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TRENDEVENTS

IN THIS ISSUE

This issue of TrendEvents features poignant, new essays by Technocracy members, along with financial news, followed by questions & answers about Technocracy and its design.

ESSAYS

They Have Gone As Far As They Can Go

There was a Broadway musical set in a time period of a long time ago, say around 1910, where some rural folk ventured into the big town of Kansas City, Missouri. "Oklahoma," the stage and movie presentation which depicted the episode the rural folk experienced, alluded to the visitors overwhelming feelings of how advanced things had become. The gist of their observations was that it seemed "*they've gone about as fur as they c'n go.*" In some respects, and us having lived to this time and place, we have gone as far as we can go.

Now, we know that innovation and mankind's never-ending challenge to do and make things more efficient and easier has not let up, and especially if a great deal of profit were to be made. The Model T Ford was just hitting the road; inside plumbing with running water to the sink and flushable toilets – such marvels to behold indeed. Giant skyscrapers – all of 10 stories high, took peoples breath away after stepping out

of the most ingenious invention; the Otis elevator. Even on the farms that the visitors were vacationing from, advances were taking place. Slowly at first, gasoline fueled tractors were replacing horses and mules. Metal, manufactured for the plows they used, were of a much stronger alloy.

Throughout the land in and around 1910, industries of all kinds were advancing exponentially. For example, removing ore from mines meant days of time using squads of laborers to load a ton of the precious material. But, that chore and so many other chores requiring human muscle power was rapidly dwindling. Even back in 1910, one could see the momentous changes that had already taken place. The techniques being first invented, then implemented, became unidirectional and irreversible.

Not far from Kansas City and back in Oklahoma, black stuff was bubbling up out of the ground in places. I do not want this to

be some kind of history lesson, but that “stuff” was oil which led to a technological direction unparalleled in human history.

For generations and most probably to date, the United States has more installed horsepower than any other nation on the planet. However, most of that was due to our momentous automobile development. Electrical advances dictated very little need for large power driven engines. Just one electrical motor managed to move that Otis elevator up and down all day. Just what are the implications of all this extraneous energy – this graduating from human toil to mechanization? That answer falls into the category of people still needing to work for a living so as to at least keep body and soul together.

If, as it has been shown, the politicians and financiers took no action in regards to the displacement of human toil, calamity would certainly take hold. The Great Depression of the 1930s was an early indication and not until the Second World War did we escape the grasp of technological displacement. But as mentioned earlier, the use of technology is unidirectional and irreversible. As more and more advances in production and creating goods and services were taking place, more and more devices to offset the changes taking place were required. Even with the most devastating war civilization had ever known, World War Two, the material required to wage that war, and the rebuilding of Europe and Japan – even after all that, it was still necessary to create a debt structure

to resuscitate a collapsing economy. If war were to be in part at least, some kind of salvation for our economy, Korea, Viet Nam and several excursions in Central America, it became too little and too late. You see, as mechanization advanced removing the human touch, who was paying taxes? We have been in a Warfare/Welfare state for some time, and that is very evident.

If you have access to the Internet, and want to grasp the ramifications of what is being related here, go to *US Debt Clock.org*. Take a careful look at three categories: US National Debt, US Total Debt and the Unfunded Liabilities. Trillions, and trillions of unfilled monetary obligations going on, and on and on. Is an unbelievable crash in store for us? Have we “gone about as far as we can go?” Technocracy says it is inevitable. We say why wait for all that. Let’s unite in a cause so pertinent, so meaningful and so necessary in today’s world. Go to our website: <http://www.technocracy.org>. Take some time to study the concept of a scientific functional design for the physical operation of North America. With this in sight, not only have we not gone too far, but it is just the beginning of the brightest future we can imagine.

George Wright

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IT'S TIME TO EVOLVE – AGAIN

Many people involved in the physical sciences can see more clearly than those not so trained the errors our society is making in its headlong plunge toward making more money. The recent exposition by Denis Frith reporting on an interview with Lord Rees of Ludlow, President of the Royal Society, is only the latest of many excellent analyses of our current situation. It seems that many can see the problems but the solutions appear lame or lacking altogether. Technocracy has observed many such analyses over a long period.

Money infiltrates and saturates our mental processes virtually all the time we are awake. Nearly every decision we make throughout our lives involves money in some way. It is almost impossible to imagine a world without money. One has to stop and think that, if we weren't here, there would be no money. We invented it as a tool and have become enslaved to it. Economists like to say that it permits us to assess our resources (meaning money) for any task we wish to perform. But when one really looks at it, neither water nor air have much monetary value but without them we couldn't live at all. A new cell phone can cost a fair amount but in a few years is worth nothing. It is still the same piece of equipment and, very likely, works just as well. What happened?

Money is far more insidious and corrosive than the previous paragraph would tend to indicate. The U.S. claims to love freedom and democracy and abhor empire and the subjugation of others. Yet the country has well over seven hundred bases in other people's countries and a massive military. Large industries make lots of

money from maintaining all this. Furthermore if all those people involved were to suddenly come back home unemployed the repercussions might be severe. All one has to do is look at the possibility of closing a military base when it is found to be no longer needed. The local community is in an uproar and its congressional representatives will be lobbying furiously to keep it open.

When the Soviet Union collapsed in the late nineteen eighties it was assumed that the "cold war" was now over and there would be a "peace dividend". This would mean that much of the U.S. military apparatus could be dismantled and those resources (again meaning money) could now be turned toward constructive purposes. Fat chance! In almost the blink of an eye we had all kinds of new enemies. Only these were even more evil because they were almost invisible. The British showed how to deal with terrorist organizations using good, careful police work. Using the military as a police force is like using a baseball bat to swat flies. You may get one once in a while but you will do a lot of damage not associated with terrorism at all. It is also very likely you will create a whole new pack of enemies you never had before. Who knows, maybe that is the plan? Armies are designed to occupy and control territory, not police populations.

Money is made by producing things that people want or are convinced that they should want. The more that is sold the more money is made. This is a system that thrives on waste, not conservation! Further, without jobs a price system cannot function. So the first job of any government is to ensure an

adequate supply of jobs. As automation fills more jobs it becomes increasingly difficult to provide jobs. Of course one could design new infrastructure that is both needed and would increase the overall efficiency of the society as a whole. The problem is that increasing efficiency eventually translates into fewer jobs. That is what is so great about military production. The output rapidly becomes obsolete and has to be replaced or, even better, it is burned up in some war. While it is in service it produces nothing of value to the society other than sitting there as a threat (maybe) to others.

The problems that can and will be created by what is referred to as global warming have been known and understood with increasing clarity for several decades. Yet nothing has been done to stop the erosion of the Earth's environment although it was fully possible to do so. Why? Big corporations see such a thing as an erosion of their plundering rights. Technically, corporations should have no real political agenda other than the maintenance of their profit making power, but as a matter of fact they are totally dedicated to the continuance of the status quo with all that implies. To insure such a thing necessarily requires control of the political apparatus everywhere possible.

Corporations today have become far more powerful than the governments designed to control them. If they don't like what governments are doing, they can just buy them out. Watching the huge expenditures for lobbying during the recent attempt to pass health care legislation should convince anyone just how much can be done. Further, it isn't over, once the law begins to go into effect, every effort will be

expended to control just how that happens. If a corporation doesn't like the taxes or regulation in one country they can just move to another. Concepts such as justice and law only apply to the "little people". Occasionally one of these corporate executives is caught doing something very illegal and is subject to justice but just how often that happens is rather questionable. It does happen enough to give the appearance of "fairness".

The equation everyone seems completely convinced of is that democracy equals freedom. Those who really believe this pleasant fantasy need to ask themselves at least two questions. Number one: is it possible to spend enough money to influence the outcome of an election favorable to one person's opinion? Do you think this might ever have happened? Number two: is it possible to buy out a politician? Do you think that has ever happened? Above and beyond such manipulations do you think an election has ever been rigged? Above and beyond even that, do you think that all those who vote are fully informed on the issues involved and the positions of those running toward the issues?

At one time there were a wide variety of voices espousing many points of view on the whole range of social issues. These voices had many choices of how they could best get their particular message onto the public forum. Gradually major corporations have monopolized all the media until any form that even remotely suggests opposition to the status quo is completely unmentionable. This condition has existed for quite some time but growing gradually more restrictive and constrictive until nothing faintly resembling news now exists in the U.S. Just a few large

corporations now control so much of the media that even faint echoes of opposition can be safely ignored. Serious commentary, discussion, analysis or even mentions of social topics of any depth are virtually nonexistent. The “news” frequently consists of little more than the latest celebrity divorce or scandal of some type. Particularly bloody car crashes are good as well.

Today radio stations are being used for the tried and true methods so well perfected by Joseph Goebbels during the Second World War – ignorance, fear and hate. If people fail to be properly impressed, just simple good old-fashioned lying can always be relied upon. What corporations mostly want is a population of docile consumers who question little. What has been described in the forgoing is a fascist state but not one in the normally accepted form. A fascist state defined by Mussolini is the combination of the state and corporations, or a corporate state. In this condition the corporations have simply co-opted the state. The governmental forms of the state still exist but the individuals who populate it are little more than puppets on a string. The real advantage of this sort of form is that when people become angry with what they see happening, or often not happening, it is the political leaders who will take the blame not the puppeteer. This is not some conspiracy so much as it is the natural evolution of a price system operating under conditions of high-energy conversion and advanced technology. In the U.S. a person can now be thrown in jail for an indefinite period without anyone having to be notified. A person can be tortured – legally. People, phones and mail can be spied on without any notification or disclosure for any reason a president wishes. These are the powers of a

dictatorship no matter what sort of name it is labeled with.

What Technocracy has said is really rather simple. The forces driving all the social difficulties that have been described are technology and energy. When one examines proposals for social change virtually all are ideas for fixing the system. That is what Roosevelt did in the 1930's. Today nearly all his reforms have been reversed or eliminated. The reason is that we are still in a price system and a price system still operates the same way. What Technocracy has said is that it is the price system itself that is broken. It cannot be fixed. Attempting to fix the price system is analogous to fixing a horse and buggy so that it will behave like a car. It makes as much sense as fixing a totally shattered window by gluing the pieces back together.

Some have suggested that if technology is causing the problem with the price system why not just get rid of the technology? North America now supports well over 300 million people with the technology we have at a very high standard of living. The same area supported about 5 to 15 million when the Europeans first arrived with Stone Age level technology. If we lose our technology it would be a major disaster. Those of us occupying that area today are very far from having the skills those people had for living off the land.

This raises the question of revolution. History is replete with violent revolutions that began when social conditions became so bad people felt it necessary to get rid of their elites who, they felt, were running them into the ground. Such an option is indeed dangerous in a high-energy civilization such as the one we live in. Violent social disorder

could easily scatter or disrupt the social order so severely that it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to restart the machinery that keeps us all alive. The question that needs to be asked is: how many of us know how to restart a food processing plant, a paper mill, an electrical substation, a hospital or any of the thousands of other essential mechanisms upon which we all depend?

Technocracy said that if the price system is going to collapse then we should be prepared to take advantage of it to advance human social organization to a whole new level. What Technocracy proposed is that the social system should be regulated by the energy required to operate it. Over any budgeting period the amount of energy that could be produced would be calculated. The total amount required for maintenance, new construction, basic operation or defense would be deducted and the remainder would be distributed equally between the citizens. When a person obtains something from a distribution center the amount of energy that was used to produce that item would be recorded and the appropriate industrial sequences would be informed of how much was consumed.

The machinery that keeps us all alive needs to continue to be operated, in the most efficient way possible, with the greatest conservation of resources possible. With the disappearance of the price system the whole social system becomes a far more simple operation. There would be no more banks, insurance companies, tax systems, brokerages or any of the trappings required by a price system. Technocracy suggested that people should begin working at 25, retire at 45 and the work week should be four hours a day four days a week. With this much time off a person would be able to pursue any avenue of interest they might have. Even with this it might very well be impossible to employ everyone but there would be no penalty for not being employed. One's

living would not be impaired by physical privation.

Ninety five percent of all crime would become impossible to commit. The remaining criminal behavior that is left would also become far less likely to occur. The conditions that create much of it would be gone. It is quite obvious that some form of social control would have to be maintained but, likely, very minimal. We would still need traffic lights and we would still obey them for the same reasons. The sociopaths now inhabiting the dark recesses of the corporate world might have a very difficult time finding a slot in the new social order. Both the means and reason for restricting and controlling the behavior of others, money, would be gone. Along with the disappearance of money would go the concept of property and, as a result, ownership. This would be a far different world than the one we now live in (often uncomfortably).

We have an opportunity to evolve to a new level of social organization. It would make possible many things that are improbable now despite their desirability. They are improbable because we live in a price system. The founder of Technocracy once stated that in any given situation we always do the least possible. What would the world be like if we were free to do the best possible?

Ron Miller,

Member

Technocracy Inc.

THE FINANCIAL CLIFF

Several new reports show that most Americans are treading along a financial tightrope, where a slip could be devastating. Nearly half of U.S. households – 47% - say that they spend all their income, go into debt or dip into savings to meet their annual expenses, according to an analysis of Federal Reserve survey data released by the Pew Charitable Trusts.

They could not withstand a serious financial emergency,” said Diana Elliott, a Pew research manager who co-wrote the analysis. “That really is the contrast to the macroeconomic story” of a recovering economy. If a typical middle-class household had to weather a period of joblessness without any income, they would exhaust their available savings within 21 days, the analysis found. If that same family cashed in all their retirement investments to get by, they would burn through those assets within four months.

Adjusting for inflation the average annual expenses for a family have risen about 6% since 1984 to \$51,105. Their earnings have largely been flat for three decades increasing only when factoring in government “transfers” such as tax cuts and Social Security checks. A separate economic

scorecard released reported that 55.6 percent of U.S. consumers have subprime credit scores, meaning they must pay a premium to borrow if they qualify at all for traditional loans and credit cards. Roughly 20 percent of households must routinely depend on “fringe financial services” such as payday lenders, according to the report by the nonprofit Corporation for Enterprise Development.

Including capital gains, the richest one percent of Americans earned nearly 19% of all income in 2013, according to Emmanuel Saez, an economist at the University of California at Berkeley. To be in the top 1 percent, a family had to earn at least \$391,960. That’s more than seven times median household income of \$54,417.

The *Oregonian*, January 30, 2015: by Josh Boak, Associated Press.

Comment: Isn’t living in a price system wonderful!? Half the population gets to walk around with a financial sword hanging over their heads all the time. Most of these people are so terrified for their own survival they don’t really have time to think much about the sort of social system that has produced this condition. That is, quite possibly, where those who benefit want them to stay.

IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS INTERESTED IN TECHNOCRACY ...

Please feel free to tell them to contact CHQ or go to the below websites to learn more! Although Technocracy proposes some simple, down-to-earth

concepts, we have a depth of materials and literature that are thought-provoking and rich in details. There is always more to discover and learn!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT TECHNOCRACY

CONCEPT AND ORGANIZATION (continued from last issue)

These questions deal with the body of thought of Technocracy itself and with the organization formed to fill the need for disseminating that body of thought to all North Americans.

Is not Technocracy very similar to Socialism or Communism?

No, it is not — mainly because it proceeds from entirely different premises than either socialism or communism. Technocracy originated out of a circumstance of technologically produced unemployment. Research indicated that increasing technological unemployment would render impossible the distribution of sufficient consuming power in salaries and wages to buy back the products of increasingly efficient machines. The social program of Technocracy, therefore, is one specifically designed to distribute an optimum of goods and services to all citizens. (The resulting unemployment by technology mentioned above is on the lips of nearly everyone in North America today.)

Socialism and Communism, by contrast, were outgrowths of an environment in which practically all work was done by human muscle power, and wherein it was never possible to produce sufficient goods and services for all citizens. Karl Marx's theories were formulated to overcome conditions as they existed in Europe in the middle of the 19th Century -- far different conditions from those faced in 20th Century North America.

Only Technocracy applies the necessary measures to cope with 20th century technological problems.

Did not Technocracy state in 1937 that the Price System would be over by 1942? If so, why do we still have it? What happened?

What happened is that we have had a World War and a series of smaller conflicts ever since. These have given massive blood transfusions to the ailing Price System and prolonged its life expectancy.

Furthermore, Technocracy did not make the bald, unqualified prediction stated above. Instead, it indicated that if trends continued in the direction they were taking, the Price System would be in ever-increasing difficulty until it reached the point of breakdown. The mounting problems of the present system are plainly evident on every hand.

What can one do as an individual to bring about a better system?

We suggest that the best way to do this is to acquaint yourself as fully as possible on all aspects of the problem, after which an objective solution will commence to suggest itself. While anyone can do this individually and alone if one has the integrity and interest to do so, it seems rather a waste of time to go over ground that has already been covered with the likely result that a similar

conclusion would be reached to one that has already been rather widely publicized.

We refer, of course, to Technocracy's social analysis and synthesis. Probably the best move individuals could make would be to join the organization of Technocracy Inc., investigate it from the inside, and prepare themselves in any way practical through the organization's media to inform other North Americans of Technocracy's conclusions. If you feel that the organization does not have the answer, you can drop your membership more easily than you attained it.

What are the duties and obligations of members of Technocracy?

The only requirements for membership are to pay your dues (\$15.00 a year) and to abide by the organization's Bylaws and General Regulations. Beyond that, your degree of participation depends upon your personal initiative.

Presuming, though, that you joined the organization because you were convinced that Technocracy holds the only answer to North America's social dilemma, you would wish to learn as much as possible as soon as possible about the organization. By so doing

you would be preparing yourself, through whatever personal knowledge or ability you may possess, to further Technocracy's objectives by informing your fellow North Americans about them.

The first step will be to attend a Study Class where, after either learning the rudiments of basic science or refreshing your memory of them, you will learn Technocracy's analysis of the existing society and why the Price System is incapable of solving its problems; the final lessons explain what is necessary for their solution.

Technocracy has room for many talents, such as teaching, speaking, writing, typing, accounting (since we are still in the Price System), printing, and a wide variety of others. The combination of these abilities through the efforts of its various members constitutes the full capability of Technocracy to inform North Americans of "the only organization that is preparing the people of this Continent for social change." A member's most important obligation to Technocracy Inc. is one's sense of realization of that responsibility, coupled with a determination to carry it out.

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(Photo credit: NASA)

Stay “tuned” for news about high-tech, high-efficiency indoor farming in the next issue of TrendEvents.

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