiries and communications to Alison Pritchard or James Robertson, The Old Bakehouse, Cholsey, Oxon OX10 9NU, England. Tel: Cholsey (01491) 652346. Fax: (01491) 651804.

## CURRENT PLANS AND PROJECTS

Our visit to South Africa in February/March is being coordinated by HUMAN SCALE DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (PO Box 34678, Groote Schuur 7937, South Africa; John Clarke), "a democratic educational forum aimed at positively influencing development thinking and practice... by promoting an understanding and application of human scale development theory and methodology in Southern Africa... by seeking out, proposing and demonstrating alternative means by which our diverse people can satisfy their fundamental human needs".

James has been working on the complex of issues concerning work, taxes, incomes, economic efficiency, social cohesion and ecological sustainability. See p.3 for recent published articles. Please send three 19p stamps if you would like a copy of James's 2-page summary of his contribution to a discussion in October by 15 'experts' from 10 countries on "What Future for Work in Europe?" with Jacques Santer (President of the European Union). For information about follow-up, ask the European Commission's Cellule de Prospective/Forward Studies Unit (rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium; Jerome Vignon).

## TURNING POINT 2000 SEMINARS

Most items in this newsletter raise the question of how to overcome obstacles to desirable change. Our two Saturday Seminars here on 27 April and 11 May will be on OVERCOMING OBSTACLES. A leaflet is enclosed for readers in the UK and Europe. If anyone further afield would like to have details, please let us know.

## POLITICS, POLITICAL ECONOMY AND GOVERNMENT

Video: Andrew Samuels: THE POLITICIAN WITHIN: 1995, 60 minutes, £14.95 + £1.50 p&p, from Alternative View (The Old Auction Mart, Station Approach, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1EU). Jungian analyst Andrew Samuels discusses: the growing frustration with mainstream politics; the rise of social and environmental activism, and of concern with self-discovery and spiritual awareness; and the tendency for the socially and politically active and those involved in inner and therapeutic work to have little time for each others' concerns. How is the gap to be bridged in a new politics of the person? How can the outer-directed discover their own political myth and political type? How can the inner-directed become effective externally?

In GANDHI MARG, January-March 1995 (Gandhi Peace Foundation, 221-223 Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg, New Delhi 110 002, India), Clymes Augustine and A.K. Sharma "examine the paradigm of new social movements in the framework of Gandhian thought". Whereas classical social movements, including Marxism, aimed to capture state power or replace the ruling class by another more acceptable class, the goal of the new social movements (women, peace, human rights, ecology, etc.) is civilisational change. Like Gandhi, they aim for the revitalisation and transformation of values, norms and institutions.

Speaking for future generations raises two problems. First, what political weight to give to posterity's demands; in an imagined voting procedure would the spokesmen for posterity have an infinite number of votes? Second, how to choose between visions of the good life for people who cannot voice their opinion. We cannot actually respond to the requests of posterity; we can only recommend a lifestyle. Per Ariansen discusses "Sustainability, Morality and Future Generations" in FUTURE GENERATIONS JOURNAL (Foundation for International Studies, St. Paul's Street, Valletta, Malta).

In an October 1994 lecture on "Liberty and Sustainability: Where One Person's Freedom Is Another's Nuisance", 20pp, £3.50 + 50p p&p from the JOHN STUART MILL INSTITUTE (1 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HE), Jonathon Porritt stressed the importance of population policy for Britain and for the world. In this, and other aspects of sustainable development, politicians face difficult decisions, not just about the freedom of some people to reduce the freedom of others, but about the freedom of people today to reduce the freedom of future generations.

For ECO (Campaign for Political Ecology, 42 Rose Terrace, Leeds LS18 4QA; George Williamson) conserver politics are seriously at odds with "radical-progressive greenery". Two thought-provoking 1995 papers by Sandy Irvine (45 Woodbine Road, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 1DE) are "Red Sails in the Sunset: An Ecopolitical Critique of the Socialist Inheritance" (27pp) and "Sustainable Development - The Last Refuge of Humanism?" (10pp). Also see ECO's Conserver Charter.

In DEMOCRACY IN ACTION, September 1995 (Institute for Democracy in South Africa, Albion Spring, 1 Albion Close, Rondebosch, 7700 South Africa), Hermien Kotze suggests that the Reconstruction and Development Programme could be threatened by self-serving notions of development as delivery of goods and services, although "fifty years of international development experience have proved over and over again that development is about the development of people and not the delivery of things". Another obstacle to meaningful development is bureaucratisation. Bureaucrats, being preoccupied with hierarchies and unable to cooperate interdepartmentally, are not good developers.

Heavy reductions in public spending and taxation, and repayment of National Debt, are proposed in "Rolling Back The State For Real: The Alternative Clarke Budget 1995" by Antoine Clarke - Economic Notes No.66, LIBERTARIAN ALLIANCE (25 Chapter Chambers, Esterbrooke Street, London SW1P 4NN; director Chris Tame). [Don't libertarians see that, so long as big business continues to enjoy unaccountable freedom, and wealthy interests are allowed to "enclose" common resources for their own profit, it won't be easy to demolish the case for big government as a countervailing power and redistributer of resources? Eds.]

"By and large the agendas of mainline economics and the policies of decisive economic and political actors at home and abroad...strive for growth in wealth and power regardless of the consequences for the natural environment, their less fortunate contemporaries and future generations. It is part of the prophetic ministry of the church to cry out against this selfishness and short sightedness. In fact, we need an entirely new economic paradigm which is based not on supply and demand but on need and capacity to fulfil that need". One of Klaus Nurnberger's conclusions in AN ECONOMIC VISION FOR SOUTH AFRICA: THE TASK OF THE CHURCH IN THE POST-APARTHEID ECONOMY, a 68pp booklet, 1994, from Encounter Publications (PO Box 647, 3200 Pietermaritzburg, South Africa) is that the state should institute countervailing mechanisms against the tendency of a free economy towards concentrations of power. "The intervention of the state is indispensable to keep the economy free and fair".

A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY by Juliet Schor is New Party Paper 1, April 1995, 30pp, \$4 + \$1 p&p, from Open Magazine Pamphlet Series (PO Box 2726, Westfield, NJ 07091, USA). The New Party (227 West 40th Street, Suite 1303, New York, NY 10018, USA) believes that Americans can design a set of economic policies based on principles of sustainability, democratic control, equality and efficiency - including a restructuring of business and a new democratic model of work relations and enterprise.

REDEFINING PROGRESS (1 Kearny Street, 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94108, USA) promotes new public policies that advance the principles of enterprise, responsibility and stewardship; build local autonomy and broaden opportunity; and enrich civic society. Its Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) aims to replace GDP/GNP.

We must make poverty as personally offensive as apartheid became. If the world would campaign against poverty as it did against apartheid, then there is a chance it could be eradicated. Kay Caldwell reports in NEW SECTOR, Sept-Oct 1995, (Society Place, West Calder EH55 8EA) on the 2nd Commonwealth Forum of NGOs in Wellington, New Zealand.

"What political party, living in constant fear of losing its election and public relations funding, will vote in favour of people-centred money and banking laws?". David Weston (1371 Discovery Avenue, Nanaimo, BC V9R 4B5, Canada) discusses money in the NANAIMO TIMES.

James Robertson on "Towards A New Social Compact: Citizens Income and Radical Tax Reform" (5pp) will be in POLITICAL QUARTERLY, January 1996. His "Electronics, Environment and Employment: Harnessing Private Gain to the Common Good" (18pp) was in FUTURES, June 1995; his "People and Places: Beyond the Dependency Culture" (4pp) in DEVELOPMENT, 1995:3 (see p.13); and his "United Reforms?" (2pp) - on the coming restructuring of taxes and benefits - in TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING, October 1995. Another article on Green Taxes will appear in NEW INTERNATIONALIST shortly. [Also see page 1.]

## NEW ECONOMICS AND PEOPLE-CENTRED DEVELOPMENT

The central objective of the African National Congress's 147pp **Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP)**, 1994, from Umanyano Publications (PO Box 3851, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa), is "to improve the quality of life of all South Africans, and in particular the most poor and marginalised sections of our communities. This objective should be realised through a process of empowerment which gives the poor control over their lives and increases their ability to mobilise sufficient development resources, including from the democratic government where necessary. The RDP reflects a commitment to grass roots, bottom-up development which is owned and driven by communities and their representative organisations".

"The RDP's [see above] view of the development process in society is firmly based on the more recent progressive tradition of human or people-centred development. In the historical South African context, it is both a very significant and a refreshingly new vision". In **NEEDS-BASED DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND THE RDP**, Development Paper 47, 24pp, May 1995, from the Development Bank of Southern Africa (PO Box 1234, 1685 Halfway House, South Africa) Johan C van Zyl discusses the concept of empowering, human-scale development, and contrasts it with development as a kind of "institutionalised charity ultimately aimed at empowering the politicians of the day".

**TRACK TWO**, from the Centre for Conflict Resolution (c/o UCT, Private Bag, Rondebosch, 7700 South Africa), is on constructive approaches to community and political conflict. The September 1995 issue includes John Clarke (see p.1) on the philosophy/practice of the Human Scale Development Network, inspired by barefoot economist Manfred Max-Neef. John Clarke's **HUMAN SCALE DEVELOPMENT: A SOUTH AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE**, December 1993, 37pp, was published by the Ecumenical Foundation of Southern Africa (PO Box 2305, Bellville, 7535 South Africa).

The shift to sustainable consumption "may require a revolution in the way we live our lives, in the way we understand our role as stewards of the earth, and in the way we produce, trade, distribute and consume goods. It is easy to conclude that the challenge is too daunting". However, "if you think you're too small to make a difference, you've never been in bed with a mosquito". "Redefining the American Dream: The Search for Sustainable Consumption" and "Yearning for Balance: Views of Americans on Consumption, Materialism and the Environment" are very good - from the **MERCK FAMILY FUND** (6930 Carroll Avenue, Suite 500, Takoma Park, MD 20912, USA; Betsy Taylor).

**CONSUMING OUR COMMON FUTURE** is a 15pp discussion paper, October 1995, from CUTS (see p.10) on greening the UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection. A new chapter on Sustainable Consumption is proposed.

**Just Out!** "Developing Social Wealth: Financing the Social Economy", report (88pp) of a joint conference in Birmingham, May 1995, of INAISE (International Association of Investors in the Social Economy, rue d'Arlon 40, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium) and UKSIF (UK Social Investment Forum, 318 Summer Lane, Birmingham B19 4RL: Pat Conaty), includes James Robertson, Geoff Mulgan (DEMOS), Glen Saunders (Triodos/Mercury Provident) and Denis Clerc (Alternative Economique).

Shann Turnbull (PO Box 266, Woollahra, Sydney, NSW 2025, Australia) will be in USA and Europe in June/July. He convenes the Australian Chapter of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, and publishes on many aspects of "democratising the wealth of nations".

"The land is the common heritage of the people and all people have natural and equal rights in land. By the term land is meant all natural resources. ... We assert that the exercise of both common and individual rights in land is essential to a society based on justice. But the rights of individuals in natural resources are limited by the just rights of the community. Those who begin by denying the existence of common rights in land end by creating a condition of society wherein the exercise of individual rights becomes impossible for the great mass of the people". This DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS BASED ON EQUAL FREEDOM is issued by the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade (177 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1).

The Centre for Incentive Taxation (177 Vauxhall Bridge Road - above - chairman: John Loveless) aims to recruit 5000 new supporters by the year 2000. In LAND AND LIBERTY, Autumn 1995, W.J. Barber (9 Lords Hill, Coleford, Glos GL16 8BG) proposes a well-informed popular Georgist political movement. Fred Harrison (7 Kings Road, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 0QB) and associates of the LAND POLICY COUNCIL from Korea, Australia, South Africa, USA, Britain and Denmark have been working on land value taxation in several parts of Russia.

The idea that a basic citizen's income might be based on the claim to a fair share of common resources is on the agenda for the 10th Anniversary Congress of BIEN (Basic Income European Network - Secretary Philippe Van Parijs, Universite Catholique de Louvain, 3 Place Montesquieu, B-1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium) - in Vienna, 12-14 September 1996. The BIEN newsletter is now available by e-mail. The December issue is a mine of useful information.

INNOVATION AND EMPLOYMENT Newsletter, June 1995 (OECD-LEED, 2 rue Andre-Pascal, 75775 Paris 16, France), is on the need to integrate economic, social and environmental development at the local level. A section on "Overcoming The Obstacles" refers to the need to "tax energy-consuming industries more and reduce labour costs in return".

Anyone interested in political/economic/social change, or in energy taxes, land taxation, ecological tax reform, and citizens income, will benefit from Owen Ephraim's (50 New Road, Great Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 7QT) 7pp analysis of "Obstacles to the Acceptance of Resource Economics" (January 1995).

THE NEW ECONOMICS FOUNDATION (Vine Court, 112-116 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1JE) has launched a new International Association of Social and Ethical Assessment. Recent papers on "Accounting for Change" include "Indicators for Sustainable Development" and "The Practice of Social Auditing" by Alex MacGillivray, Simon Zadek and Peter Raynard.

"Monetary reform may be serious, but it doesn't have to be dull". Kevin Donnelly (20 Nan Nook Road, Manchester M23 9BZ) is Secretary of the CHRISTIAN COUNCIL FOR MONETARY JUSTICE.

In MONEY - FROM MASTER TO SERVANT, 60pp, 1995, 20 Dutch florins, from PROMODECO (c/o Stichting Aarde, Postbus 533, 3500 AM Utrecht, Netherlands), Willem Hoogendijk - with H.C. Binswanger - explores how the money-must-grow system drives the growth of production. We must limit the credit system and the creation of money by banks.

THE IDEAL SELF-INTEREST: self-published by Pieter Kooistra (Waalbandijk 8, 4064 CB Varik, Netherlands), 1993, 166pp, discusses a supplementary income for all administered by the UN, according to new concepts of sociocracy and psychoeconomy.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, RELIGION AND CULTURE

Denis Kenny (Director, Centre for Liberal and General Studies, University of New South Wales, Australia) discusses a profoundly important development in Western intellectual thinking in "Science, Creativity and Morality in an Ontogenetic Era" in **HOLISTIC SCIENCE AND HUMAN VALUES**, 1995 (Theosophy Science Centre, The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Madras 600020, India). The ontocratic assumption has been that "behind the screen of flux, change and time, there is a given and enduring structure or order of reality to which human beings can gain access, provided they adopt the appropriate mystical or aesthetic techniques, the correct religious beliefs, rituals and behaviour, or the right scientific method". The new ontogenetic assumption is that reality is an evolving process in which humans play a creative role. This brings a new morality of responsibility [thereby, if we understand correctly, outdating the conventional philosophical wisdom that you can't get an "ought" from an "is"].

All members of a given society regard their beliefs as truths. They believe in them because everyone believes that the others believe in them and it would be improper (even socially dangerous) not to. Only at a distance is the Aztec belief in the need to sacrifice humans to make the sun rise again seen as false. Our modern Western economic beliefs may be comparable, for example that growth will solve employment problems, that trade is mutually advantageous, and that economic rationality is transcultural. **CRITICAL REFLECTIONS ON THE CULTURE OF THE WEST**, Occasional Paper no.1, 1995, from Ecumenical Centre (174 rue Joseph II, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium; editor Alastair Hulbert) includes Gilbert Rist's "The Cultural Presuppositions of Economics", together with Wolfgang Sachs on "Global Ecology and the Shadow of 'Development'" and Patrick Viveret on "Anthropological Considerations for a Changing World".

Anthropologists recognise that what is seen as common sense and rational behaviour in our own society is shaped by cultural paradigms. These play a prominent role in development planning processes. In "The Cultural and Political Construction of Environmental Policy in Africa", Discussion Paper 3-1995, from **GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE** (Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155, USA), Allan Hoben suggests development policy should be re-examined from a cultural perspective.

"The emerging paradigm with diversity as its central theme may be the new path for humankind... a collective recognition of this change is required". In "Social Diversity and Technology for Sustainable Development", Dr Ashok Jain (Director, National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies, Doctor K.S. Krishnan Marg, New Delhi 110 012, India) shows that technology, like science, is moving towards a paradigm that treats diversity as the source of innovation.

In **ICF QUARTERLY PAPERS**, Autumn 1995 (Industry Churches Forum, 86 Leadenhall Street, London EC3A 3DH; editor Rev. David Welbourn, 81 Collingwood Crescent, Box Grove Park, Guildford GU1 2NU), John Davis (4 Streche Road, Swanage, Dorset BH19 1NF) writes that "God's creation produces no waste in a cyclic process, whereas our system maximises waste, degradation and pollution... At present we are not acting as co-partners in God's ongoing process of creation; we are doing the opposite, bringing chaos out of order, aided and abetted by scientific reductionism". In "From Control to Participation; A New Path to Sustainability", Charles Elliott presents a new view of science, integrating it with other values and sensibilities.

In "Crime and Nourishment" in SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL NETWORK REVIEW, December 1995 (Lesser Halings, Tilehouse Lane, Denham, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB9 5DG; David Lorimer) Prof Derek Bryce-Smith discusses findings that some criminals are suffering from malnutrition or poisoning, and that the correction of dietary deficiencies or imbalances by dietary changes or by multivitamin and mineral supplements can significantly reduce the incidence of violent behaviour. Important questions arise about relationships between body, mind, the social environment, morality and human behaviour - and about the open-mindedness of the relevant professions.

"If we don't reinvent the wheel, we will never get the maintenance manual". "Nipped In The Bud: Indian Inventions" by Dr C.V. Seshadri, republished in his memory in DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES, December 1995 (B-32 Tara Crescent, Qutab Institutional Area, New Delhi 110 016), rebuts Indian arguments why "innovations must be resisted at all cost" - e.g. "If it is so good, why has a white man not discovered it already?". [Contrast the Western objection NIH (not invented here).]

MODERN BELIEVING, October 1995, on Science and Theology (editor Dr. George Pattison, Kings College, Cambridge CB2 1ST), includes Arthur Peacocke on "The Challenge of Science to the Thinking Church". In the post-modern age science is under attack as sociologically and ideologically conditioned - as, in the modern age, religion has been. A 'critically realist' approach is that "both science and theology aim to depict reality; they do so in metaphorical language with the use of models; and their metaphors and models are revisable within the context of the continuous communities which have generated them".

In IRELAND FOR ALL, 69pp, Socio-Economic Review 1996, the Conference of Religious of Ireland (Milltown Park, Dublin 6, Ireland) makes recommendations for the 1996 Irish Budget and National Anti-Poverty Strategy. Dialogue, critique and comment are invited "from all sources wishing to build a society where every person has meaningful work, adequate income and effective participation". A basic income, sustainability taxes, and support for socially useful work in the voluntary and community sector, are proposed. [Why can't the British Churches produce policy analysis of this seriousness and depth?]

In GREEN CHRISTIANS, November 1995-February 1996 (69 Shelley House, Churchill Gardens, London SW1V 3JE) John Mead asks why the Church has come to think that politics and economics are outside its competence and authority, and must be abdicated to "the powers of this world". The Church should stop being "the consumer society at prayer", and "join forces with all those, whatever their religious beliefs, who are working for a just and sustainable society".

"I never had a book when I was little. Now I think we should teach all children to keep still and listen to stories" - a reaction after a visit to ATD Fourth World's Family Centre at Frimley. FOURTH WORLD Journal, Autumn 1995 (ATD Fourth World, 48 Addington Square, London SE5 7LB) is on the role of culture in anti-poverty programmes.

RESPOND! (98 Dovecot Street, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland TS18 1HA - Co-ordinator Keith Lindsey), the inter-church project which involves the victims of unemployment in demanding and designing alternatives, and in discovering a new vision for Cleveland, combines its informative 1995 annual report with its 1996 calendar - £2.50.

SILENT MINUTE (details from D.H. Forster, PO Box 6046, London W2 6GB) suggests daily prayer at 10pm for Peace and Goodwill Among Men.

## BOOKS RECEIVED

**David C. Korten:** WHEN CORPORATIONS RULE THE WORLD: Kumarian Press, 1995, 374pp, hbk, \$29.95 (Earthscan, £19.95 in UK and Europe - add £2.50 p&p to order from New Economics Foundation (see p.5). Korten sees an efficient business system as essential to human wellbeing. He is not anti-business. (As an MBA student, he saw global corporations as an answer to the problems of poverty and human conflict.) But he now believes "the systemic forces nurturing the growth and dominance of global corporations are at the heart of the current human dilemma". This powerfully documented critique conveys the urgency of radical transformation. Korten proposes his Agenda for Change in the wider context of the coming Ecological Revolution. Archbishop Desmond Tutu calls this a "must read" book. We agree.

**John Stauber and Sheldon Rampton:** TOXIC SLUDGE IS GOOD FOR YOU! LIES, DAMN LIES AND THE PUBLIC RELATIONS INDUSTRY: Common Courage Press, 1995, 240pp, pbk, \$16.95. The top fifteen PR firms earned \$1.04bn in 1994. This book explores their use of undemocratic power to manipulate public opinion on behalf of the tobacco, nuclear, sewage and chemical industries, and governments with severe human rights abuses, and shows that news and public information media are now closely integrated with non-journalistic corporate control.

**Colin Hutchinson:** VITALITY AND RENEWAL: A MANAGER'S GUIDE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY: Adamantine, 1995, 320pp, pbk, £20. The nature of our industrialised world is the unintentional cause of most of our problems. "It is essential that business organisations of every kind play a major role in the search for new solutions". Three themes are brought together: the environment and sustainable development; business opportunities, strategy and tactics; and the management of individual and organisational change. A valuable guide for people in business and government, and also for managers of environmental organisations and people promoting change in society.

**Charlotte Waterlow:** THE HINGE OF HISTORY: One World Trust, 1995, 373pp, pbk. Informative, wide-ranging and thought-provoking. In "Traditional Civilisations: 3000BC to 1800AD", civilisation and culture were collective. "The Modern Civilisation" - in which people matter - is culminating in the emergence of world community. UN reform proposals, which assume that sovereign states must remain the basis of world order, may be 'realistic' but are "not in line with the ethos of the modern age, the ethic of Human Rights. The time has come to implement the global spiritual ethic which is emerging".

**Mark Gold:** ANIMAL RIGHTS: EXTENDING THE CIRCLE OF COMPASSION: Jon Carpenter Publishing, 1995, 160pp. pbk, £7.99. Part 1 is on "Why Animal Rights?" - partly because campaigning against the persecution of animals "is part of the same tradition of radical dissent that leads to the emancipation of oppressed human minorities". Part 2, on "Changing the Way We Live", gives practical suggestions about food, clothing, cosmetics, household products, pets and pests, leisure and entertainment, ethical investment, and campaigning.

**H.G. Wells:** WORLD BRAIN: Adamantine, 1994, 185pp, pbk., £25. H.G. Wells's 1938 collection of lectures, articles and talks on "raising and unifying the general intelligence services of the world" is republished here (pp71-153), with a Critical Introduction (pp1-70) by Alan Mayne, and an Annotated Bibliography and an Index. Today's information and communication technologies, with their encyclopaedic potentials, give fresh interest to Wells's insights.



## CITIES, HOUSING AND THE LOCAL DIMENSION

UN's Habitat II in Istanbul in June will be the world's largest ever conference on Cities. In "The Metabolism of Cities" in CONNECTIONS, Autumn 1995 (UNED-UK, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL) Herbert Girardet suggests few cities can be truly sustainable. The land area needed to supply London's needs and absorb its wastes - its "ecological footprint" - equals the entire productive land of Britain. The linear urban metabolism - resources flowing in and wastes flowing out - is profoundly different from Nature's circular metabolism - with every output an input renewing and sustaining life.

"The only sustainable city is a city in balance with its countryside. .. The cities we now have are living off ecological principal, and by economic assumptions that seem certain to destroy them". FOURTH WORLD REVIEW, No.72, 1995 (24 Abercorn Place, London NW8 9XP; editor John Papworth) reprints Wendell Berry's 27 propositions about global thinking and the sustainability of cities.

Michael Brown's "Vision of Wellbeing for Cities" in ECODESIGN, Vol.III, No.4, 1995 (The British School, Slad Road, Stroud, Glos GL5 1QW) is of self-reliant villages in self-reliant cities.

The SUSTAINABLE LONDON TRUST's (John Jopling, 7 Chamberlain Street, London NW1 8XB) Manifesto will call for "a new structure for London government and new ways of taking decisions which ensure that the needs of people and the principle of sustainability take priority".

Peter Cadogan's (3 Hinchinbrook House, Greville Road, London NW6 5UP) June 1995 VALUES AND VISION paper "Recasting London" (8pp including maps, price 50p) envisages the end of the 32 megaboroughs, 400-500 new community councils, an all-London authority - recognising the voluntary sector and 'house groups' as the new political dimension.

Perry Walker's "Turning Dreams Into Concrete Reality" in NEW ECONOMICS, Winter 1995 (£2.50 from New Economics Foundation - see p.5), about helping communities to create and realise a vision of their future, includes case studies from Britain and USA. John Pearce writes on local regeneration, and John Turner and Mike Franks write on building third sector economies.

NIMBYs (Not In My Back Yard) resist imposed development. PIMBYs (Please, In My Back Yard) plead for "inward investment" - see TP 2000, September 1991. With the spread of home composting schemes in many countries, WARMER BULLETIN, November 1995 (World Resource Foundation, Bridge House, High Street, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1DP), detects that YIMBYs (Yes, In My Back Yard) are growing in strength.

There are over 400 LETS (Local Exchange Trading Systems) in Britain - GREEN WORLD, Winter 1996 (49 York Road, Aldershot, Hants GU11 3JQ). Liz Shephard (LETSLINK UK, 61 Woodcock Road, Warminster, Wilts BA12 9DH) reports widespread support from the health sector, mainstream and alternative, for a pilot project on LETS and Mental Health.

Changing lifestyles and growing pressure for sustainable development may add up to a sea change in housing - comparable to that induced by the industrial revolution. 21ST CENTURY HOMES: BUILDING TO LAST is a detailed and well-illustrated, 75pp, May 1995 report for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation by URBED (3 Stamford Street, London SE1 9NT; Nicholas Falk), based on a study of three demonstration projects in Manchester, Milton Keynes and Swansea.

## BUSINESS CIVILISATION

In "Hazardous Multinationals on the Prowl", SAWTEE (South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment), July 1995, from Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS, 3-B Camac Street, Calcutta 700 016, India), reports that the new corporate-dominated India is attracting obsolete and polluting technologies from the First World, in which they are prohibited. Unethical business behaviour in many countries has led Consumers International (24 Highbury Crescent, London N5 1RX) to launch a Consumer Charter for Global Business - CONSUMER CURRENTS, Nov/Dec 1995 (PO Box 1045, 10830 Penang, Malaysia).

Thirty consumer groups from 22 countries at a Consumers International (see above) meeting in November were told by a patent lawyer they should not dispute the patenting of genetically modified organisms, because patenting has nothing to do with ethics - SPLICE OF LIFE, Nov-Dec 1995 (Genetics Forum, 5-11 Worship Street, London EC2A 2BH).

In CONSCIENCE, Winter 1995 (Peace Tax Campaign, 601 Holloway Road, London N19 4DJ), Dilwyn Jenkins (Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth, Powys SY20 9AZ) points out that if the billions of dollars spent on nuclear power had been invested in renewable energy, we would now be getting much of our energy from renewable, sustainable sources, while if the billions spent on the military was spent on helping people to be healthy and happy, we would all be more secure. The problem is that vested interests make money from the arms trade and from conventional nuclear and fossil energy.

National Drug Policies (NDPs) have faced strenuous opposition from powerful vested interests. Governments promoting reforms have had to stand up to the multi-billion-dollar pharmaceutical industry. "There is an urgent need for the industry to reform its image and practices". DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE, 1995:1, 256pp, on "Making National Drug Policies a Development Priority" (editors Sven Hamrell and Olle Nordberg, Dag Hammarskjold Centre, Ovre Slottsgatan 2, S-753 10 Uppsala, Sweden) contains a strategy paper and six country stories from Norway, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Australia, India and Mexico.

Farm animals are obviously "sentient beings". But massive opposition to redefining them so in the Treaty of Rome, and not as "agricultural products", is expected at a European Union Conference in Ireland this year. FARM AND FOOD NEWS, November 1995 (Farm and Food Society, 4 Willifield Way, London NW11 7XT - Joanne Bower) suggests letters to MPs (House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA) and MEPs (97 Rue Belliard, B-1047, Brussels, Belgium) asking them to support the change.

"A new people's movement to disempower the corporation as an institution, and fundamentally redefine the legal relationships between the sovereign people and our enterprises, .. taking the offensive against a century of corporate colonisation of our minds", is proposed by The Program On Corporations (PO Box 806, Cambridge, MA 02140, USA) - reported in ADBUSTERS, Winter 1996 (The Media Foundation, 1243 West Seventh Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6H 1B7 Canada).

"Waste minimisation is still an activity that finds little favour amongst many South African companies, despite the obvious financial and environmental benefits. Simple waste audits and subsequent action plans can quickly and easily identify areas of improvement and result in substantial savings. EAGLE BULLETIN, November 1995 (Eagle Environmental, PO Box 12510, Jacobs, Durban 4026, South Africa; Arend Hoogervorst) asks why businesses appear not to want to save money.

The environmental industry will be one of the key industries of the 21st century. Britain is in danger of this new commercial goldmine being lost to foreign competitors - in Germany, Japan and the US. "In light of the low level of awareness in Westminster and Whitehall about the British environmental industry and the associated worldwide commercial opportunities", the Environmental Industries Commission (6 Donaldson Road, London NW6 6NB) has been set up to raise the profile of environmental technology.

"While there is not yet a masterplan for defining environmental goals and laying out realistic plans for achieving them, roadmaps are appearing... The most basic map says environmental management must be infused throughout the corporate culture and that environmental excellence is a bottom-line issue". Jim Lippke (Sustainable Concepts and Solutions, PO Box 6, Brooksville, ME 04617, USA) writes in IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) Technology and Society Magazine, Fall 1995.

Writing on "The Forgotten Dimensions of Sustainable Development: Organisational Learning and Change" in CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY, Summer 1995, David Rejeski (Executive Office of the President, Office of Science/Technology Policy, Washington, DC 20500, USA) explains why "people with skills and understanding in areas of management and organisational behaviour, theory and change [must] become part of the discussion and debate on sustainable development".

Tourism is the world's largest industry. Its turnover is \$3000 billion. 450 million people travel internationally each year. The destruction and pollution caused by holiday-making continues to grow. But "you can become part of the solution". To launch their new Global Care Income Trust in July 1995, NPI published "The Planet Saver's Guide to Holidays" (23pp). Details from Tessa Tennant (NPI, National Provident House, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2UE).

ACID NEWS (editor: Christer Agren, Swedish NGO Secretariat on Acid Rain, Box 7005, S-402 31 Goteborg, Sweden), December 1995, reports that road freight through Hungary was 10 times higher in 1994 than 1980, and causes local damage worth 50 times the transit charges it pays. The European Union pressurises the Hungarian Government not to raise these, and to invest more money in motorways, not railways.

In "A New Framework For Freight Transport", 1995 - Summary, 16pp, from CIVIC TRUST (17 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AW) - Stephen Plowden (69 Albert Street, London NW1 7LX) and Keith Buchan report: high rates of lorry accidents, with other road users being those hurt; tens of thousands of times more damage to roads by heavy lorries than cars; and widespread flouting of speed limits, rules on maintenance, loading, drivers' hours, routing, and payment of road tax. They recommend confining the heaviest lorries to motorways and industrial roads, and imposing a charge per mile on all lorries. [No prizes for guessing the main obstacles to these changes!]

Roland Chaplain (The Weather Centre, Laurieston, Castle Douglas, Dumfries & Galloway DG7 2PW) detects growing realisation that community businesses like Weather Watchers Network are well suited to providing weather forecasts for the emergency services, roads winter maintenance, etc. His paper on "Conversion and Decriminalisation: Some New Directions for the Community Business Movement" includes controversial ideas for extending community enterprise into the personal services sector, and the retraining of "money-lenders, pimps, prostitutes, drug smugglers and dealers, etc."

## HUMAN RIGHTS

"The stampede is on to collect as many blood and tissue samples as possible from isolated indigenous groups all over the world before they disappear. Much of the information will be patented for private profit. Why is so much more money going into collecting DNA from these threatened people than to protect their cultures from outside interference? Because we live in a world where human genes have been turned into commercial commodities by the patent system and can therefore be freely traded, whereas people have been liberated from slavery... Hunter-gatherer cultures and all their indigenous knowledge will be lost, but their gene lines will be immortalised in the deep freeze". From *THE SPLICE OF LIFE*, Sept. 1995 - see p.10.

For Indigenous Peoples and many environmental and human rights groups Intellectual Property Rights represent a serious threat to local economies, culture and biodiversity. Detailed findings in Darrell Posey's "Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Resource Rights: A Basis for Equitable Relationships?", 1995, from the GREEN COLLEGE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND UNDERSTANDING (Green College, Oxford OX2 6HG) support the establishment of Traditional Resource Rights within a new system of national and international law.

Starting in 2000 with a strong UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, SURVIVAL INTERNATIONAL (11-15 Emerald Street, London WC1N 3JL) spells out specific year-by-year targets - e.g. in 2005 African countries recognise the rights of 'Pygmies' to their forest territories - until in 2015, tribal peoples' ownership of resources in or under their lands is fully recognised worldwide.

The World Bank, "notorious for the disastrous social and economic effects of many of its large-scale projects, funds a growing number of projects with eco-tourism as a major component... Ethnic groups are viewed as a major asset, an exotic backdrop to natural scenery and wildlife. The simultaneous romanticisation and devastation of indigenous cultures is certainly one of the deepest ironies of eco-tourism". *CONSUMER CURRENTS*, August 1995 - see p.10.

"If you live in a country with plenty of sunshine and a growing tourism industry, and if your land would suit a new beach complex, a golf course, a safari park or a culture and heritage site, you could be in the way of profitable development...and be forced off your own land". In Burma (Mandalay and Pagan), Indonesia (Lombok) and Kenya (the Maasai), people have recently been forced off their land to make way for tourists, according to *TOURISM CONCERN* (Southlands College, Roehampton Institute, Wimbledon Parkside, London SW19 5NN). [For more on rights in land, see p.5.]

In its work on grave human rights abuses, conflict, famine and civil reconstruction, *AFRICAN RIGHTS* (11 Marshalsea Road, London SE1 1EP) aims to give a voice to Africans - on emergency humanitarian needs, as on longer-term demands for political reconstruction - and to seek more accountability from the international community. In two recent articles in *Index On Censorship* - 6/1994 and 5/1995 - Alex de Waal discusses the damaging side-effects of the activities of Western humanitarian NGOs in Sudan, Somalia and Rwanda, and the dilemma they face in countries whose governments are practicing internal genocide - as in the Nuba Mountains in Sudan. Of the latter he asks, "Should the giants of the humanitarian international now be pressed to rush in? The fear is that the humanitarian international would trample upon all that is most precious in the Nuba political renaissance".

## WORLD ORDER AND SECURITY

The COMMISSION ON GLOBAL GOVERNANCE is now based at the office of Sir Shridath Ramphal (1 The Sutherlands, 188 Sutherland Avenue, London W9 1HR). He - and, from March, co-chairman Ingvar Carlsson - will continue to promote the proposals in *Our Global Neighbourhood*. Reactions in *Update*, October 1995, include: "the South must be at the forefront, leading the process of change on behalf of the great majority of our world's citizens" (Benazir Bhutto). Meghnad Desai, - director, Centre for the Study of Global Governance at the London School of Economics - asks "In whose interest is it to reform the UN, and why should anyone do it?". [Can pressure from national and global citizens persuade politicians it is worth their while to act?]

"The UN system needs a dramatic overhaul. Nation States are not the only actors in international affairs. The private sector, parliamentarians, and civil society deserve equal weight in the UN system". Shridath Ramphal on "New Mechanisms For World Governance: The Role of the South", Erskine Childers on "Breaking the Realists' Cabal: Citizens' Rights in the UN", and Wolfgang Sachs on "The Sustainability Debate in the Security Age" contribute to *DEVELOPMENT* 1995:4 (Society for International Development, 207 via Panisperna, 00184 Rome, Italy). As Keith Suter (GPO Box 4878, Sydney, NSW 2001, Australia) points out, after each World War conferences were held which set up new international organisations (the League of Nations and the UN), but no equivalent conference has marked the end of the Cold War and reformed the UN. (Among other activities, Keith is helping to promote an EARTH REPAIR CHARTER - details from Earth Repair Foundation (PO Box 150, Hazelbrook, NSW 2779, Australia).)

ONE COUNTRY, July-September 1995 (Bahai International Community, Suite 120, 866 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA) urges a World Summit on Global Governance before the end of the century to determine the architecture of the emerging international order.

Alan F. Kay and Hazel Henderson (10 Carrera Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084, USA) present detailed proposals for a UN Security Insurance Agency to finance the UN's security functions and encourage demilitarisation in "UNSIAP Progress Report - From Concept to Organisation and Test Cases", 40pp, August 1995. Contact Diane Sherwood (GLOBAL COMMISSION TO FUND THE UNITED NATIONS, 1511 K Street NW, Suite 1120, Washington, DC, 20005, USA).

Prevention of conflict, as of ill-health, is better than cure. After-the-event humanitarian responses, as in former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, cannot avert massive human suffering and are costly and complex. On its 10th anniversary INTERNATIONAL ALERT (1 Glyn Street, London SE11 5HT; secretary-general: Kumar Rupesinghe) celebrated its work on early warning and conflict resolution. Problems include the inability of outside governments and the UN to intervene in sovereign states without consent; the lack, so far, of global and national citizen capacity to prevent conflict; and greater media interest in responses to conflict than in its prevention.

PRODEM's (Project on Demilitarisation, Peter Southwood, 309 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 7NY) final Briefing, "Military Adventurism: Learning from the Past - Looking to the Future", concludes that after the Cold War the West missed a historic opportunity to develop new procedures for peaceful change. Political and military domination as a basis for security may be less relevant to post-Cold-War conditions. A new framework for preventing and resolving conflicts is needed.

## ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Luis Erasmo Arenas Hurtado, a 62-year-old community leader in Colombia, was murdered in October because he was working effectively to stem the tide of get-rich-quick environmental destruction. Nick Osborne (Theppswood House, Nutfield Park, S Nutfield, Surrey RH1 5PA) has details about how to support the nascent green movement there, and their Caqueta Rainforest Amazonia Campaign.

In the long run, treating environmental damage after the event with add-on, end-of-the-pipe technologies provides neither an economically efficient nor an ecologically effective solution. Economically, it results in an ever larger part of GNP being "devoured" by abatement activities. Ecologically, the environment is burdened by the consumption of the energy and materials used in the construction and operation of environmental protection facilities. In "Environmental Protection Expenditures in Germany" Udo Simonis and Christian Leipert (WZB, Reichpietschufer 50, D-10785 Berlin, Germany) argue for a preventive environmental policy [applied "upstream"] which promotes clean technology and low-emission products.

Similarly, Robert Goodland and Gus Tillman (S-5043, World Bank, Washington DC 20433, USA), conclude in "Strategic Environmental Assessment" that today's project-level environmental assessment (EA) approach needs to be extended "upstream". EAs now "rarely recommend lifestyle changes although these may be necessary to achieve any semblance of sustainability". For example, conventional sewage treatment is an expensive, water-wasting 'curative' approach. Widespread use of composting toilets instead of flush toilets may be an important way to promote sustainability in developing country cities. [What about other countries too?]

Similarly again, WEN's Waste Prevention Bill, presented to Parliament in November 1995, will enable local councils to encourage prevention of waste at source - not just to remove existing waste and recycle it. For details send A4 sae to Ann Link (Women's Environmental Network, Aberdeen Studios, 22 Highbury Grove, London N5 2EA).

The BIODIVERSITY COALITION Newsletter No.11, September 1995 (c/o PO, Cygnet 7112, Tasmania, Australia) reports the finding of Japanese scientists that coral reefs - "the tropical forests of the seas", with the highest biological diversity of any marine ecosystem - are sinks for carbon dioxide, with the potential to fix about 5% of total manmade emissions. The maintenance and restoration of coral ecosystems, in critical condition now all round the world, is a top priority for both the Biodiversity and Climate Change Conventions.

MANOR HOUSE AGRICULTURAL CENTRE (Private Bag, Kitale, Kenya) runs 2-year courses for rural students on "bio-intensive agriculture for healthy soil, abundant food, and prosperous communities". Its graduates' employers see it as a key training institution for sustainable agriculture extension services in East Africa. But finance is short. Patrick Peacey (Potash Cottage, Brettenham, Ipswich, Suffolk IP7 7NZ) asks about possible funding sources.

In its October-December 1995 issue, the excellent bi-monthly magazine EDGE (Environment and Development in Gloucestershire, 16 Portland Street, Cheltenham, Glos GL52 2PB; Lindsey Colbourne) - Gloucestershire's only countywide networking tool for environment and overseas development - celebrated its first three years with the theme of sustainable communities.

## POINTERS TO THE FUTURE

Bill and Margaret Ellis (Box 567, Rangeley, ME 04970, USA) have published the invaluable TRANET Newsletter-Directory since 1976. "20 years and 100 issues is enough", and the search is on for a takeover or replacement. Bill plans a book to integrate the TRANET experience into a comprehensive view of the emerging new civilisation.

"To surmount our psychological and institutional barriers to change, we humans need a shared moment when together we begin doing the wide range of things that we know we must do to begin a new period of responsible living on earth". MILLENNIUM INSTITUTE (1117 North 19th Street, Suite 900, Arlington, VA 22209, USA; Gerald Barney) has launched a Millennium Alliance for the Millennial Moment (1999-2001).

"An obstacle to a practical positive vision of the future is our difficulty in comprehensively visualising our links with the past" - Jack Richards (2 Chapel Street, Hingham, Norfolk NR9 4JH). Education needs to bring alive a sense of history "which has little to do with 'history'; which widely embraces religion, philosophy and morality; and which people will feel relates to what deeply matters to them".

There are now 12 Small Schools in England - 4 secondary, 1 primary and secondary, and 7 primary. From HUMAN SCALE EDUCATION NEWS, December 1995 (96 Carlingcott, Near Bath BA2 8AW).

The DIRECTORY OF MASTERS 1995, 70pp, £3.95 inc p&p, from Apprentice Master Alliance (100 Southgate Road, London N1 3JB; Robin Dean) lists 60 Masters willing to share skills and knowledge. Diverse areas of expertise include ceramics and designing new democracies.

The UN Conference on Women in Beijing in September was not so much a world conference on women as a women's conference on the world. There was a sense that women will redefine economic, political and social life and remake peace and development in the image of a more balanced and just humanity. Maria Riley in CENTER FOCUS, December 1995 (Center of Concern, 3700 13th St NE, Washington, DC 20017, USA).

In spite of virtual equality in law, "ideas about male and female roles - in China, as in any society - remain embedded, sometimes strengthened in changing economies, political systems and family structures". From "Chinese Women's Lives: Rhetoric and Reality", ASIA PACIFIC ISSUES, 8pp, September 1995 (East-West Center, 1777 East-West Road, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96848, USA) by Nancy E. Riley.

George Ticehurst's (193 High Street, Batheastern, Bath, Avon BA1 7NS) list of obstacles to effectiveness includes: taxation (unfair, with use of the most common basic resource [land] untaxed); religion (timid); politics (undemocratic); media (short-term); law (slow); government (unrepresentative); and transport (wasteful).

The new ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF WORLD PROBLEMS AND HUMAN POTENTIAL, Vol. 3, lists strategies for thousands of problem cycles, e.g. Alienation > Youth gangs > Neighbourhood control by criminals > Psychological stress of urban environment > Substance abuse > Family breakdown > Alienation. Details from Anthony Judge (Union of International Associations, 40 rue Washington, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium).

The FELLOWSHIP OF LIFE Newsletter, Christmas 1995 (43 Braichmelyn, Bethesda, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 3RD; Claire and Tom Herral), includes many items on animal protection and vegetarianism.

## SOME DATES TO NOTE

29 January, 8pm, Knutsford. THE POWER OF THE MARKET AND PROSPECTS FOR DEMOCRACY: Bishop David Jenkins. Knutsford Lectures programme from PO Box 118, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 8TG (tel. 01565 651131). Later lecturers: Sara Parkin (26 February) and Paul Ekins (25 March).

3 February, London. ROLLING ON - FROM VISION TO ACTION. 10am-5pm, with Perry Walker and Titus Alexander. Details from John Gordon, St. James's Alliance, St. James's Church, 197 Piccadilly, London W1V 0LL.

9 February, Edinburgh. Conference on REGENERATION STRATEGIES FOR SCOTLAND'S COMMUNITIES. Speakers include Kay Caldwell, Simon Hebditch. Details from Janet Thomson, Community Enterprise Lothian, Holyrood Business Park, 146 Duddingston Rd West, Edinburgh EH16 4AP.

9-11 February, London. Course on INSPIRING CHANGE. Details from Titus Alexander, 32 Carisbrooke Road, London E17 7EF.

15 February, 5pm, Oxford. OCEES Debate: VOLUNTARY SIMPLICITY: Duane Elgin and Juliet Schor; chair Paul Ekins. Details from Nina Booth-Clibborn, OCEES, Mansfield College, Oxford OX1 3TF.

23 March, Bristol. TRIODOS BANK UK Annual General Meeting (10am) and OPEN DAY (1.30pm). Details from Triodos Bank, Brunel House, 11 The Promenade, Clifton, Bristol BS8 3NN.

29-31 March, Birmingham. SHARING NOT TAKING: QUESTIONING EUROPE'S ECONOMIC DIRECTIONS. Speakers include Ulrich Duchrow and Ed Mayo. Organised by Quaker Council for European Affairs (Square Ambiorix 50, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium - Tim Brown) and Woodbrooke College (1046 Bristol Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6LJ).

12-15 April, Liverpool. EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR ECONOMIC SELF-HELP AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT conference. Details from John Duncan, Economic Initiatives Unit, City Council, 11 Dale Street, Liverpool L2 2ET.

13-14 April, Edinburgh. New Economics Foundation/Centre for Human Ecology Conference on REAL CHANGE FOR A REAL WORLD. Speakers include Richard Adams, Tim Cooper, Peter Draper, Linda Gray, Tessa Tennant. Details from Susan Porro-Macate, New Economics Foundation (see p.5).

27 April and 11 May - TURNING POINT SEMINARS - see p.1.

3-5 May, Oxfordshire. DEEP ECOLOGY with Satish Kumar and Stephan Harding. Details from The Abbey, Sutton Courtenay, Oxon OX14 4AF.

17-19 May, Oxford. Quaker Peace and Service seminar on TURNING THE TIDE. Speakers include Prof Paul Rogers and James Robertson. Details from QPS, Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ.

18 May, London. Scientific and Medical Network May Dialogue on THE PARTICIPATORY MIND. Speakers include Prof Henryk Skolimowski. Details from David Lorimer, SMN (see p.7).

29 May, York. New Paradigm Lecture by James Robertson on POLITICAL ECONOMY: A POST-MODERN PERSPECTIVE. Details from Paul Anderson, York University Green Movement, 61 Nunnery Lane, York YO2 1AH.

Details of Schumacher College courses, e.g. GAIA THEORY AND LIVING SYSTEMS, from The Old Postern, Dartington, Totnes, Devon TQ9 6EA.