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Publishers of  
ONE-SENTENCE ECONOMICS  
AND WORLD LEPROSY  
- Howard W. L'Hommedieu

An end to monopoly — in government, banking, land, patents, mergers, trade unions, medicine.

Rational, humane laws. Prisons abolished; replaced by fines, with psychiatric treatment if necessary.

Assess full ground rent, without exception, for ethical revenue source, low improvement taxes, an end to speculation. Choice of sites at true rental value will ensure a surplus of safe employment, at wages equal to one's production.

## THINK TANKS

-Paul Dickson

### Products of lobotomies

Government restitution for official or private injuries. Polygraph tests to be accepted as evidence.

A magazine article describing some of our horribly deformed wounded stated that one who had lost part of his brain, making him less aware of his condition, was better able to adjust to his situation without resentment. Perhaps we should all be better able to adjust to our governmental nightmare if we had lobotomies performed on us. Part of our trouble is our blind worship of authority, of academic credentials, of technology, separated from ethics, culture, humanity, and also from other aspects of technology, as though each superficial, isolated brainstorm could operate independently of all other factors in the universe. It has created an amoral, unchecked acceptance of any quasi plausible proposal put forward by imaginative self-proclaimed experts, and the authorization of funds to pay enormous salaries for idiotic purposes.

"In the last decade \$150 billion has been spent on (Research and Development)," about two-thirds by the federal government. "The U. S. now spends more annually on space research (alone)...than it cost to run the whole government in 1927. 'the density of science in our culture is quadrupling during each generation.'...The giant R and D spenders are the Pentagon, NASA, the Atomic Energy Commission, and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, but there are scores of (others) that also count their research money in millions." Total R and D for 1971 was expected to reach \$28 billion, about half by the federal government. R and D may double in the next decade. "cutbacks in defense and space research have been accompanied by a push in such areas as computer applications, medical and biosciences, 'health delivery,' urban problem-solving, and environmental research-...(the) War on Poverty created a small 'poverty industry' in the nation. In the Washington area alone over 100 companies specialized in some form of research, study, analysis, or evaluation of the poor and the various programs in the antipoverty field....the Office of Economic Opportunity in 1971 has requested a budget of \$78.8 million for R and D. ...there were (an estimated) 11,355 R and D companies in 1967." Probably the same today.

Most major universities have at least a dozen affiliated research centers. The subjects covered include the following: the sociology of dog and horse tracks, the impact of leisure time on politics, the effects of retirement villages on their inhabitants, animal noise, religious communications, magnets, soy beans, the impact of computers on privacy, ESP, and electronic music. The Clearinghouse for Federal Scientific and Technical Information contains millions of copies of over 600,000 research reports, including "Temperature Distribution of an Idealized Ice Cap," "Performance of Miniature Pigs After Partial Body Irradiation," and "Decisionmaking on Farms in Middle Sweden." Also, among scores of federally funded research projects on sweat: "Sweat, Sweat Glands, Sweating-Eccrine Sweat Gland Activity and Racial Differences in Resting Skin Conductance ...Finger-Sweat Prints in the Differentiation of Low and High Incentive" ad infinitum.

In an effort to retain civilian scientists and engineers who had contributed so greatly to technological developments during World War II, a permanent institution for military research, called Project RAND (Research AND Development) was set up. RAND pioneered many military and economic developments, but then added political scientists, economists and psychologists to its staff, with no apparent benefits to the country. "The primary function of a think tank as the term is used here is...to act as a bridge

between science/technology and policy-making..." This seems to have the result of telling our power elite and military how they can most readily control the resources and peoples of the underdeveloped parts of the world, without regard to law, treaty or humanity. It also involves speculations on wars between various alignments of powers, engaged in various types of warfare, including nuclear warfare. In 1966, RAND suggested that survivors of nuclear attack should abandon the old and feeble. Senator Warren Magnuson offered a resolution to establish a World Environmental Institute to help solve problems of both national and international scope. Most solutions are known. It is a matter of freeing government from business control, and subjecting it to scientific control. "...Jerome B. Wiesner, former science adviser to President Kennedy and now president of MIT...suggested (in March 1969) that Congress needed to set up a sophisticated group to analyze military proposals (as a counter-balance to support the military gets through its think tanks).

The Inter-American Social Development Institute..."will act as a special center to encourage development of democratic institutions in South America." Our government permits only fiendish dictatorships in Latin America and southeast Asia, as the only means of ensuring cheap concessions for us and our fellow exploiters. New think tanks are in the works for developed countries. Ralph Nader's Center for the Study of Responsive Law is the first consumer think tank, and the Institute of the Black World is the first black think tank. From 1967 through 1969, 85 % of the government's R and D went for "defense" (including graft, waste and superfluity), nuclear, and space efforts, while health, housing, environment and mass transportation were neglected. Money for Arms Control and Disarmament dropped to almost nothing. There is tremendous duplication of effort, even quadruple effort, and large sums for irrelevant matter, such as: "The Social History of French Medicine, 1789-1815," the discovery, in Puerto Rico, that the wealthy were happier than the poor, and the healthy happier than the sick, a study of the Canadian tobacco auction, the effect of laundry variables on frayed shirt collars, studies of Northern grouse, Korean women skin divers, the nervous system of the Chilean squid, "Communist Vulnerability to the Use of Music" (classified as Confidential), psychological differences between tattooed and untattooed sailors, and on and on and on. Negative research findings, as on the SST, food additives and the Aleutian blast, tend to be suppressed.

Building up war scares, to build up armaments, as Melvin R. Laird has been doing, was practiced by the House of Krupp for a great many years, and by our own salesmen of new and obsolete equipment, in recent years. RAND promotes new attack and defense systems, but no proposals for arms reductions. They did contribute greatly to space research, and created two simple computer languages-called JOSS and SIMSCRIPT II. Civilian research at RAND has grown to 35 % of its activities, but this part of its business is in conflict with interests opposed to improvement. Industry does not wish to spend the money necessary to control pollution. They do not wish to break up their mergers, stop their collusion, end their monopolies in land, banking and patents, or lose their direct and indirect subsidies from the government, in payments for not growing crops, for maintaining wild life preserves, in both legal and illegal underassessments of land, in depletion allowances on oil wells and many other industries. Their unwillingness to bring the annual charge for business sites down to their true rental values, equalizing production costs and ending unemployment, means that urban problems, slums, crowding, rats, sickness, crime, drug addiction, lead poisoning, death in fires, lack of heat in cold weather, extortionate rentals, cannot be solved with all the computers in the country. Plans to dam Latin American rivers will have the same bad effects that have been experienced in the U. S. and Africa. We must stop doing everything which is technologically possible. Every aspect of government should be supervised by ombudsmen, selected by locally organized democratic processes. Experts selected by independent private organizations should pass on the efficacy and ethics of executive, legislative and judicial matters, and upon international relations, economics, law, ecology and humanity, checked, in case of disagreement, by polygraph tests - triple charts of proven value in hundreds of thousands of cases. The Institute for Policy Studies is by far the most constructive think tank.