

TURNING POINT 2000

January 2000 (Final Issue)

Past and future have occupied our first working week of the new century. We have been compiling this last TP2000. Meanwhile, SolarCentury (<www.solarcentury.co.uk>) have been installing PV tiles (see p13) on the roof of the old stable at the back of the house. When you read this, we shall - we hope - be taking some of our electricity directly from the winter sun.

Peter Cadogan and **Colin Hutchinson** are mentioned on pp3 and 13. They co-organised the first Turning Point meeting with us in Conway Hall, London in 1975, which led to these newsletters. We hope that fruitful contact with many other TP2000 friends will continue, even when TP2000 no longer serves as a link. In spite of some progress in the past 25 years, most of the important changes we have been supporting still have to be achieved.

We shall continue to be busy - but perhaps more on specific projects than hitherto. Meanwhile, Nihon Keisai Hyoronsha's attractive Japanese edition of James's Schumacher Briefing No 1, "Transforming Economic Life", arranged by **Takashi Iwami** (<iwa25@mtj.biglobe.ne.jp>), has been published as a resource for the People's Summit to be held in parallel with the G8 Summit in Okinawa in July. The Russian edition will be launched shortly. It has been managed by **Tatiana Roskoshnaya** (<lpwf@mail.wplus.net>) who is actively advising the Russian parliament (the Duma) on aspects of land taxation. **Oscar Kjellberg** (<oscar@jak.se>) is managing the Swedish edition.

We want to thank very warmly everyone who has been sending us exchange or complimentary copies of their newsletters, journals, magazines, etc. But now we will no longer be offering TP2000 by way of exchange or as a channel for circulating news. So **PLEASE WOULD YOU TAKE US OFF YOUR MAILING LISTS**. We will let you know if we wish to subscribe to your publications in the normal way. But we want to reduce the flow of paper we have been getting.

Publications still available for sale from us are as listed in TP2000, January 1999. Thanks to **Eric Britton**, that and other material from us will continue to be on website <www.ecoplan.org/tp2000>. We - **Alison Pritchard & James Robertson** - can still be reached at **The Old Bakehouse, Cholsey, Oxon OX10 9NU, England. Tel: +44 (0)1491 652346; Fax: +44 (0)1491 651804; e-mail: <robertson@tp2000.demon.co.uk>**.

FAITHS IN THE WORLD

“Many religiously inspired people are making an increasing effort not only to contribute to practical improvements in the lives of the poor, but also to try to understand the nature and causes of poverty, and to analyse the values and goals of development programmes”. We warmly recommend the 24pp booklet on **POVERTY & DEVELOPMENT: AN INTER-FAITH PERSPECTIVE**, November 1999 from World Faiths Development Dialogue - Co-Chairs: the Archbishop of Canterbury and the President of the World Bank. Copies free from WFDD (33-37 Stockmore Street, Oxford OX4 1JT; **Wendy Tyndale**). It notes “a growing awareness among faith communities that ‘charity’ in the sense of benevolence handed out from above to below perpetuates the lack of dignity associated with poverty”; people need to be empowered to engage actively in their own self-reliant processes of development; poverty and wealth are linked; and social, political and economic structures need to be changed. “Development must not harm the poor”, but “again and again the programmes of faith-based organisations have been rendered non-viable by structural adjustment programmes and international financial and market mechanisms”. (To join the on-line discussion of the World Bank’s draft World Development Report 2000 go to <www.brettonwoodsproject.org> or <www.npi.org.uk>.)

“The current direction of trade policy and international economic governance violates many of the fundamental beliefs and commitments of Judaeo-Christian social traditions, in giving priority to the powerful over the poor and weak, in promoting the consolidation of wealth and power rather than an adequate and appropriate distribution in justice to all, in justifying economic efficiency over the common good, and in its shallow understanding of human development. The elaboration of a more just and less destructive global trading system is urgent for global wellbeing and peace. The arena where that trading system is being forged is the WTO. The faith community, speaking out of its rich experience and profound social vision, needs to be there, taking a leading role in shaping it”. *Center Focus*, No 146, November 1999 (The Center of Concern, 1225 Otis Street NE, Washington DC 20017, USA) was an excellent special issue on “Socially Responsible Trade”.

Gandhi said, “Those who say that religion has nothing to do with politics, do not know what religion means”. **Cecil Evans**, chair, Gandhi Foundation (Kingsley Hall, Powis Road, London E3 3HJ) quotes this in *The Gandhi Way*, Winter 1999/2000, as one of seven insights for the new millennium inspired by Gandhi’s life and teaching.

“The people who profess love for God should be leading the parade to save God’s Creation” - from an article in *YES! A Journal of Positive Futures*, Winter 1999/2000 (PO Box 10818, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110, USA) about Episcopal Power and Light, a program for empowering congregations to go green (The Regeneration Project, 7 Laurel St, San Francisco, CA 94118, USA; <www.theregenerationproject.org>; **Rev Sally Bingham**).

The concerns of CORI (Conference of Religious of Ireland) “are deeply rooted in Christian values. Christianity subscribes to the values of both human dignity and the centrality of the community. The person is seen as growing and developing in a context which includes other people and the environment. Justice is understood in terms of relationships. The Christian scriptures understand justice as a harmony which comes from fidelity to right relationships with God, people and the environment. A just society is one that is structured in such a way as to promote these right relationships....”. RESOURCES AND CHOICES: TOWARDS A FAIRER FUTURE, November 1999, 104pp - CORI’s Socio-Economic Review 2000 (Justice Office, Tabor House, Milltown Park, Dublin 6, Ireland) - centres on three core programmes: Social, Economic & Cultural Rights, including incomes, taxes, work, participation; Sustainable Development, including North/South relationships; and Integration and Synergy in the Public Sector, with “poverty-proofing”, “equality-proofing” and “sustainability-proofing” for all public policies, including the annual Budget.

Issue No 35/36, 11/1999, *Cultures & Development* (South-North Network, rue Joseph II 174, 1000 Brussels, Belgium; editor **Thierry Verhelst**) is on “The Spirituality of Social Commitment”. An article headed “Towards Another Social Activism?” contrasts seven key features of traditional activism (such as preoccupation with state power; and seizing power and exercising power) with those of the new type of activism (such as preoccupation with civil society; and empowering people and enabling participative communities).

Future Generations Journal, 1999, No 28 (Foundation for International Studies, St Pauls Street, Valletta VLT 07, Malta) reports an inter-religious (Judaism, Christianity and Islam) Mediterranean region conference on “Human Rights and Our Responsibilities towards Future Generations”. The conference asked religious communities to lend their influence to eliminate war; religious leaders to give highest priority to reducing poverty, unemployment and other forms of social distress; and governments to dedicate themselves more seriously to promoting a safe, healthy environment.

“The power of bottom-up millennial energy, in which the populace finds a collective voice that sweeps away the selfish obstructions of the powerful, is a feature of any culture... History offers many an example of the remorseless hostility that those in power have shown to even the most benign forms of millennial behaviour, and at one level, both historical and religious, that is most succinctly symbolised by the crucifixion of Jesus”. Relations between elites and commoners help to shape the outcome of millennial movements. “Every millennial discourse addresses the issue of justice - man’s interpretation of God’s - and every socially constructive movement manages to negotiate a more just, and hence more energetic, social contract”. Prof **Richard Landes**, director, Center for Millennial Studies, Boston University, writes on “End of the Millennium Phenomena” in *Modern Believing*, October 1999 (editor **Martyn Percy**, Lincoln Theological Institute for the Study of Religion in Society, University of Sheffield, 36 Wilkinson Street, Sheffield S10 2GB).

POLITICS

“It is evident that New Labour is not comfortable with the environment as a political issue”. Three controversies underlined this in 1999 - genetically modified foods; transport, both road and rail; and business opposition to energy taxation. As **Michael Jacobs** says - ENVIRONMENTAL MODERNISATION: THE NEW LABOUR AGENDA, 1999, 49pp, £5, Fabian Society (11 Dartmouth Street, London SW1H 9BN; <www.fabian-society.org.uk>) - the environmental agenda, still driven by pressure groups, has not yet been internalised by mainstream political parties, partly because of the “deep entanglement of environmental issues with the ideology of the greens”. “Environmental modernisation” could be the theme of a distinctly Labour environmental politics. Ministers John Prescott and Patricia Hewitt (Dept of Trade and Industry) will speak on this at a conference on 1st February - details: SERA Conferences (11 Goodwin Street, London N4 3HQ, <seraoffice@aol.com>).

“We have been persuaded by party politicians that politics and party politics are one and the same! What nonsense! Politics is about how civil society relates to the state. Political parties are transient intermediaries. The vast voluntary sector, in partnership with the private sector, is the political future in embryo”. **Peter Cadogan** (3 Hinchinbrook House, Greville Road, London NW6 5UP) is Convener & Chair of The London Alliance.

Democracy & Nature: The International Journal of Inclusive Democracy, Vol 5, No 3, November 1999, (editor **Takis Fotopoulos**, 20 Woodberry Way, London N12 0HG; <takis@fotop.demon.co.uk>) includes **Robley E. George** (Center for the Study of Democratic Societies, Box 475, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266, USA; <georgecsds@aol.com>) on “Socioeconomic Democracy and the State of Welfare”, previewing his book “Socioeconomic Democracy: An Advanced Socioeconomic System”. Under “Our Aims”, *Democracy & Nature* states that the Green movement has lost its radical potential. Instead of directly challenging today’s huge corporate concentration of power, one part now expresses middle-class disquiet with deteriorating quality of life, another adopts irrational and mystical approaches to the ecological problem, and a third concentrates on lifestyle changes, communes, food co-ops, etc. A “new conception of confederal inclusive democracy” is needed. Some readers may find the journal’s tone divisive rather than inclusive - but also stimulating.

FROM POLITICS PAST TO POLITICS FUTURE by **Alan Mayne** (<new_paradigm@compuserve.com>), summarised in *World Review*, Vol 3, No 4, 1999 (New European Publications, 14-16 Carroun Road, London SW8 1JT), offers three scenarios. “Pessimistic” brings human extinction late this century (probability, perhaps 5%); “Piecemeal” copes, but with lower quality of life for most people in rich countries (probability, about 90% - unless understanding and behaviour change dramatically); and “Optimistic” involves a new stage of evolution for humankind (probability, perhaps 5% - unless enough people commit themselves to participatory politics in order to bring it about).

In *Living Earth*, October-December 1999, **Patrick Holden** (director, Soil Association, Bristol House, 40-56 Victoria Street, Bristol BS1 6BY, <www.soilassociation.org>) says genetic engineering raises “a powerful feeling of violation of democratic rights and... a genuine sense of social injustice, as we witness the effects of this technology and associated patenting laws on poor farmers in developing countries”. For **Joan Ruddock MP**, as a woman politician launching Women Say No To GMO, “genetic engineering is the most important political, ethical, social and environmental issue of our time”.

“GM crops do not need to be tested for safety as foodstuffs if they are judged ‘substantially equivalent’ to existing varieties”. But that “commercial and political judgement masquerading as if it were scientific”, merely provides “an excuse not to conduct biochemical or toxicological tests... The logic that a crop can be equivalent enough that it doesn’t have to be tested for safety, yet different enough that it can be patented, comes straight from Alice in Wonderland”. *SPLICE*, November/December 1999, Vol 6, No 1 (Genetics Forum, 94 White Lion Street, London N1 9PF, <www.geneticsforum.org.uk>).

A justice agenda for environmentalism should “examine the possible civil rights implications of increasingly intrusive environmental monitoring technologies on rights of privacy and freedom of movement... The politics of environmental imagery and its social justice implications are just beginning to be explored... We need to create more radically pluralist, democratic visions of nature and societal interconnections”. In *JUSTICE AND CONSERVATION*, 1999, 64pp (Rainforest Alliance, 65 Bleecker Street, New York, NY 10012, USA, <www.rainforest-alliance.org>) **Charles Zerner** summarises “People, Plants and Justice: The Politics of Nature Conservation”, Columbia University Press.

Since the Commission on Global Governance reported in 1995 (*Our Global Neighbourhood*; Oxford University Press), reforming the United Nations has grown more urgent. But little progress has been made, and “the call for democratic oversight of the global economy has gone unheeded”. In *THE MILLENNIUM YEAR AND THE REFORM PROCESS*: November 1999, 64pp, the Co-Chairmen of the Commission (Flat 1, ‘The Sutherlands’, 188 Sutherland Ave, London W9 1HR; <www.cgg.ch>), ask the UN Millennium Assembly to grasp the nettle. The two main chapters are on “The UN and Civil Society” and “The World Economy”. Recommendations include “detailed, technical study of the feasibility of the Tobin tax proposal” (see p 15), and further pursuit of “the concept of an Economic Security Council - however designed or constructed”.

CANADA’S TIBET: 1999, 51pp(A4), £5 from **Survival** (11-15 Emerald Street, London WC1N 3QL; <www.survival.org.uk>) describes how Canada forces the Innu and other indigenous communities “to collude in the destruction of their cultures and the violation of their human rights... Canada lags far behind many ‘Third World’ countries” in how it recognises Indian land ownership. For example, in Colombia the government does not insist that the Indians have to give up their rights to most of their land before getting title to any part of it.

NEW ECONOMICS

“Reshaping the Global Economy is the most important programme of work the New Economics Foundation has yet undertaken. **Hazel Henderson’s** BEYOND GLOBALIZATION gets it off to a splendid start” - James Robertson, in US journal *Foreign Affairs*, Jan-Feb 2000. Commissioned by NEF and published in USA by Kumarian Press (\$10.95), BEYOND GLOBALIZATION (1999, 88pp, £7 from NEF, Cinnamon House, 6/8 Cole St, London SE1 4YH; <www.neweconomics.org>) presents a 7-level plan for reshaping the world’s economy - global, international, national, corporate, provincial/local, civil society, and family/individual. Hazel Henderson’s website is <www.hazelhenderson.com>. (On 20 January, NEF is launching its new CD-ROM “Brave New Economy”, charting the rise of an economy centred on people and the environment.)

A conference in Dublin on 19-20 February held by FEASTA, Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability (co-ordinator and newsletter editor, **Davie Philip**, Source, 166 Lower Rathmines Road, Dublin 6, Ireland; <feasta@anu.ie>) will include discussion of **Richard Douthwaite’s** “Ecology of Money” (see p14) and “Growth Illusion” (see p10). Other speakers will include **Colin Campbell**, **Malcolm Slessor** and **James Robertson**.

Although “there is growing recognition of human dependence, and human impacts, on the environment, mainstream economics has yet to incorporate the theoretic changes needed to accommodate these realities. There is even less attention to another increasingly pressing need: to realign the incentives of powerful modern economic systems, so that they will serve human needs and values, rather than the other way round”. *G-DAE Newsletter*, November 1999 (Global Development and Environment Institute, Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155, USA; <www.tufts.edu/gdae>; **Neva R. Goodwin**) records six years of progress in researching and disseminating alternative perspectives.

CSEAR (Centre for Social and Environmental Accounting Research, University of Dundee, Dundee DD1 4HN; <csear@dundee.ac.uk>) is moving to Glasgow University with its director, **Prof Rob Gray**. Further news in CSEAR’s April newsletter. The latest issue, highly informative as always, includes reports of developments in Denmark, South Africa, Bangladesh, Spain and Finland.

Farewell *Consumer Currents*! We have found it a valuable source of information for many years. Consumers International, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (CIROAP, PO Box 1045, 10830 Penang, Malaysia) has details of its replacement by CIDOC News Briefs transmitted electronically.

Briefing Paper No 6/1999 on “Overdue Reforms in European Agriculture: Implications for Southern Consumers” (CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics and Environment, D-218, Bhaskar Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur 302 016, India; <www.cuts-india.org>) asks for Common Agricultural Policy reform to respect food security needs of Southern subsistence producers and consumers.

In *Foresight*, Vol 1, No 4, August 1999 (<www.camfordpublishing.com>), **Colin Williams** and **Jan Windebank** argue for “Unshackling the Future of Work from the Ideology of Full Employment”. They propose that (1) the UK’s New Deal Programme should allow unemployed people to define what productive and meaningful work they could do for their community, and (2) people participating in caring or self-help activity in their community should earn Active Citizens’ Credits. In Vol 1, No 5, October 1999, UNESCO’s **Federico Mayor** and **Jerome Binde**, in “The 21st Century: A Better World or a Brave New World?”, propose rebuilding society as an international democracy founded on four pillars or contracts - social, natural, cultural, ethical.

A conference on “City GDP”, sponsored by Torbay Council in June, discussed how techniques developed by **Owen Nankivell** to measure a local economy like a national economy can help a local community to control its economic destiny in a globalised world economy. For the three main papers contact **Linda Lear**, The Hinksey Network (3 Thorne Park Road, Torquay TQ2 6RX).

SUSTAINABILITY AND THE BRISTOL URBAN VILLAGE INITIATIVE by **James Bruges** (Western Partnership for Sustainable Development, Create Centre, Smeaton Road, Bristol BS1 6XN, 1999, 28pp (A4)) is on an “attempt to apply global thinking to sustainable development in a particular city”. Discussion of sustainability - environmental, local social, and local economic; descriptions of individual measures - planning, building, shops, offices, schools, transport, energy, etc); and information about their possible application in two Bristol locations - Redcliffe in the city centre and Hartcliffe on the periphery.

Michael Gill’s (Kitt Hill House, Sherborne DT9 3PL) 7-page response for the Sherborne Local Agenda 21 group, September 1999, to the UK government’s paper “A Better Way of Life”, is clear and full of good sense. Members of other LA 21 groups may find it helpful.

“Economic systems, like trees, are never static. They expand and contract. They breathe. The idea of continual growth is as ridiculous as the idea of a tree that continually grew leaves but never shed them, or an animal that continually breathed in and never breathed out. ... There is no point in asking what is the cure for economic contraction. Contraction *is* the cure”. “The Pure Logic of a Stable Earth Community” by **Gillies MacBain** (16pp, £2.50: Cranagh Castle, Templemore, Co Tipperary, Ireland) provides “a template on which to structure thinking and theorising about a stable earth community”.

STOP PRESS: An important book has arrived as we go to press - **Paul Ekins:** ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: THE PROSPECTS FOR GREEN GROWTH: Routledge, 2000, 374pp, hbk. Is environmental sustainability compatible with economic growth? is “green growth” a contradiction in terms? Not necessarily, but in practice the debate is likely to be resolved only over time and through experience. We suspect this will become an essential text book for serious economics students.

BOOKS RECEIVED

James Robertson: THE NEW ECONOMICS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: A BRIEFING FOR POLICY MAKERS: Kogan Page, London, 1999, 168pp, pbk, £13.99. Jean-Claude Thebault (director, Forward Studies Unit, European Commission - see p16) says in the Foreword: "The challenging of truths still recently considered to be universal has swept through the world of pure science and now of economics... It is because this new economic thought puts the citizen and the common good at the centre of its concerns that we believe that political decision-makers should give it their attention. The 'new economics' is based on a vision which could be a source of inspiration for politicians: the systematic development of individual responsibility, the effective preservation of resources and the environment, respect for qualitative and not just quantitative values, respect for feminine values and the need to place ethics at the heart of economic life". [Good that this 1997 report is now published.]

Klaus Nurnberger: PROSPERITY, POVERTY & POLLUTION: MANAGING THE APPROACHING CRISIS: Zed Books, 1999, 487pp, pbk, £14.95. Nurnberger studied economic development and theology in the 1950s and then worked as a pastor in remote rural South Africa and the black townships of Johannesburg. In the 1970s, he confronted "a kind of theology which was unable to relate to the economic dimension of life and a kind of economics which was unable to relate to convictions, values and norms", and began the quarter of a century's work reflected in this book. Part I is on "The Structure of the Global System", Part II on "The Transformation of Collective Consciousness", and Part III on "Towards a New Economic Paradigm". Part IV on "The Transformation of Social Structures" includes: "Agents of Change", "Drawing Up the Agenda", "Policies for Peripheries", "Policies for Centres", and "Policies for Centre-Periphery Interaction". Each chapter begins with a summary of its task and ends with questions on revision, application, and responses to specific criticisms. On the back cover James describes the book as a "comprehensive and masterly analysis of the global economic problem".

David Jenkins: MARKET WHYS & HUMAN WHEREFORES: THINKING AGAIN ABOUT MARKETS, POLITICS AND PEOPLE: Cassell, 2000, 276pp, pbk, £16.99. The former Bishop of Durham was "driven to write this book by an unfolding conviction that.. the assumptions on which free market theory works, and the practices which free market operators follow, have reached a point where they disgrace the earth and diminish and demean us human beings". He has drawn his material from "proponents of the optimistic Market way", and his message is for people "baffled by the strength of the Market mantra, troubled by what they see around them, but unsure of the existence of any alternative way ahead". We hope many will be persuaded of the need "to build political and social coalitions for developing mutual freedom and sustaining the viability and the enjoyability of the earth". The concluding chapters are on "Rediscovering Democracy and Redirecting the Market" and "Outline of an Agenda and a Confession of Faith".

E.F. Schumacher: *SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL: ECONOMICS AS IF PEOPLE MATTERED:* Hartley and Marks (PO Box 147, Point Roberts, WA 98281, USA), 1999, 286pp, pbk, \$19.95. The range and depth of Schumacher's thinking have inspired many people. We hope this attractive 25th anniversary edition of his best-known book will bring that experience to many more. It includes a Preface, Introduction and Commentaries by 34 contributors - 21 from USA, 6 from Canada, 5 from Britain and one each from Germany and Sweden. TP2000 readers will know many of them either personally or through their work.

Timothy Gorringe: *FAIR SHARES: ETHICS AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMY:* Thames & Hudson, 1999, 111pp, pbk, £6.95. In this contribution to the T&H "Prospects for Tomorrow" series, the Professor of Systematic Theology at Exeter University sees economics as fundamentally a matter of common sense and therefore of ethics, and regrets that professional economists who agree are often marginalised. His chapters are on: "The Eclipse of Social Justice?"; "The Midas Touch"; "Facts and Values"; "North and South"; "Kingdoms without Justice"; and "Seeking Justice". He believes "the coming transformation" will be based on four cultural changes: away from corrosive individualism, from consumerism, from trades (e.g. the arms trade) and professions which do not contribute to the common good; and from the centrality of the profit motive.

Yorick Blumenfeld: *2099: A EUTOPIA:* Thames & Hudson, 1999, 112pp, pbk, £6.95. A reporter from Noram - still capitalist and individualist - is sent to a community near Norwich in communitarian Eurobloc, and is converted: "I have come to believe it is important to live and to act in the here and now as if we could begin to create a heaven on Earth. Maybe that's just another illusion, but ultimately it seems to me to be one of the best ways to show our human appreciation for the miracle of creation". This readable story by the general editor of "Prospects for Tomorrow" (see above) raises personal and social questions about societies in which machine intelligence, smart robots, psychotropic drugs and electronic credit systems will play central parts.

Kalle Lasn: *CULTURE JAM:* Eagle Brook Morrow, New York, 1999, 247pp, hbk, \$25. The founder of *Adbusters* magazine, Culture Jammers Network, Buy Nothing Day and TV Turnoff Week (<www.adbusters.org>), sees a democratic information revolution - like the 1960s civil rights movement, 1970s feminism, and environmental activism in the 1980s/1990s - unfolding over four 'seasons'. Autumn reflects our damaged mental environment, and Winter the numbing sense of commercial artificiality as a "manipulative corporate ethos drives our culture". Spring brings "a growing band of people who have given up on the American dream", and Summer the discovery that, as we relate to the world as empowered human beings and not hapless consumer drones, we can stop powerful institutions dominating the flows of information that shape our culture. Our grandchildren may remember the culture-jamming movement as one of the catalysts of "the great planetary transformation that shook the world in the early years of the new millennium". Splendid! (Also see p12.)

BOOKS RECEIVED (continued - also see p7)

Richard Douthwaite: THE GROWTH ILLUSION: Revised edition: Green Books, 1999, 400pp, pbk, £12.95. When this first came out in 1992, we recommended it as a wide-ranging and well-written account of “how economic growth has enriched the few, impoverished the many, and endangered the planet”. We warmly welcome this new edition, extensively revised and brought up to date.

Viviane Forrester: THE ECONOMIC HORROR: Polity Press, 1999, 140pp, pbk. This impassioned protest against “the paradoxes of a society based on ‘work’, that is employment, while the labour market is not just declining but is perishing” was a best-seller in France (1996). “Who’s kidding whom with the offer of silly, worthless occupation under various schemes on the pretext of employment?”. Rather than waiting vainly for the return of work, “would it be extravagant to try to make life decent and viable by other means?”. Bravo!

Sally Lerner et al: BASIC INCOME: ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR ALL CANADIANS: Between the Lines, Toronto, 1999, 120pp, pbk, \$Can 14.95. This short book clearly explains one of the answers: an adequate basic income as a citizenship right can make life decent for people, not just in Canada - by providing social cohesion in the absence of secure, adequately paid jobs for all; by improving quality of life for the flexible workforce now demanded by employers; and by enabling us to care for the environment and not destroy our children’s future.

Susan Strange: MAD MONEY: Manchester University Press, 1998, 212pp, pbk. This sequel to *Casino Capitalism* starts with “The Casino Image Gone Mad”, and ends with “So What?”. Possible scenarios include: Crash, i.e. worldwide financial and economic collapse; second, not a Crash but a Whimper, i.e. prolonged depression; third, a more optimistic scenario - whether sustainable development, or a return to national economies, nationally regulated and controlled, or ‘participatory capitalism’. “The traditional authority of the nation state is not up to the job of managing mad international money, yet its leaders are instinctively reluctant to entrust that job to unelected, unaccountable (and often arrogant and myopic) bureaucrats. We have to invent a new kind of polity but we cannot yet imagine how it might work”.

Roger C. Elletson: MONEY: A MEDIUM OF POWER: Grand Teton University Press (PO Box 15480, Jackson, WY 83002, USA), 1998, 265pp, pbk, \$26. “Today, no subject is more cloaked in mystery and misinformation than the study of money. At the same time, there is no subject that more urgently needs to be brought into the mainstream of academic awareness and public debate”. This work, the author asserts, “explodes the myth of the exchange-paradigm of money, debunks the pretensions of economics that support that myth, and proclaims money as a *medium of power*”. Its final Part Five is on “The Power-Paradigm of Money and the Transition to an Organic Monetary System”. Although some readers may find the author’s claims exaggerated, the information and ideas in his book deserve attention. Also see p14.

Paul Wolvekamp (ed): **FORESTS FOR THE FUTURE: LOCAL STRATEGIES FOR FOREST PROTECTION, ECONOMIC WELFARE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE:** Zed Books, 1999, 270pp, pbk, £15.95. 17 case studies from 14 countries ask: “how can local/indigenous communities maintain the balance between their societies and forest environments when faced with rising populations, growing demands for basic needs and cash, and increasing external pressures?”. Common causes of deforestation, loss of local livelihoods and culture, and social injustice, include unequal access to forest resources, inadequate security of land rights and user rights, and collusion between government agencies and industrial conglomerates. This interesting book suggests how prudent and undisturbed management of forests by local people could be encouraged.

Paul E. de Jongh with Sean Captain: **OUR COMMON JOURNEY: A PIONEERING APPROACH TO COOPERATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT:** Zed Books, 1999, 298pp, pbk, £15.95. Based on the author’s experience in the Dutch government, this is “an insider account of an innovative, integrated approach to environmental policy” (Klaus Topfer, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in the Foreword). Recommended for environmental policy professionals in government, business and the NGOs.

Swami Shivapremananda: **YOGA FOR STRESS RELIEF:** Gaia Books, 2000, 143pp, pbk, £11.99. Part One is on “The Roots of Stress”, psychological and physical; Part Two sets out a “Three-Month Programme” with clear instructions and illustrations for each posture; and Part Three, on “Overcoming Stress-Related Ailments”, suggests postures, breathing exercises and meditation practices to deal with specific problems - back pain, hypertension, insomnia, and so on. Another attractive and useful book from Gaia.

Shirley-Anne Hardy: **BIRTHRIGHT IN LAND (by WILLIAM OGILVIE) AND THE STATE OF SCOTLAND TODAY:** Peregrine Press, 1999, 667pp (A4), pbk - other details from the author (The Rocks, Pitlochry, Perthshire, Scotland PH16 5QZ). This highly personal blockbuster (5lb 8oz) is a cornucopia of information (and opinion) which will be new to some TP2000 readers. Part I (pp1-231) - mainly about the relevance today of William Ogilvie (author, *Birthright in Land*, 1782), D.C. MacDonald (its publisher, 1891), and other Scottish land reformers - ends with 30 pages on the 13-14C Scottish patriot William Wallace. Part II (pp232-457) includes the water studies of Viktor Schauberg (who said that what Newton should have asked was how the apple got up there in the first place). Part III (pp463-627), “Kaleidoscope”, is about fluoridation, Gandhi on work and education, the land question again, praise of Henry George by Einstein, Franklin Roosevelt, Tolstoy and others, and much else besides.

April Ryedale: **STRANDS OF WISDOM:** Fountainhead Press (20 Perry Orchard, Westrip, Stroud, GL5 4QT), 1999, 188pp, pbk, £7.70. Vol 2 of the epic poem *Wisdom Trilogy, A Comedy More Divine* brings the Wisdom family’s story - a speeded-up myth of human evolution - to the present time. The final volume, “Risking Wisdom”, will end the story with the seventh generation about 2040.

CHALLENGES TO BUSINESS AND THE MARKET

During the November WTO meeting in Seattle, **Ward Morehouse** (777 UN Plaza Suite 3C, New York, NY 1017, USA), co-director, Program on Corporations, Law & Democracy (POCLAD, PO Box 246, South Yarmouth, MA 02664, USA), convened a People's Tribunal. It found "probable cause" that five major corporations, including Cargill, Shell, and Union Carbide, had committed crimes against humanity as defined by international law. When Ward peacefully tried to serve citizen arrest warrants on the trade ministers of the G7 for aiding and abetting those crimes, the police charged him with assault.

Pacific World, December 1999 (PO Box 12125, Wellington, New Zealand; editor **Kay Weir**; <pirmoffice@clear.net.nz>) includes **Vandana Shiva** on "The historic significance of Seattle": "the real Millennium Round for the WTO is the beginning of a new democratic debate about the future of the earth and the future of its people". Instead of global corporate rule based on monopolies and monocultures, we want decentralisation and diversity. It also includes Paul Hellyer, former Canadian Deputy Prime Minister, calling globalisation "the reshaping of the world into one without borders ruled by a dictatorship of the world's most powerful central banks and multinational companies".

"What began as consumer opposition to genetically modified seed appears to be turning into an open revolt against the US-led effort to impose free-trade regimes worldwide and enthrone transnational corporations". It "could become the most important fight in more than a century". **Peter Montague** of *Rachel's Environmental Weekly* <erf@rachel.org> writes on "The Bad Seed" in *New Renaissance*, Vol 9, No 2, 1999-2000 <www.ru.org>.

In "If Cloning is the Answer, What was the Question?", Briefing No 16, October 1999, 44pp (A4), from The Corner House (PO Box 3137, Station Road, Sturminster Newton, Dorset DT10 1YJ; <cornerhouse@gn.apc.org>), **Sarah Sexton** asks questions on power and decision-making raised by human embryo cloning and genetic engineering: what causes the ill-health and disease which this technology might treat? would we all benefit or just some of us? what assumptions about health, science, gender, race and society does it imply? what commitments would society and science have to make to obtain the potential benefits? If the question is how to improve health and quality of life for all, human genetic engineering is probably not the answer.

Psychological research is now a big source of corporate inspiration. But, as "the use of psychology to exploit and influence children for commercial purposes" grows, so does opposition to it. "Psychologists are going to have to decide whether psychology is a tool for healing or for exploitation", say sixty psychologists in a letter to the American Psychological Association - see <www.essential.org/alert>. The Swedish government now prohibits all TV ads directed at children under 12 - see *Adbusters*, No 28, Winter 2000 (1243 West 7th Ave, Vancouver BC V6H 1B7, Canada; <www.adbusters.org>).

The second report of the **Food Ethics Council** (Minster Chambers, Church Street, Southwell, Notts NG25 0HD) is on NOVEL FOODS: BEYOND NUFFIELD: 1999, 40pp(A4), £10 inc UK p&p. Among its 12 recommendations: novel foods should be subject to an agreed form of ethical, socioeconomic and environmental assessment; and the adverse tendencies in those respects of GM crops in developing countries give cause for extreme caution.

The Institute of Science in Society (<www.i-sis.dircon.co.uk>; contact **Dr Mae-Wan Ho**; <m.w.ho@open.ac.uk>) reports that at Seattle more than 140 scientists from 27 countries called on governments to suspend all releases of GM crops and products, in accordance with the precautionary principle.

In “Deep Change or Slow Death: What Future for Business?”, Briefing No 3, 1999, 36pp, £7.50 (ERP Environment, PO Box 75, Shipley, West Yorkshire BD17 6EZ; <www.erpenvironment.org>), Prof **Richard Welford** suggests that “the need for change in the way we do business, in the way governments and other institutions of power behave, and in the way we as individuals lead our lives” is more urgent than yet accepted. Deep change in how business and other organisations are constructed must come from deep personal change. (He will chair James’ keynote address on the role of money and finance at the Sixth Annual International Sustainable Development Research Conference, 13-14 April, Leeds - details from Elaine White <elaine@erpenv.demon.co.uk>.)

“Corporate transformation is fundamentally about personal transformation” is also one of the messages in “Sustainable Development in Action”, 1999, by **Colin Hutchinson** (23 Beatrice Road, Oxted, Surrey RH8 0PZ; <www.applysd.co.uk>). This valuable resource - 54pp(A4), £16 + £2 p&p, from AMED (Association for Management Education and Development, 14-15 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PS; <www.amed.management.org.uk>) - by a pioneer of sustainable development thinking since the 1970s, is for leaders, managers, specialists, and people skilled in the arts of learning and change.

Prof **Laszlo Zsolnai** (Business Ethics Center, Budapest University of Economic Sciences, 1053 Budapest, Veres Palne u. 36, Hungary; <www.bke.hu/ethics>) will direct the Central European University’s summer course on Business & Ecology, 10-21 July, at which James will lecture on “Economics of Sustainability”. Prof Zsolnai’s Business Ethics Papers Nos 1 and 2, 1999, are on “Responsibility & Choice” and “Organisational Greening as a Process of Learning”.

Economies of scale could cut the cost of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels by a factor of four, making solar electricity directly competitive with conventional. The obstacles are not mainly technological. “It is a classic chicken and egg problem of market impasse. As long as demand is small, production of solar energy will remain small-scale and expensive, and as long as production is small-scale and expensive, the price will remain high and the demand small: Catch 22”. **Caspar Henderson** writes in *Green Futures*, November/December 1999 (Forum for the Future, Unit 55, 50-56 Wharf Road, London N1 7SF).

MONEY AND TAXES

“Measurement.. is our hallucination, and money is its handmaid. Measurement gives us a false assurance of reality, but the money, by means of which economics peddles its theories, has an ever greater sense of irreality about it”. There is “a very real danger that all the disparate parts of this rootless culture will succumb to the collapse of their common metaphysic, the monetary system. .. There is no telling when it will collapse. All that is sure is that when and if it does, the aftermath will be catastrophic” - **Maurice Ash** on “The Great Questioning” in *Resurgence*, November/December 1999.

Richard Douthwaite: THE ECOLOGY OF MONEY (Schumacher Briefing No 4): Green Books, 1999, 80pp, pbk, £5. Money is commercially-produced, people-produced, or government-produced. Douthwaite asks seven questions about it. (1) Who issued it? (2) Why? (3) Where? (4) How? (5) When? (6) What gives it its value? (7) How well does (or did) it work as a means of payment, a store of value and a unit of account? He proposes at least four types of money for the future, in an integrated multi-currency system - international, national (or regional/sub-national), user-created, and special store-of-value currencies. We question his idea of linking the international currency to special rights to emit greenhouse gases. But certainly “our current monetary system is coming to the end of its useful life. Its radical reform has become necessary as well as desirable”, and needs to be widely discussed by a well-informed public.

James’s evidence on “Monetary Policy and Fiscal Policy: The Question of Credit Creation” to Select Committees of both Houses of Parliament last year is reprinted in *The Social Crediter*, Vol 78, No 6, November/December 1999 (£1 from 16 Forth Street, Edinburgh EH1 3LH; editor: **Alan Armstrong**). It proposed that government should create the amount of credit judged necessary from time to time to increase the money stock without inflationary effects, and that the banking system should be limited to credit broking and excluded from credit creating.

Meetings in the House of Lords of the FORUM FOR STABLE CURRENCIES aim to raise awareness about the effects of banking practice and flaws in the debt-based system of national currencies. Details of its programme to June 2000 from Tel: 0171-328 3701 or <sabine@globalnet.co.uk>.

“Parapometrics measures the parameters of power embodied in the concepts and data of economics... Economics obscures the predatory effects of usury, and deflects academic scrutiny away from any appreciation of the clandestine agendas of international finance”. *Parapometrics* is the journal of the International Parapometrics Institute, established along with Grand Teton University Press by **Roger C. Elletson** (see p.10). Articles in Vol 1 No 1, Spring/Summer 1998, are on paradigm transformations and the science of power, and on American politicians who “confronted the Money Power” in the early decades of the 20th Century.

European Business Review, Vol 99, No 4 (MCB University Press, <www.mcb.co.uk> - guest editors **John Coleman** and **David Birch**) contains the papers on electronic money from the 1999 Hyperion Digital Money Forum. It will clearly supersede many functions of traditional money - eg airlines are already paying for goods in airmiles. "Democratic governments must have a basic regulatory role in licensing sources of e-cash. One of government's great worries, of course, will be the question of taxation but this could be taken care of by an electronic tax on the first use of natural resources...".

In *SHIFTING THE BURDEN*, 1999, 16pp, £2 from Henry George Foundation (Suite 427, London Fruit and Wool Exchange, Brushfield Street, London E1 6EL) **Tony Vickers** points out that the 20th Century was dominated by a false debate between capitalism and socialism, "both of which ignore land and rent in their theories. With the death of socialism, the story of tax reform has entered a new chapter... People are once again talking about the role of land rents in public revenues...". He gives seven distinct practical arguments for shifting the burden of taxes off enterprise. (A Progressive Forum will be launched in April for people interested in the use of resource rentals for public revenue.)

In *Land and Liberty*, Winter 1999 (from HGF, above), **Alanna Hartzok** (PO Box 328, Scotland, PA 17254, USA; <earthrts@pa.net>) reports activities as a UN NGO representative - including a conference in Mexico where she and **Jeffery Smith** (The Geonomy Society, 1611 SE Nehalem Street, No 2, Portland, OR 97202) discussed green tax shifting, land value taxation, geonomics and citizen's income with 300 Green Party activists from 30 countries. Jeff Smith's *Geonomist*, 1999 Summer/Fall, reports increasing numbers of influential American groups - from Sierra Club to Cato Institute - coming out in support of a property tax shift (from buildings to land) in the Henry George tradition.

Tobin Tax Update, the monthly newsletter of the Tobin Tax Initiative, USA <www.tobintax.org>, reports growing support in the USA and around the world for the proposal to tax cross-border currency transactions.

Danyal Sattar's *SETTING UP A LOCAL SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND* (Industrial Common Ownership Finance Ltd (ICOF), 115 Hamstead Road, Birmingham B20 2BT, 1999, 55pp(A4), pbk, £40) is a useful practical guide to the need for such funds, to the practicalities of setting one up and to some existing examples - plus information on Membership Networks and Key National Contacts and Actors in Social Finance, and a Glossary of Terms.

WHY DO PEOPLE JOIN LOCAL EXCHANGE TRADING SYSTEMS? by **Caron Caldwell** - Department of Applied Social Studies, Occasional Paper No 1, 27pp (A4) (series editor: **Tony Fitzpatrick**, University of Luton, Park Square, Luton LU1 3JU) - concludes that, without being a panacea for society's ills, LETS combine ecological concern with social justice and are a useful attempt to promote practical solutions to green political theory.

PEOPLE, PROPOSALS AND PROJECTS

In *Resurgence*, No 195, July/August 1999, **Duncan Smith** (18 Victoria Road, Cirencester, Glos GL7 1ES) proposed a Page Three Regulation - "a law saying that the whole of Page Three in all newspapers and journals should be reserved for text supplied on a daily basis by a variety of organisations [which don't have access to large resources from taxes or business profits] nominated by an independent Commission". This idea deserves serious study and support.

Details of Spring 2000 weekly lectures from **Centre for Human Ecology** (12 Roseneath Place, Edinburgh; **Nick Wilding**; <niku@clan.com>). Tickets payable in Reekies, or in SOCS, or in sterling.

ECOVISION (**Pedro di Girolamo**, Casilla 145, Correo 29, Santiago, Chile) is a series of seven 40pp selections of Spanish translations from authors known to TP 2000 readers. Three already published are "Construyendo La Era Ecologica", "Asentamientos Humanos y Ecologia", and "Agricultura, Salud y Ecologia".

Owen Ephraim's (50 New Road, Great Baddow, Chelmsford CM2 7QT; <owen@ephram.freeserve.com>) proposed **POLYBUS** would provide public transport for door-to-door local travel and deliveries.

BioEthica (**Dr Peter Lund**, 62 Sir John's Road, Birmingham B29 7ER; <www.bioethica.co.uk>) provides independent help to groups/organisations wishing to understand and develop policies on genetic technologies.

Development Dialogue: 1998:2, 128pp, (Dag Hammarskjold Centre, Ovre Slottsgatan 2, SE-753 10 Uppsala, Sweden) on "The Southeast Asian Media in a Time of Crisis", includes three insightful articles on democracy, globalisation and information, and five on the experiences of particular countries - including Burma, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Entries for this year's two World Habitat Awards of £10,000 each, for projects offering practical and imaginative solutions to current housing problems, should reach **Diane Diacon** (Building and Social Housing Foundation, Memorial Square, Coalville, Leics LE67 3TU; <www.bshf.org>) by 1st July.

The new office address of **THE LAND IS OURS** is 16B Cherwell Street, Oxford OX4 1BG; <office@tlio.demon.co.uk>; <www.oneworld.org/tlio>.

SCENARIOS EUROPE 2010: FIVE POSSIBLE FUTURES FOR EUROPE, July 1999, 119pp(A4), Forward Studies Unit, European Commission, (rue de la Loi 200, B-1049, Brussels, Belgium), explores: "Triumphant Markets", "The Hundred Flowers", "Shared Responsibilities", "Creative Societies" and "Turbulent Neighbourhoods". In "Creative Societies" everyone will have a decent income, a minimum of security, and recognition of their social worth even if they don't have a job; and alternatives to traditional work will be recognised and funded.