

TURNING POINT 2000

March 1995

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

NEWSLETTER AND MAILING LIST

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

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

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

TURNING POINT 2000 SEMINARS

We shall be holding two Saturday seminars again here this summer, led by James Robertson - as follows.

24th June: ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY 1: National and Local.

8th July: ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY 2: Supranational and Global.

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

N.B. "Economic democracy" here refers to how economic and money power is distributed and exercised in all aspects of life - not just how business enterprises are structured and controlled.

SOME BITS OF NEWS ABOUT US

In November/December James made a first visit to Jersey to discuss sustainable development and new economic policies with Deputy Gary Matthews (10 St. Peters School Estate, La Rue de Leglise, St. Peter, Jersey JE3 7ZD) and other socio-environmentally active States members, with Jersey government officials, and in a public lecture.

In January we had lovely visits to old friends in Florida: Hazel Henderson and Alan Kay (Anastasia Island, PO Box 5190, St. Augustine, FL 32085, USA) for a weekend seminar at their Centre for Alternative Futures and Sustainable Development; then Renee-Marie and Kenneth Croose Parry (Centre for the Advancement of Human Co-operation, PO Box 15778, Gainesville, FL 32085, USA), where James spoke to the Gainesville branch of the United Nations Association. Then, enthused by our local trips with the Parrys, down South to the birds, wildlife and ecosystems at Sanibel, Everglades and the Keys.

James is now a Visiting Scholar at Green College, Oxford, attached to the Green College Centre for Environmental Policy and Understanding. The Centre's director, Sir Crispin Tickell, is Convenor of the British Government's Panel on Sustainable Development. (Among many other things, the Panel said in its first report, January 1995 - copies available from the Department of the Environment, PO Box 151, London E15 2HF - that it "would support a gradual move away from taxes on labour, income, profits and capital towards taxes on pollution and the use of resources"). James's paper for the Centre on "Electronics, Environment and Employment", completed in January, has apparently been well received in the corridors of power. It is to be published in FUTURES in June.

Non-lawyers can support the expanding activity of the Environmental Law Foundation by becoming Associate Members of its countrywide network of lawyers and environmental experts. ELF is about to become a charity. Alison is on its executive committee. Its newsletter is ELFline. Its current cases include helping a group of campaigners to get emissions from a chemical waste incinerator reduced, village residents to oppose the local siting of a poultry production unit, and a client to get expert medical opinion linking her ill-health to exposure to a chemical weedkiller. Details from director Katherine Davis (ELF, Lincoln's Inn House, 42 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EX).

The SCHUMACHER SOCIETY (Foxhole, Dartington, Totnes, Devon TQ9 6EB - Jo Hoare) has set up a lecture service to help universities and other higher education establishments across Britain to organise lectures by "distinguished figures of the ecological movement", of a similar calibre to the annual Schumacher Lectures. Alison is on the Council of the Schumacher Society. James is one of the panel of lecturers. (This year's Schumacher Lectures are on 21st October in Bristol.)

James has become a Trustee of the New Economics Foundation (1st Floor, Vine Court, 112-116 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1JE). NEF's work is beginning to make its mark in the media, as awareness of the need for a 'new economic paradigm' spreads.

Our autumn Seminars on Money And Values went very well. The topic of the coming June/July seminars is Economic Democracy. We do not suggest economic democracy is the *only* thing necessary to create genuine people-centred democracy in Britain, other countries, or the world as a whole. But it is certainly an essential prerequisite. Readers will note many relevant items in the following pages.

LOCAL INITIATIVES

"The local initiatives undertaken by local thinkers may seem too small to counteract the global forces now daily invading lives and environments. But.. all global institutions have to make their transnational operations concrete through actions that are always and necessarily local: they cannot exist otherwise. It is at the grass roots that they can most wisely be opposed. For it is the only level at which men and women can effectively struggle". Gustavo Esteva (M. Bravo 210-Altos, Centro, Oaxaca, OAX 68 000, Mexico) and Madhu Suri Prakash write on "From Global To Local" in FOURTH WORLD REVIEW, No.66, 1994 (24 Abercorn Place, London NW8 9XP).

"At last the community has a chance for real partnership alongside the council and businesses in our borough, to work in cooperation towards a sustainable society... Local Agenda 21 is a very exciting opportunity for us all" - Vera Elliott (CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES, 24 Rosebery Road, Cheam, Surrey SM1 2BW), in "Partnerships For Change: Bringing The Rio Earth Summit To Sutton".

TRANET, (PO Box 567, Rangeley, ME 04970, USA) can now offer 30 short pamphlets in support of its 3CE Coalition for Cooperative Community Economics - to "reinvent society through sustainable communities".

In THE COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE VISION: HOW IT WORKS IN ANYTOWN (Pamphlet No.1, £1.50 inc p&p from New Sector - see p.12) John Pearce describes the build-up of Anytown's "intricate network of community organisations, all of them enterprising, some more obviously commercial than others, all having to pay their way, some more successful than others, many intertrading and some independent" - a vision of a "powerful other way of doing things by seeking community benefit rather than personal wealth".

Owen Nankivell (18 Ash Hill Road, Torquay TQ1 3HZ) writes in the Autumn 1994 Hinksey Centre newsletter (Westminster College, Oxford OX2 9AT) about an empowering experiment in Torbay, analysing the local economy as if it were a national economy, to provide the community with a picture of its sources of income and employment, and its balance of trade - exports and imports - with the outside world.

Why is the public sector, originally expected to realise social aims, now seen as separate from the social economy or third sector? See Karl Birkholzer, "Social Economy, Community Economy and Third Sector - Fashionable Slogans or Building Blocks of the Future?" (EUROPEAN NETWORK for Economic Self-Help and Local Development, Wiesenstr. 29, D-13357 Berlin, Germany), for a thought-provoking analysis.

Why does Sustainable Development have to be Community-Based? IIED's Annual Report 1993-94 (3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DD) explains.

THE AFRICAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (PO Box 0273, OSU, Accra, Ghana - Wilbert Tengey) helps local communities and grass roots groups in participatory, self-reliant, socio-economic development.

PROSPERITY SOUTH (Calgary Economic Development Authority, 401 Burns Building, PO Box 2100, Station m (IMC 6), Calgary, AB T2P 2M5, Canada - contact: Mike Hollinshead) is a local economic development network covering all the local communities in southern Alberta. It aims to identify best practice, would particularly like to hear of projects based on social entrepreneurship and broad stakeholder groups, and will be happy to share on the Internet the information you send.

A ONE-WORLD COMMUNITY

[Editorial Note. Most supporters of a small-is-beautiful world of ecologically sustainable, autonomous local communities accept that it will not leap into existence at one bound. In a world community increasingly threatened by environmental catastrophe on a global scale, and increasingly dominated by global business, global finance and global communications, there is a need for action and negotiation at global - as well as local and national - level to turn things round. Today's institutions of global governance, including the UN, must be transformed, not abolished or allowed to wither away.]

"Mankind's problems can no longer be solved by national governments. What is needed is a World Government. This can best be achieved by strengthening the UN system... Some of the most important new institutions would be financial - a World Treasury and a World Central Bank". Jan Tinbergen is quoted in PACIFIC WORLD, November 1994 (Pacific Institute of Resource Management, PO Box 12125, Wellington, New Zealand - director George Porter).

FUTURES, March 1995 - special issue on "The UN at Fifty: Policy and Financing Alternatives" - is essential reading. Guest editors include Hazel Henderson (see p.2.). 20 contributors include Erskine Childers, Alan Kay and Maurice Strong. Copies from the New Economics Foundation (see p.2) - £10 + p&p (£1.00 UK, £3.00 overseas).

THE UNITED NATIONS IN AN INTERDEPENDENT WORLD, 76pp. report from Global Education Associates (475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1848, New York, NY 10115, USA), contains recommendations to the UN, and to citizen sectors collaborating with the UN, for celebrating the UN's 50th Anniversary. Useful information about UN structure, specialised agencies, achievements and bibliography. (Annually, the UK spends on alcoholic drinks over three times the total spending of the UN system - see BREAKTHROUGH NEWS newsletter, Fall 1994, from GEA).

"A comprehensive peace policy needs to combine measures that address the symptoms of conflict - the institutions and arsenals of the war system - with those that address the roots of conflict - the accelerating social, economic and environmental pressures that cause unemployment, poverty and dislocation, and that set different communities, classes and countries on a collision course with each other in a struggle for resources and survival". In BUDGETING FOR DISARMAMENT: THE COSTS OF PEACE AND WAR, Worldwatch Paper 122, November 1994 (\$5 from Worldwatch Institute, 1776 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC 20036, USA) Michael Renner proposes a global demilitarisation fund, financed from a percentage of national military budgets as a share of the "peace dividend".

The PEACE 2000 Campaign seeks to unite the public, business and the peace movement to convert the world's arms industry to the peaceful development of the planet. Brochure from Peace 2000 (rue de Zurich 41, CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland).

Christopher Hall (CHRISTIAN CONCERN FOR ONE WORLD, The Knowle, Deddington, Banbury, Oxon OX15 0TB) has informative leaflets, "What Can I Do For Justice And Peace?" and "What Can I Do For The Planet?".

CONNECTIONS is the newsletter of the UN Environment and Development UK Committee (UNED-UK, c/o UNA, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL). "Values For A Sustainable Future" is the report of a symposium held by UNED-UK on 2nd June 1994, World Environment Day.

"The hierarchical society took a new form with the rise of the market economy in the West and of the planned economy in the East. In this new form, the elite draws its power not only (as in the past) from the concentration of political, military or, in general, social power, but primarily from the concentration of economic power - whether this concentration is brought about by the market mechanism or through central planning". ... "What is needed to open the way for new forms of social organisation is the development of a similar mass consciousness about the failure of 'actually existing capitalism' to the one that led to the collapse of 'actually existing socialism'". Takis Fotopoulos (20 Woodberry Way, London N12 0HG) in SOCIETY AND NATURE, Vol.2, No.3 (PO Box 637, Littleton, CO 80160, USA).

The fundamental purpose of the economy - to serve the people - has "been inverted so that people serve the economy, with consequences, contradictions and human costs which are unacceptable". In "Democratisation Through Economic Empowerment" in THE OTHER STOCK EXCHANGE, 1994, 5/29 (Tlaloc 40-3, Col. Tlaxpana, CP 11370 Mexico, DF Mexico) Teresa Cobelli describes the emerging new socio-economic paradigm and discusses its relationship with the mainstream economy - parallel and separate, or transformative.

"The collapse of communism was perhaps the defining moment of our century, .. the end of a century in which the tensions between capitalism and communism have been the fulcrum of political arrangements, of institutional design, around the world". Robin Grove-White (director, Centre for the Study of Environmental Change, Lancaster University) explored the important implications of this for our understanding of environmental issues in "Environment and Society: Some Reflections", his address to the 1994 annual meeting of the GREEN ALLIANCE (49 Wellington Street, London WC2E 7BN).

There is now widespread agreement about the need for change in the Bretton Woods Institutions (World Bank, IMF and GATT/World Trade Organisation), to increase participation in the development process at local, national and global levels and to ensure proper accountability of the BWIs to nations and to the UN itself. RETHINKING BRETTON WOODS: TOWARDS EQUITABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND PARTICIPATORY DEVELOPMENT is a powerful 34-page report from Center of Concern (3700 13th Street NE, Washington, DC 20017, USA - \$5.95).

The International Conference on Population and Development, in Cairo in September 1994, "was a victory for enlightenment and for women. But it left a lot of questions about development, the environment and migration unanswered". PEOPLE AND THE PLANET, Vol.3, No.4, 1994 (editor John Rowley, 1 Woburn Walk, London WC1H 0JJ) includes an 8-page report on the conference. Also a lead article on "Eco-Refugees: A Crisis In The Making" by Norman Myers.

"The time has come when we must seriously consider levying charges on the use of common global resources to finance common global purposes. There is an increasing awareness that people should pay for what they consume. Charges that can be justified as payment for using scarce and essential resources include a surcharge on air tickets, a charge on ocean maritime transport, a special fee for maritime dumping of waste, parking fees for geostationary satellites, charges for the uses of the electromagnetic spectrum, and charges for fishing rights in certain areas". The Commission on Global Governance's report, OUR GLOBAL NEIGHBOURHOOD, has been published by Oxford University Press. (A similar approach to ecotaxation is gathering support at national level. See Editorial Comment and items on page 12.)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

"Africa has made very little progress in working towards establishing sustainable consumption patterns as outlined in Chapter 4 of Agenda 21. Because of widespread poverty, most people are too busy striving to climb over the poverty barrier to care about sustainable consumption patterns". "Little has been done from the political side towards achieving sustainable consumption and development patterns in Latin America... The rich minority, responsible for over-consumption patterns, is becoming richer, the middle class is disappearing, and the poor are living in sub-human conditions due to rampant unemployment. With such a situation, sustainability becomes an empty word". Responses from Kenya and Argentina, in THE NETWORK, January 1995, (Centre for Our Common Future, 33 Route de Valavran, 1293 Bellevue, Geneva, Switzerland).

"Next to the need to create sustainable livelihoods, the central issue facing society - north, south, east or west - is the need to create sustainable energy systems... sustainable energy systems present a set of issues common to all nations and societies, at all stages of development. They could provide a powerful synthesising, unifying concept.. to design more viable economic systems for the future in any country, rich or poor". Ashok Khosla in DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES, October 1994 (B-32 TARA Crescent, Qutab Institutional Area, New Delhi 110 016, India).

FOOD MILES, a 60-page report, September 1994, from SAFE Alliance (38 Ebury Street, London SW1W 0LU) examines the social and ecological implications of the international food trade, and the increasing distances travelled by food from producer to consumer. How can individuals, farmers and growers, food retailers and processors, local authorities and national governments reduce 'food miles'? Recommendations include ecological tax reform to raise the costs of long-distance food transportation.

"The Community Supported Agriculture movement has provided real grass roots momentum for shorter producer-consumer links. But lasting progress will require changes at the policy level as well. ... We need to rethink 'free trade' policies that favour transnational corporate producers, and instead aim at a better balance between long-distance trade and local, regional and national production. Most importantly we need to lobby for energy taxation on the production and transportation of goods". Helena Norberg-Hodge, reported in Winter 1994-95 ISEC/LADAKH PROJECT newsletter (21 Victoria Square, Clifton, Bristol BS8 4ES).

"The moment the price of energy used for transport is recalculated to include the damage to the environment, all present trade patterns will fall to pieces". Willem Hoogendijk (PO Box 13030, 3507 LA Utrecht, Netherlands) in one of his recent papers.

Sustainability is a theme in TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING, October 1994 (editor Nick Matthews, TCPA, 17 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AS), on "Who's Afraid of Environmental Economics?". Paul Ekins writes on "The Impact of Carbon Taxation", Roger Levett on "Sustainable Pricing Structures".

The hundred worst European emitters of sulphur pollution include thirteen UK power stations, six of which are in the worst twenty-one. ACID NEWS, December 1994 (Swedish NGO Secretariat on Acid Rain, Box 245, S-401 24 Goteborg, Sweden).

"The current materials economy presents a classic political problem: those who benefit from the status quo (mining and timber companies, waste disposal firms, bulk commodity producers) are well-organised and politically powerful. The rest of society, which is paying the price for inefficient use of materials, is dispersed and for the most part does not perceive that there is a common solution - an efficiency strategy. ... The first step is for all sectors to come to recognise the common roots of our problems; the next is to organise well enough to generate the political will for change". THE NEXT EFFICIENCY REVOLUTION: CREATING A SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS ECONOMY is Worldwatch Paper No.121 of September 1994 (see p.4).

"Are people in the rich countries prepared to pay to save the key biological resources of our planet?". In PAYING FOR THE FORESTS (23pp, October 1994, from New Economics Foundation - see p.2) Victor Anderson explores how the countries of the South which currently supply ecological goods and services to the world as a whole, should be paid for them. The current financial debt crisis is serious, but the ecological debt crisis is far worse.

The GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE (Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155, USA - contact Neva Goodwin) issued its first newsletter in December 1994.

The focus of attention by government, industry and environmental campaigners alike has been on recycling. But recycling too has an impact on the environment. Attention is now turning to the possibility of reducing waste and pollution through the manufacture and sale of products with longer life spans. In BEYOND RECYCLING: THE LONGER LIFE OPTION (November 1994, 21pp, £5 from New Economics Foundation - see p.2) Tim Cooper argues for increased product durability as the key element in a new environmental strategy to minimise waste.

Many of today's waste management companies will eventually have to decide whether they are in the waste management or resource efficiency business. John Elkington, in PEOPLE AND THE PLANET, Vol.4, No.1, 1995 (see p.5) says that business can and must play a key role in developing solutions to the world of waste.

The Rover Group of companies, in collaboration with six of their suppliers and with local government, has prepared a guide on how to introduce a company Environment Management System. Single copies are available from Martin Stott (Oxfordshire County Council, Personnel, Policy and Review, County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND).

Operation "Budgeting for Justice" aims to help households to "revise their consumer habits (which are usually only assessed in economic terms), and decide which of these are incompatible with members' value judgements and a sustainable development model". 22-page guidelines from "Blessed are the Peacemakers" are in IDOC, October/December 1994 (IDOC Internazionale, Via Santa Maria dell'Anima 30, 00186 Rome, Italy).

Wolfgang Zuckermann (155 rue Carreterie, 84000 Avignon, France) and Eric Britton (see p.11) propose a grass-roots-initiated CONSUMER HOLIDAY on the first Thursday of every month.

"Tall, Dark, Handsome and Number One" is Nick Mayhew's (5 Leighton Road, London NW5 2QD) "sparkling, mixed-media lecture on the challenge to the business world posed by sustainable development".

BOOKS RECEIVED

Timothy J. Gorringer: CAPITAL AND THE KINGDOM: THEOLOGICAL ETHICS AND ECONOMIC ORDER: Orbis (USA)/SPCK (UK), 1994, 200pp, pbk, £15. "It is the argument of this book", by the Chaplain of St. John's College, Oxford, "as it was the argument of the Deuteronomists, that two ways lie before us, a way of life and a way of death, a way of equality and a way of domination, a way of corporate justice and a way of concealed tyranny, a way of global nurture and a way of global suicide. The way of death is the prevailing economic system..; the way of life calls for conversion". The twin Christian traditions of wisdom and prophecy are highly relevant to the world situation today.

Arnold Toynbee and Daisaku Ikeda: CHOOSE LIFE: A DIALOGUE: OUP, 1989, 374pp, hbk. "Choose life and then you and your descendants shall live" (Deuteronomy 30:19). This wide-ranging dialogue on personal and social life, political and international life, and philosophical and religious life, took place in 1973. But the thoughts of these two wise people on the issues it surveys are even more topical today. (It may be difficult to track this book down through bookshops, but good libraries should have it.)

Henryk Skolimowski: ECOYOGA: PRACTICE AND MEDITATIONS FOR WALKING IN BEAUTY ON THE EARTH: Gaia Books, 1994, 192pp, hbk, £10.99. "To walk in beauty is not an easy task. It is like re-establishing a perpetually collapsing bridge. You must be forever watchful, forever aware... It is a continually creative act...". This beautifully produced book is not "to be read in an hour. It is a pool of tranquility to be dipped into from time to time with reverence, for spiritual nourishment, for meditation and for reflection".

Robert Minhinnick (ed): GREEN AGENDA: ESSAYS ON THE ENVIRONMENT OF WALES: Seren, 1994, 198pp, pbk, £7.95. Ten leading environmental writers in Wales cover energy, sustainability, the future of the environmental movement, tourism, transport, agriculture, the urban majority, environmental information and (by Alwyn Jones) "Beyond Environmentalism: The Imperatives of Green Philosophy".

Ken Webster and Paul Ekins: REAL WEALTH: GREEN ECONOMICS IN THE CLASSROOM: Zeitgeist Publishing, 1994, 84pp, pbk, £15.50. This school guide and teachers' handbook on green economics, a book by The New Economics Foundation (see p.2), is for sixth forms and further education colleges. It uses participatory learning techniques to explore fundamental issues of the 1990s.

Susan Forrester (ed): PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: A FUNDING GUIDE FOR INDEPENDENT GROUPS: Directory of Social Change (Radius Works, Back Lane, London NW3 1HL), 1994, 192pp, pbk, £9.95 + £2.50 p&p. This is a well set out and easy to use guide to funding sources interested in: international affairs, peace, disarmament and arms control, conflict resolution and mediation, civil liberties, human rights and refugees, development education, Northern Ireland, and East/West partnerships.

Thierry Verhelst and Edith Sizoo (eds): CULTURES ENTRE ELLES: DYNAMIQUE OU DYNAMITE?: South-North Network (174 rue Joseph II, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium), 1994, 365pp (2 volumes). This book (in French) results from a joint project on "Living in peace in a world of cultural diversity" by the Fondation Pour Le Progres de l'Homme (Paris) and South-North Network (Brussels). It covers dialogues in Africa, Latin America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

Fred Harrison (7, Kings Road, Teddington, Middx. TW11 0QB) is editing an important new Georgist Paradigm series. The first three books - all published by Shephard-Walwyn (1994, pbk) in association with the Centre for Incentive Taxation (see p.12) - are listed below. Their approach goes beyond both socialism and capitalism; combines economic efficiency with social fairness and ecological sustainability; and, though originated by Henry George more than a century ago, is now gaining new impetus in the context of ecotaxation, continuing high unemployment, and sustainable development.

Mason Gaffney and Fred Harrison: **THE CORRUPTION OF ECONOMICS: 271pp, £10.95.** A convincing account of the development of neo-classical economics in the USA as a deliberate strategy to marginalise Georgist thinking by economists hired to support powerful landowning interests. Also an excellent 70-page essay on the Georgist Paradigm.

Michael Hudson, G.J. Miller and Kris Feder: **A PHILOSOPHY FOR A FAIR SOCIETY: 169pp, £9.95.** Discusses:

- (1) how land monopoly in antiquity (and the debt servitude associated with it) helped to bring down civilisations;
- (2) how, in a political economy "based upon a pre-industrial system of land tenure on to which has been grafted an industrial application of labour and capital", the welfare state has been unable to deal effectively with poverty and ill-health; and
- (3) how Georgism offers "a dramatic reorientation of public finance: the substitution of user charges - preeminently land and natural resource rents - for compulsory taxes on economic activity".

Nicolaus Tideman (ed): **LAND AND TAXATION: 181pp, £12.95.** Five contributions on "Land as a Distinctive Factor of Production", "The Economics of Efficient Taxes on Land", "Poverty and the Theory of Wages: A Geoclassical Analysis", "Flawed Land Acts 1947-1976", and "Postscript on Neoclassicism: Death Rattle of a Deadly Paradigm".

BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM US

The following books by James Robertson are available to readers of this March 1995 newsletter at the special mail order prices below. Payment in sterling - cheques to James Robertson, please - see p.1 for address. (US\$ orders should go to Bootstrap Press, Suite 9a, 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017. Please ask Bootstrap for prices.)

FUTURE WEALTH: A New Economics For The 21st Century (Cassell, 1990; 160pp; pbk). £6.00 + £1.00 p&p (UK, Europe, surface overseas).

"It could well be that *Future Wealth* will ultimately be required reading for economics students, alongside *The Wealth of Nations* and *The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money*." Francis Kinsman, *Management Today*.

FUTURE WORK: Jobs, Self-Employment and Leisure After the Industrial Age (Gower/Temple Smith, 1985; 220pp, pbk). £5.00 + £1.00 p&p.

"The best book of its kind so far... Packed with ideas... Enthusiasm and verve." Prof. R.E. Pahl, *Times Lit. Supp.*

(James would have called this book "THE OWNWORK REVOLUTION", if the publisher had agreed!)

THE SANE ALTERNATIVE: A Choice of Futures (Robertson, Revised Edition, 1983; 156pp; pbk). £3.00 + 50p p&p.

"Indispensable. A rare combination of important new theory with practical guidance." Hazel Henderson (foreword to US edition).

ETHICS, WORK AND LIVELIHOODS

"To have a global ethic means that humanity needs a minimum of common values, of moral attributes and moral standards. This global ethic does not strive to replace the Sermon on the Mount of the New Testament. It does not want to replace the Torah, or the Halakah, the Koran or the Shamir. It tries to find out what is common to all these great traditions and to the religions of Indian and Chinese origins". Hans Kung, on "Future Generations and Mediterranean Religions", reported in FUTURE GENERATIONS JOURNAL, 95,1 (Foundation for International Studies, University Buildings, St. Paul's Street, Valletta, Malta) - contact Stephen Caruana).

INTERFAITH DECLARATION is a Code of Business Ethics for Christians, Muslims and Jews (PO Box 4385, London SW1W 9XG - Saba Risaluddin).

"Even though there is no Christian blueprint for economic and financial systems, nevertheless it is possible to offer a vision of such a way of living". John Davis' 4-page paper "Without a Vision the People Perish" is Audenshaw Paper 154, October 1994 (The Hinksey Centre, Westminster College, Oxford OX2 9AT).

"Faced with this escalating unemployment and poverty, government has two strategic policy options if it is to move Ireland towards a situation where everyone has meaningful work and an income sufficient to live with basic dignity:

- (a) to ensure that there are sufficient jobs for all those who seek them, with the wages paid for these jobs protected by minimum wage legislation and complemented by adequate social insurance;
- (b) to accept that the labour market has changed, to introduce a basic income guaranteed for all, and to build a society where all may work even if they don't have full-time jobs in the traditional sense.

For decades successive governments have followed option (a) and have failed to effectively tackle unemployment and poverty... This leaves the second option as the only choice... ". From TACKLING POVERTY, UNEMPLOYMENT AND EXCLUSION: A MOMENT OF GREAT OPPORTUNITY, a 52pp report, November 1994, from Justice Commission, Conference of Religious of Ireland (CORI) (Milltown Park, Dublin 6, Ireland).

"Because of our taxation system, natural resources of untaxed fuel used in machines currently provide energy that is up to 8,000 times cheaper than their taxed human counterparts. Until we have taxation policies that take into account that society exists for humans, the simplistic 'economic' advantage for machines will continue to make more and more humans superfluous, as growing redundancy and unemployment makes apparent". Owen Ephraim (50 New Road, Great Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 7QT) is treasurer of the UNITAX Association, which sees natural resources as a common heritage. His pamphlets include "The Way out of Unemployment" and "The Case for Energy-Based Taxation". He has details of Farel Bradbury's "Pictorial Presentation of the Resource Economics Proposition".

In ELECTRONICS, ENVIRONMENT AND EMPLOYMENT (see p.2) James Robertson concluded that, in the short and medium term, information and communication technologies are likely to destroy more jobs than they create, and environmental policies are unlikely to create many more jobs than they destroy. Changes in taxation and benefits are needed, both to increase the supply of jobs, and also to reduce the demand for jobs by enabling people to become less dependent on employers to pay their incomes, provide their livelihoods and organise their work.

"For many of the poor, livelihood seems to fit better than employment as a concept to capture how poor people live, their realistic priorities, and what can help them". "If the poor and weak are not to see the [UN Social Development] Summit as a celebration of hypocrisy, signifying not sustainable wellbeing for them, but sustainable privilege for us, the key is to enable them to express their reality, to put that reality first, and to make it count". In **POVERTY AND LIVELIHOODS: WHOSE REALITY COUNTS?** (Discussion Paper 347, January 1995, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9RE) Robert Chambers discusses the reality of sustainable livelihoods for poor people in the South.

"If we imagine a world where every human being is a potential entrepreneur, we'll build a system to give everybody a chance to materialise his/her potential... we'll have to forget that people should wait around to get hired by somebody. We have to instil in everybody's mind that each person creates his or her own job. We'll build institutions in such a way that each person is supported and empowered to create his/her own job. Wage-employment will come into the picture only as an alternative to self-employment". From a keynote address by Muhammad Yunus, reported in **GRAMEEN DIALOGUE**, October 1994 (Mirpur Two, Dhaka 1216, Bangladesh).

"We have voluntarily created all the preconditions of a labour-saving society and now are surprised that there are large numbers of people 'out of work'". In **RETHINKING WORK: NEW CONCEPTS OF WORK IN A KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY: THE TELEWORK OPTION REVIEWED** (European Commission, 131pp), Eric Britton (Ecoplan International, 10 rue Joseph Bara, 75006 Paris, France) explores alternative ways of thinking about the future of work, and suggests a major overhaul of the tax system to replace work-related charges with taxes on resources and energy.

TELEWORK '94: NEW WAYS TO WORK (edited by Peter Johnston, DG XIII, Directorate B, Unit B1, European Commission, rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium) - the proceedings of a European assembly held in Berlin on 3-4 November 1994 - includes an important contribution on "Work in a Sustainable Economy" from the Wuppertal Institute (Doppersberg 19, D-5600 Wuppertal 1, Germany).

CORI (see p.10) has published a January 1995 progress report on **PART-TIME JOB OPPORTUNITIES** by the Institute for Action and Research on Work and Employment. This is a path-breaking pilot programme to create a thousand voluntary part-time jobs for unemployed people.

Keith Hudson (6 Upper Camden Place, Bath BA1 5HX) has set up **THE JOB SOCIETY** to study the profound changes taking place in the structure of employment, and provide a forum (e.g. on the Internet) for discussing new ideas about work. Background papers include "The Looming Shortage of Jobs" and "A Future Parallel Economy".

"Environmental policy has already led to an increase in employment, estimated at between 8,700 and 17,400 in the recycling industry and over 100,000 in pollution control in the UK". By introducing "tax reform, recycling revenue into reduced employer's national insurance payments, the total jobs gain may be far greater, easily exceeding a million". **WORKING FUTURE? JOBS AND THE ENVIRONMENT**, 109pp, £5.95, was published in November 1994 by Friends of the Earth (26-28 Underwood Street, London N1 7JQ; contact Duncan McLaren).

SHARE TIMES is the newsletter of the new Work Well Network (Bruce O'Hara, Box 3483, Courtenay, BC, Canada V9N 6Z8).

MONEY

[Editorial Comment. Supporters of (1) land-rent taxation, (2) eco-taxes, and (3) citizen's income, should join forces around the following principles of a new political economy. People should pay for (1) profiting from publicly created values like land values and (2) using common natural resources like energy and the environment's capacity to absorb pollution; and (3) the resulting revenue should be distributed to all members of society, either directly in the form of a citizen's income or indirectly in the form of public expenditure for the common good. Similar principles should be applied globally, not just locally and nationally - see last item on p.5.]

"Recognition of the distinction between privately earned incomes and publicly created values", as the basis for evolutionary change in the structure of taxation, is "imperative if we want prosperity and social harmony". The title of a stimulating new 8-page document, from the Centre for Incentive Taxation (177 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 1EU) is "Politicians are seeking THE BIG IDEA that will give Britain a fresh start. HERE IT IS!".

Research by Gary Flo (Institute for Geonomic Transformation, 30401 Navarro Ridge Road, Albion, CA 95410, USA) suggests replacing other taxes with land and resource taxes, and returning the revenue to society as a "Common Heritage Dividend". It shows that, without land-value taxation, social dividends (or citizens' income) are likely to end up raising land values for the benefit of landowners while leaving everyone else little better off.

"Almost all taxes distort the market through disproportionately discriminating against the services being taxed. Environmental taxes are one of the few exceptions". Two important items on ECO-NOMIC TAX REFORM by David Gee (WBMG, 640-643 The Linen Hall, 162 Regents Street, London W1R 5TB), sponsored by the Global Environmental Change Programme of the Economic and Social Research Council, are the 106pp proceedings of an international meeting at Chatham House (March 1994) and a 4pp briefing (July 1994). [Also see Owen Ephraim, p.10.]

TOWARDS AN ADEQUATE INCOME FOR ALL (137pp, September 1994 from CORI - see items on pp.10 and 11) contains four chapters on the need for and feasibility of a basic income system for Ireland. A further significant contribution from Sr. Brigid Reynolds and Fr. Sean Healy.

David Purdy (Manchester University, Department of Social Policy, Manchester M13 9PL) is the new editor of the BIEN (Basic Income European Network) newsletter. BIEN may seek funding from the European Union for research into basic income proposals. It has been mooted that BIEN might eventually become a Basic Income Earth Network, extending to Southern as well as Northern countries.

A warm welcome to the first issue of LETS-LINK! (editor Harry Turner, LETSLINK UK, 61 Woodcock Road, Warminster, Wilts BA12 9DH). The appearance of the world's first national local-currency magazine follows the unprecedented growth in the number of local exchange trading systems in the UK, Europe and the world. Cost is £2.25 per issue (or £1.75 + 50p equivalent in your own new local currency).

Lesley Rowan (9 Shiphough Place, Stirling FK8 1UZ), can provide information about LETS in Scotland - as reported in NEW SECTOR, the magazine of community and cooperative enterprise, October/November 1994 (Society Place, West Calder EH55 8EA; editor Kay Caldwell).

Gill Seyfang (PO Box 18, Diss, Norfolk IP22 3NS) wrote her MSc thesis (82pp, 1994) on THE LOCAL EXCHANGE TRADING SYSTEM: POLITICAL ECONOMY AND SOCIAL AUDIT. The four chapters, plus introduction and conclusions, are on "LETS", "The Political Economy of Local Currencies", "Social Audit Methodology Applied to LETS", and "Diss LETS - A Social Audit". Copies (£4 inc p&p) are available from her.

Henry Cox (3 Church Road, Alsager, Stoke-on-Trent ST7 2HB) has sent us a number of interesting papers exploring the moral basis for a Citizen's Income - and also for Citizen's Capital.

LETS (local exchange trading systems) enable people to create their own means of exchange. The American War of Independence was fought partly over the right of the Colonists to create their own money supply. The November 1994 ECONOMIC REFORM, monthly newsletter of COMER (Committee on Monetary and Economic Reform, 3284 Yonge Street, Suite 500, Toronto, Ontario M4N 3M7, Canada) contrasts the wisdom of government spending money into circulation for useful purposes (like winning a war) and the foolishness of government borrowing the money (e.g. from the Bank of England) and so creating new money as a debt.

In CURRENCY COMPETITION: SOME OPTIONS CONSIDERED, Economic Notes No.59 from Libertarian Alliance (25 Chapter Chambers, Esterbroke Street, London SW1P 4NN) Antoine Clarke notes the rise of LETS and of discount card schemes by large retailers. Useful references.

INAISE (International Association of Investors in the Social Economy, rue Montoyer 63, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium - coordinator Viviane Vandemeulebroucke) held its largest and most significant conference in Amsterdam in May 1994, sponsored by the European Commission. Published proceedings in English and French (74pp each). (See p.16 for INAISE/UKSIF joint conference in Birmingham in May.)

Working with Mercury Provident, Triodos Bank has launched a WIND FUND to provide equity finance for the development of renewable energy projects. Information from Barry Wycherley (The Wind Fund plc, Orlingbury House, Lewes Road, Forest Row, East Sussex RH18 5AA).

A new £3 million Local Investment Fund has been launched as a pilot government/commercial partnership to demonstrate the viability of lending to the social economy to help to regenerate depressed communities. Industrial Common Ownership Finance Ltd (ICOF, 12-14 Gold Street, Northampton NN1 1RS - David Ralley) will manage the Fund's activities in the southern half of England.

The Institute for Financial Services and Consumer Protection (Grosse Bleichen 23, D-20354 Hamburg, Germany - Udo Reifner and Bianca Haane) has set up a new department on "social investment and financial advice to small and middle-sized enterprises in structurally weak areas" (Jan Evers). They plan their 1996 international conference on "Community Responsibility of Banks and Insurance Companies".

In his contribution to "Ambitions for Our Future", compiled for the Australian Prime Minister's National Strategies Conference in November 1994, Shann Turnbull (PO Box 266, Woollahra, NSW 2025, Australia) recommended building a stakeholder democracy, and contrasted its method of distributing the income of nations with socialism and capitalism.

NEW MONEY magazine (Robin Currie, 92 Folly Lane, St. Albans, Herts AL3 5JH) promotes a holistic viewpoint about money and finance.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION

"The Indian mind has remained colonised and this act of the colonisation of mind has been so subtle and yet so pervading that we seldom become aware of it. Our education system is a victim of this problem of making mind free from colonial influence". "Gandhi and Value Education" in GANDHI MARG, April-June 1994 (221-223 Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg, New Delhi 110 002, India). [Something very similar applies to all education and to all, not just Indian, minds. Eds.]

"Teachers do not have to be angels or moralisers: they do need to be examples of how to live in a caring and committed way. Skill in teaching subjects is no longer enough". James Hemming writes, wisely as always, on "The Role of Schools in Moral Regeneration" in NEW ERA IN EDUCATION, August 1994 (20 Queen Square, Leeds, W. Yorks LS2 8AF).

Fritjof Capra and Vandana Shiva are among those giving courses at SCHUMACHER COLLEGE this year. Full programme from the college (The Old Postern, Dartington, Totnes, Devon TQ9 6EA).

The BRIDGE EDUCATIONAL TRUST aims to establish a practical demonstration of a sustainable, self-sufficient, energy-independent, environmentally positive unit. Details from Michael and Elizabeth Josh (BET, Carrock House, Heskett Newmarket, Wigton, Cumbria CA7 8JT).

Ecodesign education needs to be seen by the educational establishment as an integral part of design teaching in the UK. ECODESIGN, Vol.III, No.2 (The British School, Slad Road, Stroud, Glos GL5 1QW) includes an Education Special and a listing of Education Resources.

Ruth Conway (Selly Oak Colleges, Birmingham B29 6LQ) coordinates a NETWORK ON BELIEFS AND VALUES IN TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION.

Alastair Crombie is now executive director of the Australian Association of Adult and Community Education (PO Box 308, Jamison Centre, ACT 2614, Australia). He tells us of the Australia Institute (37 Geills Court, Deakin, ACT 2600 - director Clive Hamilton) which promotes a more just, sustainable and peaceful Australian society.

POWERFUL INFORMATION (21 Church Lane, Loughton, Milton Keynes MK5 8AS - Mike Flood) provides a high quality environmental information service to public, university and non-governmental libraries and resource centres in Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America.

ONE WORLD ON LINE is a new Internet "standing conference on global development issues". Information from Anuradha Vittachi (One World Broadcasting Trust, Hedgerley Wood, Red Lane, Chinnor, Oxon OX9 4BW).

THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATION ALLIANCE (Holly Gordon, 4301 Gables Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30319, USA) is a global association of technical and creative writers, public relations people, graphic designers, photographers, illustrators and other professionals working with businesses and organisations for positive global change.

PLANETARY CONNECTIONS (PO Box 44, Evesham, Worcs WR12 7YW) reports on positive news from around the world, not found in mainstream media.

GREEN POLITICS Newsletter (Stephen C. Young, European Policy Research Unit, Department of Government, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL) is a networking tool for academics around the world.

PEOPLE, PROJECTS, INITIATIVES

The Centre for Alternative Technology (Machynlleth, Powys SY20 9AZ, Wales) is celebrating its 20th Anniversary by launching an affinity credit card. For other news see CLEAN SLATE, No.15, Winter 1994/5.

More and more people know that something must be done. The question is what? And how? "The Environmental Crisis: A Possible Initiative" is the lead topic in NEW CONSERVATION (Peter Berry, Pwlllyfan, Llansadwrn, Llanwrda, Dyfed SA19 8LS, Wales).

Entries for the 1995 WORLD HABITAT AWARDS should be submitted by 31st July. Details from Diane Diacon (Building and Social Housing Foundation, Memorial Square, Coalville, Leics LE67 3TU).

Sean Haacke (CCI Facilitator, Commonwork, Bore Place, Chiddingstone, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 7AR) has information on the Commonwork Conference on Interdependence - also on Commonwork's other courses.

Freewheelers (25 Low Friar Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE1 5UE) is a membership lift-share agency, which matches car drivers with spare seats on long distance journeys to passengers going that way.

Radical Routes (24 South Road, Hockley, Birmingham B18 5NB) is a secondary co-op, lending to co-ops set up by disadvantaged people.

THE SPLICE OF LIFE is the monthly bulletin of The Genetics Forum (5-11 Worship Street, London EC2A 2BH). Vol.1, No.7 reports that the European Parliament's recent vote rejecting the Directive on the Legal Protection of Biotechnological Inventions has left the European Commission's policy on competitiveness in biotechnology in tatters, because patenting life was the central plank of its platform.

Dennis Richards (Flat 3, 35 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6PA) has taken over from Peter Cox as editor of GREEN CHRISTIANS.

CCS Newsletter, Spring 1995 (Centre for Creation Spirituality, St. James's Church, 197 Piccadilly, London W1V 0LL - coordinator, Jane Horton) discusses "Vision 2020" - what type of world do you want to be part of in 2020?. A new Association for Creation Spirituality is being set up as a charity.

CANA - previously Christians Awakening to a New Age, now Christians Awakening to a New Awareness - is an initiative of the BRIDGE TRUST. Details from Paul Swann (14 Beacon Hill, London N7 9LY).

THE GADFLY is the monthly newsletter of the Ipswich Resource Centre (Friends Meeting House, 39 Fonnereau Road, Ipswich IP1 3JH). "Being kind in an unjust system is not enough".

CENTRO NUOVO MODELLO DI SVILUPPO (via della Barra 32, 56019 Vecchiano, Pisa, Italy - Francesco Gesualdi) is a grass roots information centre. Its two main projects are an Italian guide for Ethical Consumers and North/South Alliances for Dignity in Labour.

In the latest WORLD CITIZEN NEWS (Newsletter of Garry Davis's World Government of World Citizens, 113 Church Street, Burlington, VT 05401, USA), Harry Ball-Wilson (17 Gayfere Street, London SW1P 3HP), Coordinator of the World Economic Commission, quotes Norman Cousins: "People who develop the habit of thinking of themselves as world citizens are fulfilling the first requirement of our time".

SOME DATES TO NOTE

5th-8th April, Oxford. NEW EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS: RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, INITIATIVES. New College. European Colloquium on Education. Speakers include Satish Kumar. Details from Fiona Carnie (98 Carlingcote, Nr. Bath, BA2 8AW).

27th April, Oxford. FREE TRADE AND THE ENVIRONMENT, School of Geography, 5 pm. Herman Daly and Frances Cairncross in a debate organised by the Oxford Centre for Environment, Ethics and Society (OCEES, Mansfield College, Oxford OX1 3TF - Nina Booth-Clibborn).

2nd May, London. THE REBIRTH OF NATURE, Burlington House, 6.15pm. The 4th Alison Barnard Memorial Lecture, by Rupert Sheldrake. Details from Robert Vint, Friends of the Centre (8th Floor, Rodwell House, Middlesex Street, London E1 7HJ).

5th-7th May, Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire. REAL WEALTH, weekend conference on the new economics. Details from New Economics Foundation (see p.2). Booking advised before 21st April.

13th May, Oxfordshire. TOWARDS A NEW GLOBAL ETHIC. One-day seminar with James Robertson at The Abbey (Sutton Courtenay, Oxon OX14 4AF). Details of this and other 1995 events from Barbara Vellacott.

17th May, London. EUROPE: A THIRD WAY. 6.30 pm, St. James's Church Hall. Lecture by James Robertson. Part of a lecture series on "Re-assessing the European Idea". Details from Dunamis (St. James's Church, 197 Piccadilly, London W1V 0LL - director Ronald Higgins).

20th May, Birmingham. BEYOND ECONOMICS: A CHALLENGE FOR THE FAITHS. One-day seminar with James Robertson. Details of this and other events from Sr. Anne Brittain (Nexus, Maitri Bhavan, 20 Oakfield Road, Selly Park, Birmingham B29 7EJ).

20th May, TIME, CHAOS AND CREATIVITY, Regents College, London, 9am-4.30pm. In The May Dialogue, Professor Ilya Prigogine will present his recent findings on "Time, Chaos and the Laws of Physics" and discuss them with Professors Brian Goodwin and John Polkinghorne. Details from David Lorimer, Scientific and Medical Network (SMN, Lesser Halings, Tilehouse Lane, Denham, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB9 5DG).

22nd May, Birmingham. DEVELOPING SOCIAL WEALTH. Joint conference of UK Social Investment Forum and INAISE (see page 13). Speakers include James Robertson and Geoff Mulgan (Demos). Details from Pat Conaty (UKSIF, 318 Summer Lane, Birmingham B19 3RL).

11th-17th June, Halifax, Canada. THE OTHER ECONOMIC SUMMIT (P7 - THE PEOPLE'S SUMMIT). Details from Oxfam (2099 Gottingen Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3K 3B2, Canada) or from Ed Mayo (New Economics Foundation - see p.2).

24th June) Oxfordshire. Turning Point 2000 Seminars (see p.1).
8th July)

12th-15th August, Sao Paulo, Brazil. STOP THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WORLD Conference. Details: STOP (6 Colville Road, London W11 2BP).

24th-27th August, Cambridge, UK. BEYOND THE BRAIN: NEW AVENUES IN CONSCIOUSNESS RESEARCH. Joint Scientific and Medical Network and Institute of Noetic Sciences Conference. Details from SMN (above).