

TURNING POINT 2000

September 1998

TURNING POINT 2000 is about shifting to a new path of progress, enabling for people and conserving for the Earth. We encourage readers to contact each other, to build links and synergies.

Requested annual subscriptions - more if you can, less if you can't. Personal, voluntary groups, NGOs, etc: UK and Europe £5; worldwide outside Europe £6. Business corporations and government departments £20. Other institutions £10. Free to people who who cannot afford to pay. Cheques to 'Turning Point' please. **All payments in sterling please.** (The text is also at <www.the-commons.org/tp2000>.) Next issue, January/February 1999.

Enquiries and communications to Alison Pritchard or James Robertson, The Old Bakehouse, Cholsey, Oxon OX10 9NU, England. Tel: +44 (0)1491 652346; Fax: +44 (0)1491 651804; email: <robertson@tp2000.demon.co.uk>.

In the coming months, will the world financial crisis become a devastating collapse? Will the millennium computer bug (see p16) cause worldwide societal chaos? Will the introduction of the Euro add to the disruption? Will (the prospect of) these disasters make the shift to a new, people-centred path of progress easier or more difficult? As we go to print, it's hard to tell.

Easier or more difficult, the expanded activities of the Schumacher Society (Foxhole, Dartington, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 6EB), under Herbert Girardet's chairmanship, will play a valuable part. The September 1998 *Journal of Contemporary Health* (Institute for Health, Liverpool John Moores University, Trueman Building, 15-21 Webster Street, Liverpool L3 2ET; **Debbie Fox**; tel: 0151 231-4056; email: <insthealth@livjm.ac.uk>) will carry the full text and proceedings of the first Liverpool Schumacher Lectures by Vandana Shiva, Dana Zohar and James on 21 March this year. The *Schumacher Newsletter*, Summer 1998, reports on them, and on the Manchester Lectures on 25 April; previews the Bristol Lectures on 17 October (also see p2); announces the setting up of a new Bristol office; and reports a new series of 80pp Schumacher Briefings, of which the first - "Transforming Economic Life: A Millennial Challenge", by James - was published in May (order form enclosed).

THE MONEY SYSTEM

On **Friday 16 October** LETSLINK UK National Conference 1998 at Civic Library, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth will be on "Complementary Currencies - New Choices for the Millennium". Speakers include **Linda Gilroy MP**, **Bernard Lietaer**, **James Robertson**, **Alex Scott-Samuel**, **Liz Shephard** and **Jan Wyllie** (see p16). A local currency will be launched by the City of Portsmouth. On **Saturday 17 October** there will be LETS workshops and informal networking for LETS groups and practitioners. Details from LETSLINK UK (2 Kent Street, Portsmouth PO1 3BS; tel: 01705 730639; email <conf@letslinkuk.demon.co.uk>). Meanwhile, increasing numbers of MPs are backing Linda Gilroy's parliamentary campaign to allow members of LETS schemes to earn LETS credits without losing welfare benefits. Supporting letters to MPs and local councillors could add momentum to the campaign.

On **Saturday 17 October** (Day 1) the 1998 Bristol SCHUMACHER LECTURES, 10am-5pm, Victoria Rooms, Bristol, will be on "The Ecology of Money". Lectures in the morning by **David Korten**, **Tessa Tennant** and **Richard Douthwaite**; then afternoon seminars with each speaker; and a final plenary session with all three. Details from Schumacher Society (see p1). Leaflet for UK readers is enclosed. On Day 2 (**Sunday 18 October**), at an all-day seminar on "The Ecology of Money: From Ideas to Local Action", **Prof Peter Roberts** will present a computer simulation of the effects of a tax shift to energy and a citizen's income, and **Liz Shephard**, **Martin Simon** and others will lead workshops on aspects of local money such as LETS, Credit Unions, Time Dollars, etc. Details: **Schumacher Society** Bristol office (CREATE Centre, Smeaton Road, Bristol BS1 6XN; tel: 0117 9031081).

On **Saturday 24 October** a JUBILEE 2000 Coalition Conference held by The Church in Abingdon (**John Gant**, 16 Appleford Drive, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 2DA; tel: 01235 528929) will discuss the cancellation of Third World debt as a starting point for longer-term economic and political reform, empowering Third World peoples to regain control over the forces that shape their lives. Speakers will include **Dr Evan Harris MP** and **James Robertson**.

An LSE Green Economics Society course, open to students and public, on MAPPING THE FUTURE - EXPLORING ECONOMIC REALITIES will start with three Monday (6pm-8pm) lectures: 26 October, **James Robertson** on "The Ecology of Money"; 9 November, **Simon Zadek** on "New Economics - Past, Present and Future"; and 30 November, **Helena Norberg-Hodge** on "Globalisation and Sustainability". Details from **Paul Swann** (14 Beacon Hill, London N7 9LY; tel: 0171 609-7764; email: <pswann@easynet.co.uk>).

Money will be the theme of the *New Internationalist*, September 1998 - editor **Vanessa Baird**. Contributors include **David Boyle**, **Dorothy Rowe**, **Eduardo Galeano** and **James Robertson**.

Public perceptions in the western democracies of the increasing need for accountability, transparency and probity in public life make it unclear how much longer offshore finance centres can continue to exist, let alone support the creation of new OFCs by small island hosts who aspire to be so-called 'international financial centres'. "‘Treasure Island’ Revisited", **Mark Hampton's** (Dept of Economics, Milton Campus, Locksway Road, Southsea PO4 8JF; email: <hamptonm@pbs.port.ac.uk>) Discussion Paper No.101, September 1997, discusses the implications of Jersey's Offshore Finance Centre crisis.

New European, September 1998 (editor **John Coleman**) will include James Robertson on "Compulsion or Choice: Key Questions about the Euro". Details from Jenny Pickles, MCB University Press (60-62 Toller Lane, Bradford BD8 9BY).

Only 3%-5% of the total money supply is in the form of legal tender created by government. The rest is bank-created interest-bearing loans. The GLOBAL ECONOMIC REFORM CAMPAIGN being planned by **Alex Falconer MEP** (25 Church Street, Inverkeithing, Fife KY11 1LH) and **Alan Armstrong** (Gilnockie, 32 Kilbride Avenue, Dunoon, Argyll PA23 7LH) aims to put this right. See *The Social Crediter* July/August, 1998 (16 Forth Street, Edinburgh EH1 3LH).

"Watch out. When you see the headline 'Is the National Debt a Bankers' Scam?' - then we are really getting somewhere!". **Mike Rowbotham** (Brett's Cottage, Chapel Road, Thurgarton, Norwich NR11 7NP) is now the Secretary of the Christian Council for Monetary Justice. **Kevin Donnelly** (20 Nan Nook Road, Manchester M23 9BZ) is Press Secretary. His recent Christians In Public Life Programme paper (Westhill College, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6LL) discusses Christian attitudes to the basic dishonesty of the financial system.

The mills of God grind slowly. The World Faiths and Development Dialogue, hosted by the President of the World Bank and the Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth Palace in February, apparently had roots in work we initiated ten years ago on "The Economic Teachings of World Faiths". However, in *Modern Believing*, July 1998 (annual sub £12 post-free from **Rev Philip D. Harratt**, Chirbury, Montgomery, Powys SY15 6BN), **Peter Selby**, Bishop of Worcester, notes that the communique after the meeting did not mention money, in spite of the explosive impacts of growing worldwide indebtedness. Does "postmodernity in religion and money" mean that money provides the only proper way to shape our lives? Has money acquired the characteristics of a religion? Was the Lambeth Palace meeting thus "composed entirely of priests and theologians: priests and theologians of established religions and priests and theologians of the mammon religion that has real power"?

Thomas H. Greco's COMMUNITY INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTRE (PO Box 42663, Tucson AZ 85733, USA; email: <circ@azstarnet.com>) exists to share the good news about the many creative possibilities for more intelligent and just systems of money, land tenure, taxation, law, and corporate power. See *Fourth World Review* (24 Abercorn Place, London NW8 9XP) No.87, 1998.

SHARING THE VALUE OF COMMON RESOURCES

On 14 May, the Oxford Centre for the Environment, Ethics and Society's successful conference on SHARING OUR COMMON HERITAGE: RESOURCE TAXES AND GREEN DIVIDENDS was introduced and concluded by **David Marquand**. Papers by **Mason Gaffney** (USA) on "Red-Light Taxes and Green-Light Taxes", **Fred Harrison** on "Ethics and the Environment", **Alanna Hartzok** (USA) on "Local to Global Dimensions", **James Robertson** on "Resource Taxes and Green Dividends: A Combined Package?", **Tatiana Roskoshnaya** (Russia) on "Russia: Sustainable Development and Rental Taxation", and **Philippe van Parijs** on "Citizens Income and the 'New Social Question'" were discussed. The proceedings will be published shortly - about 80 pages, £7.50 inc p&p, details from **Anne Maclachlan** (OCEES, Mansfield College, Oxford OX1 3TF; email: <anne.maclachlan@mansfield.oxford.ac.uk>).

Conventional debate is about how much to tax. Two recent American studies ask the more fundamental question, what to tax: (1) **M. Jeff Hamond** et al: TAX WASTE NOT WORK, April 1997, 133pp, pbk, \$10.95 + \$7 p&p from **Redefining Progress** (One Kearny Street, 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94108); (2) **Alan T. Durning** and **Yoram Bauman**: TAX SHIFT, April 1998, 115pp, pbk, \$9.95 from **Northwest Environment Watch** (1402 Third Avenue, Suite 1127, Seattle, WA 98101). Both propose shifting taxes off productive on to unproductive activities. From (1), "This idea offers a coherent new rationale for taxation, one that is firmly grounded in common sense and shared values... A tax shift could help to restore credibility and legitimacy to the tax system, by declaring that individuals and corporations should keep more of the fruits of their individual toil but should pay for the costs - environmental and otherwise - that they pass on to current and future generations". From (2), "Shifting the tax burden would send out powerful signals that would reorient consumption and production in our homes and businesses. Tax shifting would harness the profit motive for environmental ends and wring out the waste of resources. Governments would still get their money, and - because taxes on 'bads' do not bog down the economy as much as many existing taxes on 'goods' - employment levels and incomes would rise".

One of Earth's resources is the environment's capacity to absorb emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) which create global warming. How is that resource to be shared? A global consensus must be "formed around a universally recognised equity rule as a basis for emission entitlement allocations". For example, should national CO₂ emission rights reflect an equal per capita distribution, or pro rata reductions based on existing national consumption patterns? A way to resolve such dilemmas is the "Contraction and Convergence" policy proposed by the Global Commons Institute (42 Windsor Road, London NW2 5DS; **Aubrey Meyer**), and outlined in THE GLOBE PAPERS, "Climate Change & the G8: a Guide for Parliamentarians" from GLOBE International Secretariat (Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment, 50 rue du Taciturne, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium).

Indirect taxes on the necessities of life hit poor people hard. “Much of this is hidden. For example, whilst everybody knows about taxes on whisky, beer and tobacco, few appreciate that a substantial part of the price of bread covers tax in the form of PAYE on all wages paid during its production - at the farm, at the mill, at the bakery, and at the shop. The price has also to cover fuel and other taxes on transport between these stages, and VAT on machinery used at each of them”. These taxes should be replaced by public revenue based on ‘rental’ values of land and natural resources. **Sir Kenneth Jupp** discusses “Principles of Public Finance” in *Land & Liberty*, Summer 1998 (177 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 1EU; annual sub £12).

“There is strong support amongst both industry and opinion-formers for an independent commission to review proposals for green taxes”. This is one conclusion of the 1998 UK Business and the Environment Trends Survey. Details from the Green Alliance (49 Wellington Street, London WC2E 7BN).

ALTER (Action for Land Taxation and Economic Reform) encourages Liberal Democrats to support Land Value Taxation “as part of a more sustainable and just resource-based economic system”. Its very useful series of single-sheet Briefings deals with “How Site Value Rating Works”, “Conservation”, “Housing”, “Transport”, “Small Businesses”, etc. Chairman is **Tony Vickers** (62 Craven Road, Newbury RG14 5NJ; email: <tonyvickers@cix.compulink.co.uk>).

In an interesting 4-page paper on “Investment & Innovation” **Bill Powell** (5 Mill Race View, Atherstone, Warks CV9 3AR) shows that “the concept of taxation of rent is applicable to a much wider field than simply the ‘Site Value Rating’ of actual land”, including the radio spectrum used by mobile phones, under-street ducts used by cables, patents, and energy.

The Labour Land Campaign (Organiser **Alan Spence**, 29 Russell Chambers, Bury Place, London WC1A 2JX) supports use of the publicly created value of land as a source of public revenue. The Campaign’s Chair, **Dave Wetzel** (18 Church Street, Mevagissey, St Austell, Cornwall PL26 6SP) is researching private landownership, urban as well as rural, in Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Dorset for an early 1999 TV programme on “Who Owns the West Country?”.

An income supplement [e.g a citizen’s income] “may not be winnable as a distributive issue... The public’s concern for poverty, employment and justice may not be strong enough. However, an income supplement may be winnable as a ‘green’ reform... funded by a menu of green fees. A variety of names for this payment float about: ‘ecobonus’, ‘geobonus’, ‘EarthShare’, ‘land dividend’ and ‘citizen’s dividend’”. GEONOMICS: FROM POTLATCH TO EARTHSHARE: SELLING B.I. [Basic Income] AS A GREEN REFORM, a 5-page paper, August 1998, by **Jeffery Smith** (The Geonomy Society, 1611 SE Nehalem Street 32, Portland, OR 97202, USA) suggests that the North’s call to spare Earth can merge with the South’s call to share Earth. “By sharing Earth’s worth - via a citizen’s dividend - we not only align people with planet, but also policy with morality”.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

10th December 1998 will be the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The emphasis has been on political rights to protection against state power, not economic rights to a fair share of Earth's resources and protection against corporate power. But that is now changing.

In a 30pp booklet, "Fifty Years of Which Freedom?", **Vandana Shiva** and **Mira Shiva** (Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology, A-60, Hauz Khas, New Delhi - 110 016, India) place each of the 30 Articles of the UDHR side by side with the effects of GATT/WTO. For example, UDHR Article 7 reads "All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law", whereas GATT/WTO means that "Farmers, fishworkers, traditional healers, tribals, and women are not equal before the WTO Intellectual Property Law. They are not entitled to equal protection of their knowledge and resources. Their knowledge can be pirated by global corporations. WTO will protect the 'biopirates' and will discriminate against indigenous knowledge and indigenous knowers". In a separate 28pp booklet "Globalisation: Gandhi and Swadeshi", **Vandana Shiva** describes Swadeshi - "the spirit of regeneration, a method of creative reconstruction in periods of dependency and colonisation" - as "the key to genuine economic freedom in a period of economic totalitarianism dominated by World Bank, IMF, WTO and transnational corporations". "The eurocentric concept of property...treats returns on capital investment as the only right that needs protection. Non-Western indigenous communities and cultures recognise that investment can also be of labour or of care and nurturance. Rights in such cultural systems protect investments beyond capital. They protect the culture of conservation and the culture of caring and sharing".

WDM's People Before Profit campaign is about ways to hold multinational companies to account - *WDM In Action*, Summer 1998 (World Development Movement, 25 Beehive Place, London SW9 7QR). The stalled, but not yet abandoned, Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) should define the responsibilities not just the rights of multinational companies.

"We need to stop contesting the individual harms that corporations do and start contesting their legitimacy - their very right to exist. [We need to] ask ourselves why corporations have more rights than we do...". *ADBUSTERS*, Summer 1998 (1243 West 7th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6H 1B7, Canada).

At its March-April 1998 meeting in Geneva, the UN Commission on Human Rights decided to investigate the effects of foreign debt on development in low-income countries. This is a legally and politically significant decision because it implies that the current debt levels of many countries may constitute a violation of the inalienable right of all peoples to development. Other items in *CONNECTIONS*, August-October 1998 (UNED-UK, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL) include an 8-page "Focus on Freshwater".

“The fundamental human right which now needs to be affirmed is this - THE EARTH IS THE BIRTHRIGHT OF ALL PEOPLE”. “Financing Planet Management” 15pp booklet (1995) by **Alanna Hartzok** (Earthrights Institute, PO Box 328, Scotland, PA 17254, USA) includes An International Declaration On Individual And Common Rights To Earth, beginning “We hereby declare that the Earth is the common heritage of all and that all people have natural and equal rights to the land of the planet. By the term ‘land’ is meant all natural resources”.

Should the proposed right to a citizen’s income (see pp14 and 15) be matched by citizens’ responsibilities. How would they be defined and enforced?

James Robertson’s paper on “Sustainable Development: The Role of Rent” and **Mary Lehmann’s** response, “The Landshare”, were in *Land & Liberty* (see p5), Winter 1998. Lehmann suggested that a nation’s citizens could be given a legally valid “beneficial interest” in its land and natural resources. This would give them a right to saleable land-use and pollution permits to supplement (or instead of) a citizen’s income financed from resource and pollution taxes - an example of new property rights as a different way of sharing the value of common resources, from the distribution of incomes from the public purse.

“The human being has to remember that he or she owes a debt to Nature and his human heritage. His birth as a human being has given him access to the wealth of nature and the human heritage and he draws upon them in his life. If he does not repay this debt, but merely goes on drawing on it, he will be guilty of causing the exhaustion or depletion of the heritage, and snapping the link between preceding generations and succeeding generations”. **Ravindra Varma** writes on “Gandhian Perception of the Ethical Foundations of Society” in *GANDHI MARG*, October/December 1997 (Gandhi Peace Foundation, 221-223 Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg, New Delhi 110 002, India).

UNESCO issued a DECLARATION ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRESENT GENERATIONS TOWARDS FUTURE GENERATIONS on 12 November 1997. It covers: protection of the environment, biodiversity and cultural diversity; freedom of political, economic and social choices; peace, development and education. See *FUTURE GENERATIONS JOURNAL*, 1998, No.24 (International Environment Inst., University Building, St. Paul’s St., Valletta VLT 07, Malta).

The US welfare overhaul requires everyone to work for survival. Yet, to keep down inflation, the central bank prevents full employment. This combination structurally guarantees the violation of economic human rights. “The greatest challenge before us all is to acknowledge and proclaim that economic, social and cultural rights are universal human rights”. *CENTER FOCUS*, March 1998 (The Center of Concern, 3700 13th Street NE, Washington, DC 20017, USA).

ATD Fourth World (48 Addington Square, London SE5 7LB) has launched a nation-wide campaign entitled GET IT RIGHT. “The challenge is for people to reflect on extreme poverty as a violation of human rights”.

BOOKS AND BOOK-LENGTH REPORTS RECEIVED

W.H. Martin and S. Mason: TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE: RETHINKING FREE TIME AND WORK (1998, 155pp, £25 inc p&p, free 4-page summary, from Leisure Consultants, Lint Growis, Foxearth, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 7JX; email: <LeisureConsult@compuserve.com>). “Rethinking the relationship between free time, work and the quality of life is the key to transforming the way the UK develops over the next 25 years, and to resolving the many problems that still face our society today... Policy making in the UK should look at life as a whole, rather than focusing just on economic growth and job creation as prime priorities... Choices about income and economic wealth are inextricably linked with decisions about how we use time, and the land and environment in which we live. Free time is a vital but largely neglected aspect of our lives which needs to be brought more fully into the picture. Almost half our waking lives are spent free from paid work and other essential activities”. This authoritative report, building on the authors’ work over the past 25 years, is clear, readable and well documented. Appendices contain detailed statistical analyses of Trends in Time Use 1971-2021 and Trends in Spending 1971-2021, based on two alternative scenarios - Conventional Success and Transformed Growth - from now to 2021. Policy implications in many fields - food and agriculture, employment and work, education, taxation, social security, environment, transport, culture and sport, health, urban and rural development, etc. - are very important. 10 Downing Street should take note.

Mark Roseland: TOWARD SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES: RESOURCES FOR CITIZENS AND THEIR GOVERNMENTS, New Society (BC, Canada) and Jon Carpenter, (2 The Spendlove Centre, Charlbury OX7 3PQ), 1998, 240pp, pbk, £15. This annotated encyclopaedia of resources covers water and sewage, waste and recycling, energy efficiency and renewables, atmospheric change and air quality, transport and traffic, land use, housing, local economic development, and greening the city. It is in three parts: “Sustainable Communities, Sustainable Planet”; “Sustainable Community Building Blocks”; and “Mobilising Citizens and their Governments”; with an Appendix on “Sustainable Community Resources”. Orientated toward North American communities and their “moral obligation to demonstrate leadership”, but an invaluable handbook for community development activists anywhere.

Ward Morehouse (ed): BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES: TOOLS AND CONCEPTS FOR SELF-RELIANT ECONOMIC CHANGE (Revised 2nd edition), Apex Press, New York, and Jon Carpenter, 1997, 218pp, pbk, £13.99. For the 1989 edition James described the contributors - the late C. George Benello, Robert Swann and Shann Turnbull - as “pioneers of a new third sector - a self-reliant community sector”, and said “Please read their book, discuss the proposals in it, and act on them if you can”. This new edition includes updated references and topical illustrations, an introductory chapter on “The World Crisis and Community Economic Revitalisation”, and an Afterword surveying changes in the landscape for community economic development since the first edition.

Richard Body: THE BREAKDOWN OF EUROPE, New European Publications (14-16 Carroun Road, London SW8 1JT), 1998, 102pp, hbk, £9.95. This admirable book provides a concise perspective on the “battle about power” over the future of Europe - between a centralised megastate based on the existing EU, and an enlarged but decentralised Europe which empowers all the continent’s citizens. The chapter ‘As If People Mattered’ powerfully argues the case for a COMMON (not single) European currency alongside NATIONAL and LOCAL currencies. How soon will other MPs - Labour and Libdem as well as Conservative - understand it? And business leaders and bureaucrats too?

Norman Myers with Jennifer Kent: PERVERSE SUBSIDIES: International Institute for Sustainable Development (161 Portage Avenue East - 6th Floor, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3B 0Y4; email <info@iisd.ca>), 1998, 230pp, pbk. Perverse subsidies channel nearly \$1500 billion (\$1.5 trillion) annually worldwide into agriculture, fossil fuels and nuclear energy, road transport, water and fisheries, in ways that damage the economy and the environment. A typical American taxpayer “forks out at least \$2000 a year to fund perverse subsidies”. As citizens increasingly realise their money is “going down a rathole of perverse subsidies”, political support for reform will grow.

Michael Rowbotham: THE GRIP OF DEATH: A STUDY OF MODERN MONEY, DEBT SLAVERY AND DESTRUCTIVE ECONOMICS, Jon Carpenter 1998, 337pp, pbk, £15.00 (inc p&p). A powerful, well-documented case for treating today’s debt-based money supply system as “the single most important area of reform confronting us”. The current financial system is responsible, both directly and indirectly, for the problems of poverty, environment, peace, social justice, etc. It systemically forces economic growth and centralises power. Historical chapters include Abraham Lincoln’s plans for monetary reform (leading to his assassination?) and C.H. Douglas’s Social Credit movement. This is a good book about a key millennial issue. Essential reading for all ‘new economists’ .

Frances Hutchinson: WHAT EVERYBODY REALLY WANTS TO KNOW ABOUT MONEY, Jon Carpenter, 1998, 205pp, pbk, £12.00. The Guild Socialist and Social Credit movements provide a theoretical framework for this excellent summary of what is needed for “an ecologically sustainable post-capitalist political economy,... a viable community and a healthy environment”. Chapters on land, labour, the new world order of GATT and the World Trade Organisation, knowledge as common property, and home economics, place the case for monetary reform in context. Foreword by Helena Norberg-Hodge.

Leo Gough: ASIA MELTDOWN: THE END OF THE MIRACLE?, Capstone, 1998, 137pp, pbk, £12.99. The crisis began with incompetent banking, and was aggravated by the use of dummy companies in tax havens like the Cayman Islands to hide illegal bad debts. Are the West’s rules for the global financial game designed to let Western multinationals exploit the aftermath of crises like this? International consensus is needed about the future role of the IMF, as “a kind of global bankruptcy court”. A useful short account to March 1998.

BOOKS AND BOOK-LENGTH REPORTS (cont.)

Jeff Gates: THE OWNERSHIP SOLUTION: TOWARD A SHARED CAPITALISM FOR THE 21ST CENTURY, Penguin, 1998, 389pp, hbk, £20. In this authoritative book, Gates - lawyer, merchant banker, political adviser, consultant to government and business, and former counsel to the US Senate Finance Committee on legislation to encourage Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs) - "shows both why a new ownership alternative is needed and how to go about developing it - as a means for reconnecting personal conscience to market capitalism". One of its chapters is on "New Property Paradigms". These would enable regular customers, as well as employees, to share ownership in companies, and would enable citizens to share in the ownership of natural resources. Stephan Schmidheiny, World Business Council for Sustainable Development says, "This book may save capitalism". He is one of many well-known people in America and Britain who recommend it highly.

John Elkington: CANNIBALS WITH FORKS: THE TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE OF 21ST-CENTURY BUSINESS, Capstone, 1997, 400pp, hbk, £18.99. Elkington, like Gates, gives authoritative support to corporate change after many years' work with business, government agencies, and non-governmental organisations, "as they have struggled to embrace key elements in the sustainability agenda". "There is still a tremendous amount of work to be done on waking up those responsible for running the interlinking worlds of politics, economics and business", "the process of putting the world economy on a more sustainable footing has only just begun", and we must help "to transform the conditions in which governments, companies and ordinary people operate". Packed with information and insight, this is another important book, whether you believe business is part of the problem or (at least potentially) part of the solution.

Sean Healy and Brigid Reynolds (eds): SOCIAL POLICY IN IRELAND: PRINCIPLES, PRACTICE AND PROBLEMS, Oak Tree Press, Dublin, 1998, 434pp, pbk. The editors of this comprehensive work by 29 contributors argue for a new paradigm based on right relationships, underpinned by a global ethic. A new concept of citizenship should synthesise the historical traditions of liberalism (citizen rights) and civic republicanism (citizen obligations). A creative solution to unemployment should recognise forms of social participation other than paid employment - including household and volunteer work.

Thad Williamson: WHAT COMES NEXT, 1998, pbk, 185pp, \$15 + \$7 p&p from National Center for Economic and Security Alternatives (2000 P Street NW, Suite 330, Washington, DC 20036, USA). In the Preface, **Gar Alperovitz** defines the central question as "the nature of a coherent alternative to the dominant and economic systems of the 20th century: corporate capitalism and state socialism". This annotated bibliography of 73 proposed alternatives by mainly American authors is under five headings: Globalisation, the Decay of Liberalism, & the Mainstream Policy Debate; Market Socialism; Sustainability and the System Question; Utopian Literature; and Additional Visions.

Gustavo Esteva & Madhu Suri Prakash: GRASSROOTS POST-MODERNISM, Zed Books, 1998, 223pp, pbk, £14.95. Going beyond the premises and promises of modernity, pioneering social movements at the grassroots are seeking liberation from the 'Global Project', and improvising "creative transitions from an imposed universe to the regeneration of their more familiar pluriverse". The people's experiences belong to local spaces and cultures. They call for transformation of our institutional and epistemological frameworks. Among the dominant cultural constructs questioned are those of the individual self and the Western notion of human rights.

David Lorimer (ed): THE SPIRIT OF SCIENCE: FROM EXPERIMENT TO EXPERIENCE, Floris Books, 1998, 366pp, pbk, £14.99. 17 lectures from the annual Mystics and Scientists conferences, 1978-1997, are grouped under four headings: Cosmology and Physics; Biology and Gaia; Consciousness and Psychology; and Mysticism and Spirituality. Contributors include Fritjof Capra, David Bohm, James Lovelock, Brian Goodwin, Rupert Sheldrake, and Matthew Fox. One theme of this rewarding and insightful book is the quest for a unity underlying the multiplicity of things and our understandings of them.

Belinda Barnes and Irene Colquhoun: HYPERACTIVE CHILD, Thorsons, 1997, 132pp, pbk, £5.99. This practical self-help guide, based on the 20 years' pioneering achievements of the Hyperactive Children's Parents' Support Group (HACSG), contains chapters on: The Self-Help Programme; Nutrition; Allergies; Heavy Metal Toxicities, Trace Mineral Deficiencies and Hair Analysis; Day-to-day Management of the Hyperactive Child; The Way Forward - Preventing Hyperactivity; and Special Diets. Required reading for parents, doctors, educators and others who have to deal with 'difficult' children.

Pat Roy Mooney: THE PARTS OF LIFE: AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY, INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE, AND THE ROLE OF THE THIRD SYSTEM, Special Issue, *DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE*, 1998, 184pp (eds **Sven Hamrell** and **Olle Nordberg**, Dag Hammarskjöld Centre, Övre Slottsgatan 2, SE-753 10 Uppsala, Sweden; email: <secretariat@dhf.uu.se>). Warmly recommended. "The voluntary sector is being forced by world realities into becoming a real and practical Third System that must countervail the negative powers of the other two - corporations and governments", and offer a reliable alternative to the one-dimensional, top-directed globalisation philosophy now dominant. Pat Mooney is Director of RAFI (Rural Advancement Foundation International, 110 Osborne Street, Suite 202, Winnipeg, MB R3L 1Y5, Canada).

WORLD REVIEW: New European Publications (14-16 Carroun Road, London SW8 1JT), 40pp, quarterly, annual sub £15. Summaries or extracts of 12 selected books dealing with ideas that are, or should be, helping to change the world. Selections in Vol. 2, No.4, 1997 and Vol. 3, No.1, 1998 include *The Death of Distance* (Frances Cairncross), *Hijacking Environmentalism* (Richard Welford), *Postmodernism and the Other* (Ziauddin Sardar), *False Dawn* (John Gray) and *Beyond the Dependency Culture* (James Robertson).

POLITICS, POWER, PARTICIPATION, LEADERSHIP AND CULTURE

A conference on 24 October, 2-5pm at the Kingsgate Community Centre (107 Kingsgate Road, Kilburn, London NW6 2JH) will launch THE LONDON ALLIANCE. The forthcoming Mayoral and Assembly Elections must be genuinely about London, conducted by Londoners for Londoners, and not hijacked by political parties for whom London is just an add-on issue. Details from **Peter Cadogan** (3 Hinchinbrook House, Greville Road, London NW6 5UP).

Having established the Ideas Bank (PO Box 2126, Grunerlokka, 0505 Oslo) as a resource/research centre for a sustainable future, **Kjell Dahle** is now Deputy Secretary-General of the Centre Party (Senterpartiet, Pb 6734, St Olavs Plass, 0130 Oslo; email: <kjell.dahle@senterpartiet.no>), one of the parties in the present Norwegian coalition government. At his invitation **Helena Norberg-Hodge** and **James Robertson** spoke at the Party's summer seminar in August.

"The divide which will dominate politics into the next century is not left versus right, but globalisers versus localisers. This will necessitate not only an alliance of the left and greens, but also small 'c' conservatives - small and medium-size businesses, people whose priority is hard work, self-reliance and support of their local community". **Colin Hines** debates with **John Palmer** on the new challenges for the left posed by the power of transnational capital, in *RED PEPPER*, August 1998 (1b Waterlow Road, London N19 5NJ).

In "Big Brother Is Good For You" in *SPLICE*, August/September 1998 (The Genetics Forum, 94 White Lion Street, London N1 9PF; email: <geneticsforum@gn.apc.org>), **Eric Brunner** and **Liz Hosken** report that Monsanto is planning £1 million of advertising to persuade us that reluctance to accept genetically modified foods is a luxury our hungry world cannot afford. But it is not higher productivity in industrial agriculture which feeds the hungry. The 'green'/agrochemical revolution showed that food is grown for the commodity markets not the hungry. It is the distribution of wealth, land and farming rights which is critical. [The Gaia Foundation (18 Well Walk, Hampstead, London NW3 1LD), of which **Liz Hosken** is a director, opposes the EU Biotech Directive granting patents on raw genetic material.]

"Engineering of Consent: Uncovering Corporate PR", Briefing No.6, 16pp, March 1998, from THE CORNER HOUSE (PO Box 3137, Station Road, Sturminster Newton, Dorset DT10 1YJ; email: <cornerhouse@gn.apc.org>) is about how citizen groups campaigning against socially irresponsible or environmentally degrading practices of corporations should respond to calls for 'dialogue' and 'co-operation'. It concludes that conflict and controversy will often play a more constructive part in the political process. Briefing No.7, 12pp, May 1998, "Whose Voice Is Speaking?", discusses opinion polls and cost-benefit analysis as two other corporate techniques for manipulating public opinion. The Corner House Briefings are a valuable resource for all supporters of a democratic civil society in which communities have the power to define themselves.

Alliances the World Bank is now making foster two competing agendas: the popular development agenda promoted by civil society organisations (CSOs) and the structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) agenda of the private sector. "Accountable to Whom? The World Bank and its Strategic Allies", 25pp, May 1998, by **Nancy Alexander** (Bread for the World Institute, 1100 Wayne Avenue, Suite 1000, Silver Spring, MD 20910, USA) concludes that parties to World Bank alliances need more equal access to the levers of decision-making.

"Participation is a political imperative: it affirms the fundamental human right of persons to contribute to decisions which affect them. Human persons are centres of consciousness within the cosmos, agents with emerging capacities for self-awareness and self-direction. [They] are also communal beings, born deeply immersed in community and evolving within community... Participation is thus fundamental to human flourishing, and is political because, especially in these times, it requires the exercise of intentional human agency, political action in public and private spheres, to encourage and nurture its development". "Political, Epistemological, Ecological and Spiritual Dimensions of Participation", 12pp, September 1997, is a splendid paper by **Peter Reason** (Centre for Action Research in Professional Practice, School of Management, University of Bath, Bath BA2 7AY; email: <P.W.Reason@bath.ac.uk>).

Sohail Inayatullah (Communication Centre, Queensland University of Technology, GPO Box 2434, Brisbane, Qld 4001, Australia; email: <s.inayatullah@qut.edu.au>) explores models of leadership in *JOURNAL OF FUTURES STUDIES* Vol.2, No.2, May 1998 (Educational Development Center, Tamkang University, Tamsui, Taipei, Taiwan; editor: **Jyh-Horng Lin**). Models include the taoist-sage, tantric-sadvipra, islamic-caliph and western-liberal. All have a potential for evil, if evolved outside democracy and inclusiveness. Leadership involves creating institutions committed to future generations. Countries like Malaysia and Singapore do well on that score, but not so well on environmental protection and social justice. They have followed a model of development inimical to nature and sustainable economics.

The South-North Network Cultures and Development (rue Joseph II straat 174, 1000 Brussels, Belgium; **Thierry Verhelst**) recorded its 10th Anniversary meeting in a special issue, 3/1998, of its journal. In discussion about defeated civilisations and destroyed cultures it was pointed out that "the West is also a defeated civilisation in that its spiritual dimension is being destroyed... Our history does not begin with Descartes and Adam Smith. European culture did not start with the Renaissance or the 18th-century Enlightenment. We have also deeper roots which we need to explore. St Francis of Assisi and the mystics are also part of the Western heritage". The Network's New Project 1998-2000 will build on the experiences and perspectives of its regional networks in India, Brazil, Congo, Morocco and Belgium. "In their variety, cultures can be a source of vitality, just as biodiversity in nature is known to be a guarantee of sustainability and fertility".

SOCIAL INCLUSION, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, NEW ECONOMICS

The Finnish Institute (35-36 Eagle Street, London WC1R 4AJ; email: <postmaster@finnish-institute.org.uk>) will hold a seminar on the Future of Work on 30th October - convenor, **Tapani Lausti**. Its June 1998 newsletter outlines three possibilities. One is based on a citizen's income - which the Archbishop of Finland has publicly supported as a possible solution to social exclusion: "In this way even working a little would be possible and would make sense. The system would not push people into idleness and divide citizens into winners and losers as cruelly as is the case now. ...Whatever work you do, in whatever situations, whether or not you are paid to do it, you still contribute to building our society".

The Spring 1998 newsletter of **BIEN** (Basic Income European Network, 3 Place Montesquieu, 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium; email: <bien@etes.ucl.ac.be>) reports that two former winners of the Nobel Prize for economics, Herbert Simon (1978) and James Tobin (1981) now support Basic Income.

FLEXIBILITY AND SECURITY: TOWARDS A NEW EUROPEAN BALANCE by **Ursula Huws** (<<http://dspace.dial.pipex.com/analytica>>), 52pp Discussion Paper No.3, 1997, £5 from Citizen's Income Trust (St Philips Building, Sheffield Street, London WC2A 2EX; email: <citizens-income@lse.ac.uk>), discusses: (1) how a minimum level of social protection can be ensured without trapping the unemployed in dependency; and (2) how work can be made more flexible without disadvantaging part-time workers, temporary workers, the self-employed and other 'flexible' workers. The existing social security system is essentially needs-based [i.e. targeted] rather than rights-based [i.e. universal]. A citizen's income would thus represent a radical alternative, but its ability to support flexible workers is a powerful argument for it.

SANE (South African New Economics Network, PO Box 53057, 7745 Kenilworth, Cape Town; email: <sane@iafrica.com>) is contributing proposals on tax shift, parallel currencies, citizens income, and interest and debt relief, to South African policy debates. We recommend their submission to the recent Poverty Hearings, with **Margaret Legum's** Supplement; and **Aart de Lange's** scenario, looking back from the year 2010 on "the process that led South Africa out of the economic mire of free-market economics and the trap of unlimited growth, unsustainable lifestyles, environmentally destructive production processes, and greedy consumerism... Bold fiscal and monetary decisions around the turn of the century have led to economic and social stabilisation. ... South Africa is no longer at the mercy of global monetary manipulation".

"People are to be regarded as important because they are *people* and not only because they are useful in an economic sense". **Janus Abel's** NEW CENTURY ECONOMICS PROJECT (7a Albert Street, London NW1 7LU) supports citizen's income and resource taxation, and a fundamental economic rethink.

Many social groups will benefit and “everyone will feel part of the mainstream of a society in which their contributions are valued”. The case for a Universal Basic Income [or citizen’s income], as a key element in “A Proposal for Inclusive Capitalism”, is clearly and powerfully made by Ian Ritchie and Les Gilchrist in *PACIFIC WORLD*, issue 50, August 1998 (editor **Kay Weir**, PIRM, PO Box 12125, Wellington, New Zealand; email: <pirmoffice@clear.net.NZ>).

“The ‘climax’ economy will see a process of fusion between the two great sectors of the economy - industry and households, a less and less clearly defined distinction between supply and demand, between producer and consumer. This will be a process of the *domestication* of industry. The ‘New Domestication’ will have some parallels with the domestication of animals and plants which defined the first agricultural revolution and was the starting point of settled society”. And local economic development should be seen, not as a mere holding operation for poor areas, but “the starting-point of a transformation to the climax form of economic development - the Lean Economy”. **AFTER GROWTH - CLIMAX: RISING UNEMPLOYMENT AS THE CUE FOR EVOLUTION TO THE LEAN ECONOMY**, an 8-page paper in *EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT*, No.8, 1998, by **David Fleming** (The Lean Economy Initiative, 104 South Hill Park, London NW3 2SN) is a new economics ‘must-read’.

Social exclusion is not just concerned with unemployment or a matter for just one government department. All policy proposals should be tested against the contribution they make to promoting social inclusion. **Tony Atkinson** co-edits and writes the first chapter in **EXCLUSION, EMPLOYMENT AND OPPORTUNITY** (CASEpaper 4, 1998, 131pp, Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion, LSE, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE - director, **John Hills**.)

John Peet’s (Dept of Chemical and Process Engineering, University of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch, New Zealand) and **Hartmut Bossel’s** recent 15pp paper on “Ethics and Sustainable Development: Setting the Agenda for Engineers” for the Institute of Professional Engineers of New Zealand (in connection with IPENZ’s Code of Ethics) proposes a very interesting new methodology, based on Orienter Theory, for developing Sustainability Indicators, and suggests a draft set of indicators for New Zealand.

Betsy Taylor, formerly of the Merck Family Fund, is now Executive Director of the **CENTER FOR A NEW AMERICAN DREAM** (6930 Carroll Ave, Suite 900, Takoma Park, MD 20912, USA), working for better quality of life, new consumption patterns and sustainable lifestyles. **Diana Chambers** is Program Director.

APPLIED RURAL ALTERNATIVES (10 Highfield Close, Wokingham RG40 1DG; **David Stafford**), is about the countryside, conservation and healthy food in UK and developing countries. Its 32pp booklet “Cheap Food: Can We Afford It?” contains papers for Wokingham Local Agenda 21 on “Organic Farmers Can Feed the World”, “A School Garden Project”, “BSE and Organophosphates” and “Direct Food Link Schemes”. £3 cheque to ARA (SEBUNA).

PEOPLE AND PROJECTS

The Oxford Sustainability Centre Development Group (38 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 1XP; contact **Jon Halle**; email: <jonhalle@hotmail.com>) is planning a centre for use by a wide range of Oxford-based initiatives supporting global sustainability and social equity at local and global levels.

EARTH BALANCE (West Sleekburn Farm, Bomarsund, Bedlington, Northumberland NE22 7AD; **Joanne Chapman**), situated among former mining communities, is converting a derelict urban-fringe farm site (220 acres) into a working prototype of a sustainable future - organic farming, wood-fuelled bakery and brewery with own-grown wheat and barley, integrated renewable energy, composted waste and reed-bed sewage. 80,000 visitors a year are expected by the year 2000.

Janet Bunbury (115 Marshall Street, Watertown, MA 02172, USA) tells us that the Norcross Hill Community (PO Box 562, Templeton, MA 01468; email: <NorcrossHI@aol.com>) is planning an ecological village, including a biodynamic farm and garden, in 600 acres of forest, field and stream, with occupation for people with and without disabilities, and with new social/economic forms of ownership and equity.

Dr Ben Mepham is Executive Director of the new **FOOD ETHICS COUNCIL** (Minster Chambers, Church Street, Southwell, Notts NG25 0HD).

The theme of the first issue of *ECOVISION*, 44pp, March 1998, was "Construyendo la Era Ecologica". Themes of future issues will include "Economia y Ecologia" and "Tecnologia, Ciencia y Ecologia". Details from **Pedro di Girolamo** (Casilla 145, Correo 29, Santiago, Chile).

Y2K: THE MILLENNIUM COMPUTER BUG

"There are no magic bullets, no miracles, no deus ex machina" that can put off the Year 2000. The probability of severe disruption is now quite high. Worst-case scenarios include a banking crisis, interruption of retail distribution, failure of telecommunications, nuclear plant shutdowns, nuclear weapons fired in error, a stockmarket crash, disruption of health services, riots in major cities, and catastrophic social breakdown. Among possibilities noted in a comprehensive report, July 1998, by **Jan Wyllie** (Trend Monitor International, 3 Tower Street, Portsmouth PO1 2JR; email: <jan@trendmon.demon.co.uk>) are that trust in technologists, industrialists and politicians may suffer, a new industry may emerge to help local businesses and communities to adapt to a collapse of computerised infrastructure, and a shift away from local dependency on centralised systems to more self-reliant lifestyles may take place. (The 1998 **WORLD'S BEST IDEAS**, 300pp, pbk, from **Institute for Social Inventions**, 20 Heber Road, London NW2 6AA - £15 subscription - contains 12 pages on Y2K, among its 250 social inventions.)