

PUBLIC PRESS

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

P.O. BOX 71

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS 60006

An end to monopoly — in gov-
ernment, banking, land, patents,
mergers, trade unions, medicine.

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

A Review of

BEYOND REPAIR

THE ECOLOGY OF CAPITALISM

-Barry Weisberg

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 en-
sure a surplus of safe employ-
ment, at wages equal to one's
production.

Government restitution for offi-
cial or private injuries. Polygraph
tests to be accepted as evidence.

The author has presented a picture of interwoven economic and political monopoly which is having an appalling effect upon a large part of the peoples of the world today, and forebodes an appalling future of short duration. The following are far too few statements from this comprehensive book: We have become so rootless, so dissociated from every aspect of nature that we are destroying relationships between different groups of humans, between the nations, the races, between men and women, mind and body, past, present and future; and our combined economic and political monopolies are causing us to destroy the human race, directly, in slaughter, malnutrition and poisoning, and indirectly, by the destruction of our ecology. "the biosphere as an inhabitable region is to be measured in a matter of decades..." because of the "systematic imbalance between the capitalist organization of society and the life-sustaining capacity of this planet." In a matter of decades we have been unraveling the threads that hold together several billion years of evolutionary process. "daily decisions are made for us...which affect the course of mammoth rivers, the political composition of entire societies, the nutritional level of continents, and the chemistry of human metabolism...about energy production and consumption, agricultural production, urbanization, resource production, and the development of our own personality."

Henry Adams, in 1904: "'Prosperity never before imagined, power never wielded by man, speed never reached by anything but a meteor, had made the world querulous, unreasonable, afraid.'...he suggests that 'law...would disappear as a theory and give way to force. Morality would become police. Explosives would reach cosmic violence. Disintegration would overcome integration.'" de Toqueville, in 1840, "described 'the sort of despotism that democratic nations have to fear.' He chronicled the already evident separations among men, the triumph of the commercial method within the political sphere...the dread of fundamental change, and, perhaps most prophetic, the love of power...'Democratic nations may amuse themselves for a while with considering the productions of nature, but they are excited in reality only by a survey of themselves.'" Emerson, in 1837: "'The State of society is one in which the members have suffered amputation from the trunk, and strut about so many walking monsters.'"

Conservation groups, from the beginning, shared corporate desires for planned, efficient resource development, with stability and security, and worked for national regulation, which means the nationalization of production and consumption. "every regulatory agency has become the virtual captive of the industry it regulates." "The intention of Federal programs has never been the elimination of hazardous emissions, but to regulate their flow..." It is virtually impossible to obtain information on emissions. "Altogether, there are hundreds of thousands of chemicals in daily use which find their way into the land, air, water, and our bodies. There simply is no adequate means, after production, to test for such a number of agents...Quantitative change must give way to qualitative transformation before the whole itself is beyond salvage. What is involved is the very structure of major public systems (energy, transportation, agriculture, communications)...the virtual impossibility of centralized...control."

Twenty million Americans are hungry, and another ten million on the verge of starvation. \$4 billion is annually paid to the big farmers to take 35 million acres of soil out of

circulation. \$90 billion has so far thus been given away. "Moreover, only 18 percent of the 30 million poor receive any surplus food or food stamps, and this is often inadequate ...". 35 percent of the poor are black, and 58 percent of these are over 65. "What the nations of the nonindustrialized world require is political autonomy and adequate resources...not contraceptives alone."

"In earlier times the state did not provide massive fiscal services to corporate enterprise, such as regulation, testing, research and development funds....the state becomes the vehicle by which to socialize the costs of the private organization of production. We must realize that both military and economic activity of America abroad is motivated toward a single and all-encompassing objective; control....industry is not required to account for the resources they despoil in the process of production." Today the ownership of property and capital is equivalent to the ownership of the environment itself. In "Monopoly Capital," it is estimated that waste, in 1963, was 56.1 percent of the GNP. One has only to consider the idea of recapturing the oxygen in the atmosphere or the clarity in the water, on an individual basis, to gauge the possibility that consumers can correct what industry destroys.

Rockefeller in the economic world and Bismarck in the political "destroyed the liberal dream of happiness of all inhabitants of the planets...substituting the monopolistic organization and the corporate state...". For four hundred years the regimen of the military has dominated the fabric and purposes of industrial society. All aspects of civilian life--industrial invention, the standardization of production, appearance, behavior, and time--are consistent with a society in which military discipline and autocratic order are the primary templates....Today over 100,000 companies receive part or whole of their income from the military. War becomes "the 'health' of the capitalist state." yet "War is the ultimate pollutant....The history of warfare for seventy years is laced in oil.... There are some 429 major American military bases around the world with another 2,972 minor bases in some 30 countries covering 4,000 square miles." Upkeep is over \$5 billion annually. These bases wreck the ecosystems, alter the food patterns, and introduce unique diseases and huge prostitution business to their environments. (Monopolies at home and the military abroad have socialized the bodies of womankind.)

Nuclear power is the supreme pollutant, and is responsible for vast, officially unadmitted death and sickness, with much yet to show up, and with far more planned. Chemical and biological weapons have already been employed, although officially denied, and we have trained 550 officers in 36 countries in this warfare, which has proved extremely dangerous, even in testing, and from laboratory failures. There is scarcely any means of separating offensive from defensive weapons. "Thomas Whiteside: 'It can be estimated that the American military destroyed the rice crop of a million people with the aim of denying food to twenty thousand Vietcong.'" The author believes that it is useless to try to alter the government's present use of its power, and that it is necessary to challenge the power itself. He proposes the organization of a framework of political and economic autonomy, and the diversion of tax funds from present military purposes to such a framework.

Fifty-three universities hold almost a billion dollars worth of stock in oil and electric and gas utilities. No university has a course of study about the political economy of the petroleum industry." Methods of obtaining clean and unlimited energy from sources other than fossil fuels are discussed in detail. The combination of the oil and automotive industries holds back the development of other sources of energy, as it holds back the development of mass transportation, in place of individual cars, and the development of more self-contained industrial and residential centers, which would greatly reduce travel time. "The variety of communes, neighborhood corporations, and regional proposals now abundant within the United States are the first primitive attempts at self-determination." Man and nature, political and biological liberation of the world as a whole is our only hope for the future.