

PUBLIC PRESS

P.O. BOX 71

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS 60006

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.

ENERGY: THE NEW ERA

-S. David Freeman

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.

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

Total commercial energy of mankind prior to 1900 was probably less than 1973's use alone. We mined 20 million tons of coal in 1860, and 500 million in 1910 (yet many miners and others, In 1914, worked 12 to 14 hours a day, every day, for a bare subsistence. Production alone does not end poverty.) Half of our 63 million homes are heated with gas, and most of the remainder with oil. 14 % of our total energy and 30 % of our total petroleum supplies fuel privately owned automobiles. Predictions of future energy consumption are worthless. We may develop a service economy, "with a proportionately smaller industrial sector." In 1970 the U. S. consumed 33 % of the world's energy. If all peoples in 1968 consumed what we did, consumption would have been almost six times what it was. Evenly distributed, the peoples of the world could use only half our consumption. This is immoral, and dangerous to peace.

Much of the readily obtainable natural gas in the U. S. is in offshore areas, combined with oil, involving great environmental risks. About 600 trillion cubic feet are in "tight" rock formations, where hydraulic fracturing may be economical, yielding 2 to 5 trillion cubic feet a year by 1990. Nuclear explosions for this purpose endanger surrounding air and water with radioactive leaks (and certainly pollute the gas, considerably endangering users, as is, or more people, to a lesser degree, if diluted with other gas). Considerable gas is readily available in Canada. Networks of high pressure pipes present fire and explosion hazards. "At present coal is our most abundant source of energy, but we cannot mine it or burn it in a socially acceptable way." A lifetime underground miner has one chance in twelve of being killed. Serious accidents are ten times as great as for steel workers, and three times as great as for construction workers. 181 miners were killed in 1972. (Since mechanization raised the dust level, 75 % of miners contract "black lung" disease within a few years.) Much land has suffered some subsidence, with more to come. Water seepage into mines poisons waterways with 4 million tons of sulphuric acid a year. It continues in abandoned mines. "Spoil banks," or waste piles grow at the rate of 100 million tons a year, with more than 400 slow burning, unextinguishable fires constantly polluting the air. "The total damage to the surface...is estimated in the billion of dollars." Longwall mining gets 85 % of the coal, and is safer than our method, which gets 50 %. Strip mining, producing 50 % of our coal, is safer than underground, but causes damage impossible to restore satisfactorily.

Oil refineries use considerable land and a large volume of cooling water, damaging recreation areas with oil spills, polluted discharge water, and the dumping of solid wastes on nearby land and water. Sulphur compounds, hydrocarbons, odors and noise are released to the air, and there is danger of fires and explosions. A coal burning electric plant requires more than 1,000 acres of land, because of the need for coal storage and reception of ash and other solid wastes. The 500 new plants projected within the next twenty years could preempt much of the remaining recreational areas along waterways. By 1980, electric plants will require one-sixth of the nation's fresh water runoff for cooling. Two-thirds of the power consumed is dissipated to the water or air as heat. Heat speeds up the bio-chemical processes of aquatic life, requiring more oxygen; but heated water holds less oxygen. Cooling towers 30 stories high and a block in diameter result in great water loss, may cause fog, or contaminate the air with salt-and are expensive. Transmission lines take up 4 million acres, with 100-foot rights-of-way. 3 million more acres may be required in 20 years.

Only about 10 % of our offshore oil and gas has been exploited, but pollution is tremendous. Well blowouts, pipeline breaks, tanker accidents, discharge of oily sea water used as ballast-the last estimated at 22 million barrels of oil a year-are poisoning oceans and ruining

beaches. Hydrocarbons from oil spills may enter the food chain, endangering marine and human life. Crude oil contains potential carcinogens. Government scientists found massive globs of oil and clots of plastic on the Atlantic, from Cape Cod to the Caribbean, with more than half the catch of young fish collected from the surface oil-contaminated. 100-foot rights-of-way for pipelines also cause ecological damage. (Pollution from many sources has killed some seas, is killing oceans, and will render all U. S. waterways unfit for human or commercial use by 1980.) Irreplaceable oil and coal should be conserved, where possible, for chemical values.

Only one-third of the oil is lifted out of the well, where we could reasonably get two-thirds. We could save up to 40 % on the heating and cooling of new buildings, and 20 % on old ones. "It takes 10 gallons of gasoline per person to fly from Boston to New York City on a regular jet flight as compared to 7 gallons by car, assuming both vehicles half full. Only two gallons would be required, by train or bus. It takes about four times as much petroleum to move a ton-mile of freight in a truck as in a rail car." New power stations should be located in or near industrial areas, which could use their waste heat in processing or in heating homes and factories. Energy intensive industries can greatly reduce requirements, and many items can be recycled at a small fraction of their original cost, while conserving material. "...more than 250 million tons of cans, bottles, bones, old tires and other discards are burned, buried, or otherwise dumped into the environment in ways inconsistent with conservation or ecological goals." Including other waste products from agriculture, industry and households-sewage- the total is 2 billion tons. We could convert much of this to synthetic oil and natural gas by "pyrolysis." Separation is expensive, but it saves dumping and conserves materials.

Not only are nuclear risks utterly impossible but so, though a lesser degree, are the costs of coal and oil for power; and even gas has some limitations and dangers. As plans have already been worked out, according to Jacques Cousteau, for providing all clean power in the U. S. within ten years, we should devote every effort to develop such power, by whatever means are most feasible, for each application, in each locality; using the various types of solar, wind and geothermal power. (These have the further advantage of being able to make every country in the world forever self sufficient in power, and provide a base for a prosperous economy. To promote individual economic justice, for its own sake, while at the same time forcing and easing our conversion to a sound ecology, we must demonopolize industry and democratize government. We must end the direct and indirect favoritism which creates and maintains monopoly, including the failure to assess the full ground rent, created by nature and community developments. This will open up all sites for use by everyone, on the same basis: payment only of an annual assessment equal to the ground rent; thus creating surplus job opportunities, working for one's self or for others; the choice from which enabling one to obtain the equivalent of his production, and select constructive, non-polluting work.

When we decide to trade for our foreign needs, instead of robbing the Third World, we shall no longer have to support our puppet governments and other dictators, with money, arms, our own military, the training of foreign officers, aviators; the training of their police in suppression by torture, the building of their torture prisons, the subversion of foreign governments. With neither monopoly profits at home nor foreign exploitation to pay for, our need for wasteful power and destructive production will be greatly reduced. We can then not only take a month's vacation, after only a year's employment, as western Europeans do, but work a shorter day, with adequate government retirement pensions and socialized medicine. Our material resources cannot long withstand current inroads-see THE END OF TOMORROW. There is the further fact that air pollution is now shutting out enough sunlight to cool average world temperature appreciably, changing wind patterns, and consequent rainfall patterns, causing extensive and prolonged droughts in large areas, and floods and tornadoes in others-all endangering food supplies necessary to maintain the present world population. If we are to rationalize our ecology, we must rationalize our politics and economy before we pass the point of no return, dooming the planet to an early demise, and ourselves to a deteriorating and ever more menacing life style.)