

TRENDEVENTS

Winter 2016

IN THIS ISSUE

This issue of TrendEvents covers both the old and new of Technocracy, with news about our winter Think Tank, a memorial for Paul Cordesmeyer, and information about the Technocracy concept and organization.

TECHNOCRACY IN ACTION

Think Tank Brings Together Enthusiasm and Expertise

In January and February, a Think Tank was held to brainstorm ideas for Technocracy. Meetings of ferocious intensity were held across Florida and California. Ten people with strategic areas of expertise were involved, ranging in ages from 21 to 93. There were special video recordings of senior Technocrats and also a presentation for the public. Canada, the USA and Latin America were all represented, with participants from Europe and Asia as well.



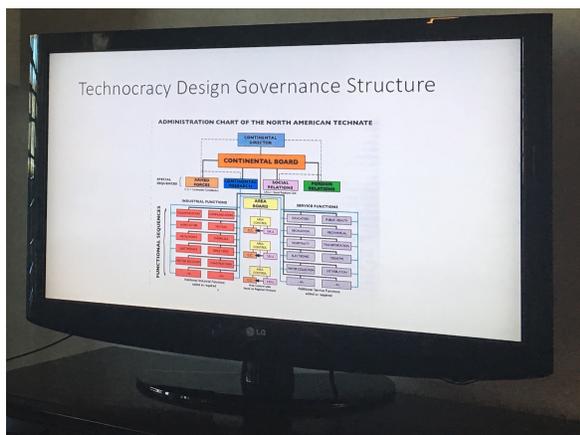
Participants brainstorm in San Diego



George Wright presents in Silicon Valley

The Think Tank began with an interview of senior Technocrat Hart Stringfellow, in Gainesville, Florida. Hart is inspiration to us all. George Wright from CHQ spoke on a later day in Silicon Valley in a not-to-be-missed talk about Technocracy and current events. A video recording of both will be posted online.

There was also the further development of a curriculum concerning “big picture” sustainability. Most sustainability movements tend to think small and local, i.e. “small is beautiful”, “big is ugly.” Yet at Technocracy, we are systems thinkers. Only through highly organized, continent-level production and environmental protection coordination can we enjoy the benefits and high standard of living of modern civilization. It may be inspirational to say that a single individual is stronger than the most powerful army, but it requires a literal army of workers and expertise to equip and supply such an individual.



Participants learn about the Technocracy Design

While much had already been developed, there was the need to better bring together topics into an integrated framework. For example, knowledge from both chemical engineering and physics were brought together, representing two tremendously different approaches. The final curriculum attempted to reconcile the closed systems approach of physics (and Hubbert) with the open systems approach of chemical engineers (and many sustainability folks). Phase I also included a meeting with

University of Florida Professor Mark Brown on energy accounting.

The core of the Think Tank began with the presentation of the curriculum to core participants. A framework was developed to develop solutions to sustainability challenges, using the big-picture, high-level planning ideas of Technocracy. There were also discussions how to promote technocracy and for transitions. This work was presented to CHQ personnel and the public, including scientists and sustainability activists.



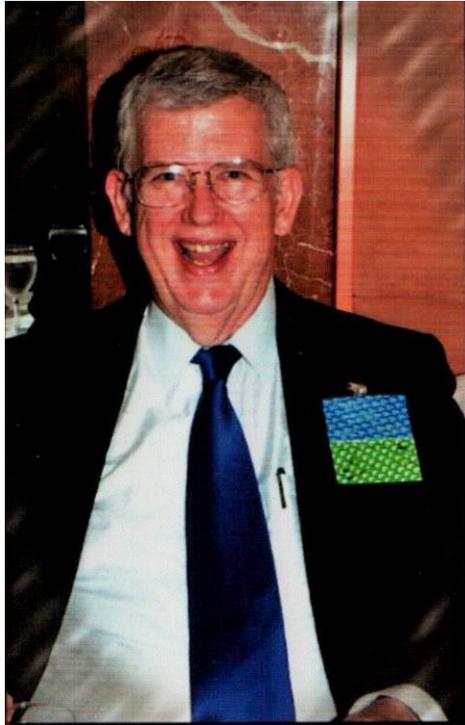
CHQ leadership talks with members of public at the NASA Research Park



Spirited discussions about sustainability

IN MEMORIUM: PAUL CORDESMEYER

Paul Cordsmeyer, a long time Technocrat, passed on March 19, 2016.



Paul Cordsmeyer was born in 1942, during the height of the WWII era. Like many people of that era, he was looking for something ‘better’. He enlisted in the Air Force and served in Germany. He was a very intelligent man and insisted on doing things the “right way”.

Paul moved to CHQ in 1995 and provided many services including maintenance and being editor for the TrendEvents newsletter. He loved groups and was able to talk to anyone with ease. He worked often handing out leaflets and informational packets about Technocracy to groups around the country.

He applied for membership to Technocracy in 1963 and served as a Unit leader in Florida. He was very active in Technocracy and spent a lot of time with at the Ohio CHQ

property. Howard Scott had a couple of large protective German Shepherds. When Paul walked onto the property the first time, the dogs just ran up and rolled over to have their bellies rubbed! Howard Scott told Paul right then, ‘If my dogs like you that much there must be something good about you.’ That was Paul’s introduction to Howard Scott.



Paul served in the Air Force and was a disabled veteran. While in the service he went to school to be a denturist making crowns, partials, etc. He

loved to tell the story about a dentist who insisted that Paul stay in his area because Paul could make crowns that the dentist could “just toss into the patients mouth and seal them down”, very few adjustments were ever necessary, Paul was very proud of his dedication to doing the job right, in any job he took on.



After his service was over in 1968 he started his own thriving denturist business in Florida until 1992 when Hurricane Andrew blew down the building and all in it was lost. He headed Northwest after that, “away from the hurricanes” he said.

Paul was also very interested in “intelligent science fiction”, books, movies and shows that portrayed a future that had some technological advances. Because of this

interest he hosted Star Trek and other Conventions. He met an amazing array of personalities. He even had lunch with Gene Roddenberry, the creator of Star Trek. He said he was talking with Gene about Technocracy and the unique social system it would provide, and Gene proved very interested., Latter Star Trek Episodes referred to a social system that was not based on the Price System. So, maybe Paul had some influence in television!

INFORMATION ABOUT TECHNOCRACY

TECHNOCRACY IS BASICALLY AN ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

Everything we do and use requires a certain amount of energy to do the work. That work is now performed mostly by technology thus increasingly removing people’s ability to garner incomes. Instead of loading a depository (financial intuition) with diminishing access to a monetary fund of some kind, in a Technocracy we would determine what physical resources are available to convert to an energy source, divide that available energy into the population and give each their share of what we now could call “energy credits.” The result is the ability to consume and use services far beyond what we consider adequate today. The only difference we would notice from today, is the depository has enough credits that we no longer have to worry about an “overdraft.”

Jobs, jobs, jobs

We have all heard from business and their caretakers, the politicians, that if we can

create enough jobs then everything will be better. By some degree this would seem to make sense. Give Mom and Dad more money to raise the kids; kick start the youngsters coming out of college with an opportunity of an increased income to help pay off tremendous loans required to graduate, and just generally have wages raised because of all the new opportunities in the job market. Yeah, right – No. That is no longer possible, if it ever was. Ever since the cotton gin (we could go back further to the invention of the steam engine) the die was cast to remove the most expensive cost to any business, that being the high cost of labor. It is no accident that there has been an erosion of jobs to extremely low wage overseas countries; it is no accident that unions have been decimated thus allowing business to pay just barely enough to make people come to work; it is no accident that most industries give few benefits to their employees. Now, all the glamor talk from business and politics is “ROBOTS.” A quote

from the business section of the Seattle Times newspaper on Sunday, June 29, 2014: (writing about the composite materials now being standard usage on airframes) “All the automation means advanced-composites work at Boeing likely won’t create the tens of thousands of traditional jobs that came from the traditional aluminum based plane manufacturing. ‘Being brutally honest’ says Bredeson (Mary Kaye) state worker-trainer coordinator, ‘the promise of jobs in

composites hasn’t yet materialized.’ Let’s stop kidding ourselves – labor intensive jobs requiring human energy are disappearing at an ever-increasing rate. As soon as it becomes financially feasible, any business will incorporate devices that don’t need vacation time, do not get sick and can work around the clock if necessary – and they won’t talk back. Welcome to the Brave New World!

IGNORING THE OBVIOUS

The old adage is that we can learn from our past; that the mistakes we made earlier leave with us a lesson to not go that route next time. Well, some of us anyway, can see that is a falsity. Actually, it is not mistakes that we are concerned with today – it is repetition. We are locked into a system that leaves us with no choices but to do the same things over and over. What is the saying about expectation – a definition about craziness; “doing the same thing over and over and expecting a change?” Change is happening though, it is just that we cannot adapt to it – we have these rules you know. We must admit that most of us do not like to change unless we initiate it, or there is some advantage too great to dismiss. Yet, the changes referred to, and what should be obvious to all, are changes that unless addressed, will be our collective downfall.

A prime example is the city of Detroit. During the early stages of our own industrial revolution, our black populations became “unnecessary” because of the cotton gin machine. Many migrated to the cities of the north, including Detroit. And now here in 2014, the final stage of this change has again

made them unnecessary because of technological advances that put humans on the wayside. Of course, this is happening all over our nation and Canada and even Mexico, and not only to our black population. As illustrated in Detroit, money supersedes everything and if people can’t pay their water bill, well then, by the rules we just “turn of their water supply.”

I don’t know about you folks reading this, but I would like to know, in this so successful, so superb, so advanced country we like to keep telling ourselves about – we now need perpetual waste and perpetual war to keep our present extravagant lifestyles – how have we come to this?

Take a tour through our website. See for yourselves that we do have a way to adapt to the changes that *are* plowing into our lives with increasing impact. We no longer have a choice, but we do have a chance – one last chance.

George Wright

Energy, the Cause

The increase of energy-consuming technologies in a high-energy civilization tends to nullify prior concepts of “value” as it applies to the Price System. The rate of energy consumption of the North American Continental area has reached a magnitude which results in a plethora of goods and services beyond our control. Properly used, this energy consumption could also result in a comfortable lifestyle for everyone on this continent.

When power – applied energy – is used in vast quantities, the result is an abundance of goods and services. Never in history have people faced the technical problem of everyone having a comfortable lifestyle. Efforts in the past have been directed toward philosophical speculation as to how abundance might be achieved. Now, this state of affairs has been thrust upon us by technology. The production problem has been solved, but people must now solve the problem of distributing abundance. (We do not dispute that large numbers of people today are doing without, but from a Technocratic perspective, we contend this needs to be addressed by discarding the “Price System.”)

Adequate production and use of vast quantities of power opens up many vistas of possible human achievement previously seen only as shifting mirages by the Utopian dreamers of history. It realizes the physical fact of abundance. It contains within itself the technique whereby goods and services can be distributed. It provides not just another variation of the method of haphazard exchange now in operation throughout the world but a technique of physical accounting

on a continental order of magnitude. In operation, this continental accounting system would allow a high degree of certainty in meeting human needs.

Social Design Now Possible

Science and technology have developed the method of research and analysis. People are now adept at the discovery and classification of physical knowledge by which we have constructed energy-consuming technologies that have created a new world, so to speak. Today, the data are available. More research is being conducted than ever before. In the matter of design, too, science and technology have made strides, but only in the minutia of science and technology.

People have designed and constructed enormous dams, power plants, and canals, but we have never designed and constructed a continental hydrology. People have designed and streamlined trains, planes, and magnificent terminals but never an integrated continental system of low-cost transportation. People have designed automobiles and highways but never perfected a superhighway system controlling the origin of traffic and the “load factor” (here meaning how much can be moved safely and efficiently.) People have built haphazard price system economics and political empires, but never have we designed a self-contained technological social mechanism.

In other words, the design of the past have been only designs of minutia, the working up from the part to the whole; never were they designs of the whole, leading down into the microcosmic parts. When a

continental social mechanism is designed as an operational totality, then, and then only, will the whole exceed the sum of its parts. A planned social structure is possible when, and only when, all the factors relevant to the operation of a social mechanism are measurable. With measurable factors, effective social planning is possible. Today, the predominant immeasurable factor is “price,” which explains why neither the United States nor any other country has been able to achieve sustainability.

But of course, until slightly over 100 years ago, science and technology had never had the opportunity to design in this manner. Even the science and technology of the Industrial Revolution are comparatively new. These fields have never approached managing the social order (except in science fiction.) The discovery of the importance of the energy factor in social measurement was first made by Technocracy. The discovery forms the basis of a continental design.

Measurement by Energy Cost

The problems of the commodity exchange method of distributing goods and services, and of Price System economics in general, became apparent before World War I. The disrupted conditions that time led to an investigation which in turn uncovered the astounding, yet almost obvious, fact that the only common denominator of all commodities and services is energy.

The scientists who pointed this out simply proposed to measure the total amount of energy used in a given period, measure the energy cost of physical production and services, and use these measurements as the

basis for the regulation of all continental production and distribution.

The Price System

The Price System grew out of the days of scarcity, when trading crude materials, or stealing them, was the only way in which people could acquire the articles they needed. Through complex ramifications the trading system has grown until it is now the overwhelming structure of finance, business, commerce and politics – in short the Price System in toto – a gigantic structure but still a method of exchanging goods, springing from the ancient custom and necessity of barter. There is only a pretense of accurate measurement and control; physical accounting is inadequate; accurate predictions are impossible, as is overall stabilization. The Price System is simply a method of erratic exchange. In scarcity, it sufficed well enough as an exchange method; with enough to go around, it cannot even do that. When the possibility of assuring accurate measurement of all goods and services in quantities of physical terms was announced, it was treated with scorn by all the institutions of the Price System. To take science out of the laboratory and apply it so social operations seemed inconceivable to many vested interests, but now the inevitability of such a development is slowly becoming apparent, as is the coming scarcity of oil and other important resources. Those who are blind to the possibilities of energy accounting are like those who refused to accept many other new technologies. They may find themselves footnotes in history as the proverbial Luddites. They will have to accept energy accounting or remove

themselves from its sphere. Let us add that it is a long, cold swim to the next continent.

Facts and Social Regression

Physical developments has made the next step mandatory, and Technocracy, grown from the work of the interpreters of science previously mentioned, now states the following: that the North American Continent has many potentially sustainable resources; that we have designed , developed and are operating the largest and most complex technology in existence; that we have many intelligent men and women who are technically trained; and that we have the highest average consumption of energy per capita of any continent.

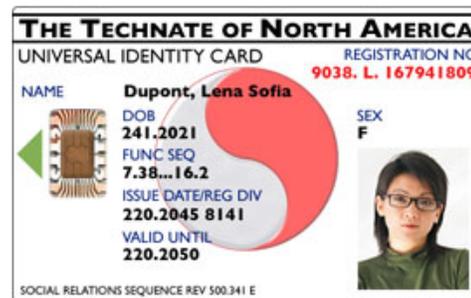
Technocracy also states that there need be no uncomfortable restrictions on our physical standard of living due to inadequate resources; that we can only continue to optimize per capita consumption by the increased substitutions of energy and technology for man-hours of labor and by a continuous improvement of our equipment; that we will be forced to greater and greater integration of our data and of our physical equipment; and that we will do well to adapt a technological administration for all forms of social operations.

This, then, is our social progression whether we like it or not. If we do not accept these physical conditions and refuse to adopt a method of control capable of administering these processes, the most likely other alternative is the complete abandonment of our technological developments, with the consequent chaos. Technocracy urges that we not permit catastrophe. The North American people are going to demand that

we move forward; and the citizens can choose to conscript their leaders, the technologists, the scientists and engineers to lead them in establishing this new system.

Energy Accounting

This new system will put into operation a Continental Energy Accounting, utilizing the Energy Distribution Card. Production and distribution will depend on continent-wide statistics expressing the desires of all citizens in their choices of consumable goods and available services. This system will do the following things in a geographical area where sufficiency is certain:



Example of an energy distribution card

Record on a continuous 24-hour basis the total net conversion of energy for continental plant construction and maintenance, the availability of energy for continental plant construction and maintenance, and the amount of physical resources and services for use by the total population during a given period.

By means of the registration of energy converted and consumed, make possible the best use of equipment and resources (“a balanced load”).

- Provide a continuous 24-hour inventory of all production and consumption.

- Provide a specific registration of the type, kind, size, etc., of all goods and services, where produced and where obtained.
- Provide specific registration of the consumption by each individual.
- Allow citizens the widest possible latitude of choice in consuming their individual shares of goods and services.
- Distribute goods and services to every member of the population.

The challenge of producing continental abundance is without precedence in the social history of human beings. The magnitude of this problem prescribes that there be a highly innovative solution. The physical resources of our continent can be usefully developed only by the technological application of sustainable energy supplies. This continental production of sufficiency, therefore, will provide the largest per capita consumption of extraneous energy while maximizing the conversion of natural resources.

This use of energy in producing “enough to go around” would require the maximum efficiency at close to “full-load operation.” It is obvious that for this production to be attained with a minimum of human toil, we must have an accurate measurement of all extraneous energy converted on the continental area and the continuous recording of its allocated degradation in providing the citizens of this continent with sufficient physical wealth for optimal individual consumption.

Science and technology have no philosophical or moral “values,” only measurement. The single method known to science in the measurement of the cost of all physical operations is that of the amount of energy consumed per unit of mass, per unit of time, per unit of distance. Technocracy presents the only system for calculating and distributing extraneous energy on this North American Continent.

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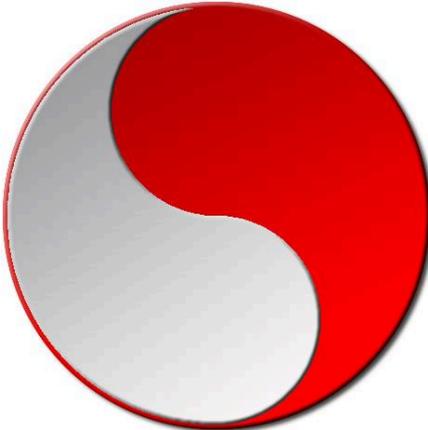
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