

THE NEW TIMES

Registered at the G.P.O., Melbourne, for transmission by post as a newspaper.

\$5.00 per annum post-free. Box 1226L, G.P.O., Melbourne.

"Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free"

Vol. 39, No. 1

JANUARY 1973

CAN THE INTERNATIONAL POWER MANIACS BE HALTED?

"There is no surer indication of misdirection in the affairs of any country than a continuous rise in the cost of living which, it should be borne in mind, includes the involuntary losses of the individual in taxes, rates, and extortions, as well as his direct expenditure. The idea that high taxation prevents inflation is ignorance, or worse. It is nearly irrelevant whether this misdirection proceeds from incompetence, or Fifth Column treason . . . Since observing this phenomenon at close quarters, we have always been sceptical of incompetence in high places, not as to the existence of it, but as to the accident of its occurrence."—C. H. Douglas in "The Social Creditor (U.K.)". April 29, 1950.

The major constant in the recorded history of mankind is the will-to-power. Technology, which makes it possible now to brainwash people all over the world on a scale never previously considered possible by power-seekers, enables international power maniacs to more effectively drive mankind towards a World State through a process of political and economic centralisation. The key instrument being used to further this process is centralised control of the creation and issue of financial credit. Continuous inflation is a major instrument of the destruction of what little remains of the free society and Civilisation. As we have warned over the years, growing social instability, of which the revolt of youth against traditional values and institutions is a striking manifestation, is inevitable while the finance-economic policies generating inflation are persisted with. We have in recent years moved from one convulsion to the next, every new convulsion leaving behind a trail of physical, social and psychological wreckage. As the wreckage grows, so do the vultures move in. Consider the growing violence, increasing crime, mounting drug consumption, particularly amongst the young, the deluge of filth which is praised by depraved creatures called "literary critics"; and the overall breakdown of respect for proper authority.

BRITISH EMPIRE A STUMBLING BLOCK

With all its faults, the development of the British Empire and Commonwealth pointed the way forward to the progressive development of Civilisation on a world scale. The underlying concept was the effective decentralisation of power and a sense of "fair play" which reflected the Christian view of love. The Empire and Commonwealth was a major stumbling block to the power maniacs. Even after losing the peace after the First World War and suffering the dreadful humiliation of the Great Economic Depression of the 'thirties, the peoples of the Empire and Commonwealth were able to throw off the

shackles of financial subversion sufficiently to play a decisive role in the Second World War. But once again the traitors ensured that the peace was lost. And now, 27 years after emerging victorious militarily, the international power groups have imposed upon the British what Hitler was unable to impose. In the face of bitter opposition from the British people, the Heath Government brutally insists that the British must surrender their national sovereignty. One of the leading power men of the European Economic Community, the arrogant Dutch Socialist, Dr. Mansholt, has left no doubt about what any attempt to leave the EEC could mean for the British. He has warned the British Labour leader, Mr. Harold Wilson, that if he replaces Mr. Heath and attempts to

CHRISTMAS 1972

*WE paid the price, in blood and sweat and tears
For a free Britain, for a thousand years,
Until this year, this year of foul disgrace,
They sell us, in the Common Market Place.
The shame is for our rulers, not for us
Who still have faith in Britain's genius;
There never was a Nation so misled,
Sound in the heart, but rotten in the head.
THEY took it on themselves thus to betray
Dead, living and unborn—we had no say.
On their head be it. Now alone the meek
The Kingdom's heritage again must seek,
Swallowed in alien Empire, like to them
That saw the Star rise over Bethlehem.*

The above Christmas message from Dr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Dobbs is, we suggest, a reflection of the basic soundness of the British people as they struggle against the puppet traitor Edward Heath and his masters.

take the British out of the EEC, he could be brought before the European Court of Justice and tried! And presumably if Mr. Wilson had the overwhelming support of the British people for a policy of withdrawal, they would also be attacked at least economically. Remember what happened to Biafra when it attempted to contract out of the Nigerian Federation!

CREATING THE "SUPER-POWERS"

Forcing peoples of different historical, cultural and racial backgrounds into mammoth centralised structures solves no problems. Where is the much-publicised "unity" of the EEC? Where is the stability as inflation mounts and industrial dislocation grows? It is reported from Italy that the wave of strikes has resulted in the establishment of a special telephone service to tell people who is working and who is not! The French could be on the eve of electing a Socialist-Communist Coalition Government. In spite of his continuing Marxist policy of financial controls, Mr. Heath has not been able to end the disastrous British inflation. No sane person believes that bringing the explosive Irish problems into the EEC will help produce any increase of unity. Those attempting the impossible must be regarded as quite insane, in that they are completely divorced from reality. But there are also those who cynically look forward to exploiting the inevitable greater crises stemming from centralisation, in order to impose still greater centralisation, which is consistently presented as "inevitable". The building of a "super-power" in Western Europe, allegedly to match the Soviet and USA "super-powers", is in fact a major attempt to create one World Super-Power—with all the power in one set of hands. There is, of course, the little problem of fitting the other growing "super-powers", Communist China and Japan into the grand scheme. But the international power maniacs are working on it.

In the meantime the Japanese are finding that the very policies of feverish economic expansion, which has resulted in the abusive term, "The Ugly American" being replaced by "The Ugly Japanese" throughout South-East Asia, have also produced disastrous inflation and mounting social unrest at home. When the President of the American "super-power" imposed wage and price controls in an endeavour to solve inflation, and actually did slow down the inflation rate for a short period, economic illiterates in Australia as elsewhere hailed this as a constructive programme, which other nations should follow. We observed that so far from providing a genuine solution, the Nixon policy was like a dam being used to try to halt a rapidly increasing torrent. Eventually the damage being done by trying to halt the torrent is so great that the dam has to be removed or it bursts. The end result must be even greater disaster, as the Americans are now beginning to realise as they move into another "boom" and the inevitable increase of inflation. There will be another "crisis" and then still more centralisation.

POLITICAL PUPPETS

Unless prepared to challenge present finance-economic policies, the new Labor administrations of Australia and New Zealand can be no more successful in halting inflation than were their predecessors. They will, of course, be much more enthusiastic in their application of Marxist controls. And having served their purpose, they will like all politicians, be eventually removed by what is euphemistically known as the "democratic process", and replaced by another set of administrators who may present a much more pleasing TV image as they intensify the same disastrous policies. That outstanding Australian master of the cliché, Mr. Billy Snedden, the new Liberal leader, is waiting in the wings for a call to take the centre of the stage. Mr. Snedden believes in "change", and of course, of always "going forward".

It is now clear that there is not much time left for effective action by the peoples of what passes for the Free World, against the international power maniacs who operate behind the scenes while the political puppets act out their servile roles on the centre of the stage. The British Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli, vividly described this truth. Writing before the Second World War, which he correctly predicted, C. H. Douglas advised that "The nature of the remedy is crystal clear; it is to remove the power of manipulating policy through the lure of money, from the hands of international financiers who are completely callous as to the fate of their pawns, and to place this power in sub-divided form in the hands of individuals, to such an extent that it does not form a lure capable of obtaining their adherence to a course of action in which they, in their own persons, are bound to be the sufferers, and cannot be the gainers".

THE DECISIVE BATTLE

Strategy for survival in the desperate days ahead—and the momentum of events is now so great that even greater disasters for mankind are close at hand—requires that every factor available must be used to counter the drive towards centralised World Power. With the publication of books like *The Naked Capitalist* and *None Dare Call It Conspiracy*, the documentation of a conscious international conspiracy by power maniacs has been placed beyond serious argument. Around these books the League of Rights throughout the Crown Commonwealth is developed a programme in depth while at the same time taking advantage of every new disaster to focus attention upon that alternative policy for both survival and regeneration called Social Credit.

We believe that the final stages of the battle for Civilisation have been joined. "Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more." Let us all dedicate ourselves to making 1973 a year of real decision, one to look back on with pride. The power maniacs have everything going for them except the most explosive factor in the situation. That is Truth.

TO THE POINT

Last year provided further striking evidence of the fallacy of attempting to advance Social Credit through party politics. In spite of the decisive defeat in 1971 of the Canadian Provincial Government in Alberta, Canadian supporters of party political action to advance Social Credit were tremendously confident about their prospects at the Canadian Federal Elections. A French-Canadian MP told Mr. Eric Butler in Ottawa last year that he had little doubt that the Social Credit Party would make substantial gains. Mr. Butler was astonished to learn from the same optimist that the Social Credit Party was going to make a "major breakthrough" in New Zealand.

But before Prime Minister Trudeau eventually decided on his election date, Mr. Bennett's Provincial Government in British Columbia had been electorally annihilated. This defeat will spare us from answering any more questions about "debt-free British Columbia". In the Canadian Federal Elections, the Social Credit Party candidates in Western candidates were strongly rejected. So far from the "major break-through" in New Zealand, there had been a split in the ranks of the Social Credit Party supporters, with the emergence of yet another party, the New Democrat Party, headed by former Social Credit Party leaders. The electoral results were very meagre.

Events have consisted confirmed the warnings of the author of Social Credit, C. H. Douglas, that Social Credit, "the policy of a philosophy", was not going to be advanced by submitting it to contests for party political power, with all the attendant compromising on principles and corruption. If the Social Credit society is to be created, it must be "from the ground up" through organic growth based upon firm philosophical principles. All party political activity is a serious diversion of finance and energy from the necessary work of creating electors' Associations through which electors can unite to get the results they require. Or they can unite to discipline those openly betraying them. We have no doubt that a major factor in the Western Canadian sweep against Fabian-Socialist Trudeau was the work done by Canadian League of Rights supporters. Saturation distribution of League literature in selected constituencies was reflected in the voting. Needless to say, this did not please Prime Minister Trudeau's backers, with the result that the smearing of the Canadian League of Rights has been intensified.

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We wait with keen interest to see just how much effective power the new Minister for Health, Dr. D. Everingham, has concerning the fluoridation of Canberra's water supplies. Dr. Everingham has been prominently associated with opposition to fluoridation of public water supplies for some years, not, we understand, on philosophical grounds, but primarily because of the health hazards. Dr. Everingham has been quoted by the press as saying that he might recommend to Federal Cabinet that fluoridation of Canberra's water supply should be stopped if a better alternative method of fluorides could be found.

We will be pleasantly surprised if Dr. Everingham makes any progress with his approach to his Labor col-

leagues. We recall how the Western Australian Labor leader, Mr. Tonkin, expressed his strong opposition to the fluoridation of Western Australia's water supplies—before becoming Premier. It is true that he has since had a report, which is critical of fluoridation. But as yet no steps have been taken to halt fluoridation in Western Australia. No doubt Western Australian electors will remind Mr. Tonkin of this before the next State Elections!

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The current water crisis in Melbourne has once again highlighted the colossal waste of resources and the inefficiency of the over swollen cities of the world. The Victorian Liberal Government of Sir Henry Bolte made no effort whatever over the years to slow down the Melbourne sprawl. There were loud cries of "progress" as Melbourne exploded towards a population of two and a half million. Different types of speculators were delighted. And the Liberals persuaded themselves that the bigger Melbourne became, the more Liberal Members in the State Parliament. But events have now overtaken

CAN THE LEAGUE OF RIGHTS HOLD THE LINE?

1973 will be a watershed year in the history of The Australian League of Rights. It has successfully weathered the storms of the past few years to emerge as the one coherent force capable of meeting the rapidly intensified drive towards the complete totalitarian State. The pressures of 1973 are going to be enormous. The League has plans to meet those pressures, and to take the offensive in carefully selected areas. But its capacity for holding the line and taking offensives will be determined by the financial support it obtains.

The battle experiences of the 1972 Federal Elections must be applied during the probable four State and Senate Elections this year. The majority of "New Times" readers have not yet responded to the League of Rights 1972-73 \$25,000 Basic Fund. At least another \$10,000 are required. Will all readers who have not yet contributed please treat this matter as urgent. Queensland and Northern NSW readers should send their contributions—or pledges—to Box 17, Alderley, Queensland 4051. All other contributions to Box 1052J, G.P.O., Melbourne, Vic. 3001.

them, as they inevitably overtake all those who pursue unsound policies.

The 1967 drought in Victoria caused a panic concerning how sufficient water was to be provided for the exploding population of Melbourne. Planning went ahead on the basis of a continuing explosion—in spite of the growing talk about decentralisation. Tens of millions of dollars of economic effort are being poured into massive schemes to bring ever-increasing quantities of water to Melbourne. At June 30, 1962, the capital invested in Melbourne's water supply was \$110 million. Ten years later it had doubled.

Water restrictions are, of course, unpopular. Thus the efforts by the Victorian Liberal Government to force the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works to ease the drastic restrictions. The Liberals consider these politically unpopular at a time when they are preparing to face the electors—a big percentage of whom live in Melbourne and metropolitan area.

Victorian electors have the opportunity at the coming State Elections to ask all candidates some direct questions about their attitude towards genuine decentralisation. It is criminal madness for any community to continue to attempt to provide big, human ant-heaps like Melbourne with the services necessary to make them operate.

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It is most significant that less than one-sixth of the 60,000 aged between 18 to 21 who are entitled to vote in this year's South Australian election have so far enrolled. The politicians pressing for a reduction in the Australian voting age have tried to create the impression that young Australians are clamouring to have a vote. The South Australian Attorney-General, Mr. King, recently said that only 9000 young South Australians had bothered to put their names on the State's electoral roll since it opened last June.

Mr. M. Young, Federal Secretary of the Australian Labor Party, said that he was not surprised at the failure of young people to apply for their right to vote, explaining that "Once the Federal Government has made it compulsory for 18 to 21-year-olds to vote their will be a vast difference." We have no doubt that legal compulsion with the threat of a fine will certainly change the situation! But will this mean an increase in responsible voting? There will, in fact, be greater irresponsibility than ever before. The Federal President of the Liberal Party, Mr. R. J. Southey, said that the low enrolment rate in South Australia was "disconcerting", explaining that the Liberal Party policy is the same as the Labor Party policy—votes for 18-year-olds at both State and Federal Elections.

The only way to ascertain whether people are interested in voting is to abolish compulsion. The party bosses fear that with voluntary voting, the percentage of electors prepared to vote for any party candidates might get progressively less, thus exposing the fraud of the present system. We have seen no examination of just how many

of the large number of informal votes in the recent Federal Elections were deliberate.

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Australia's largest company and only producer of steel, BHP, has shown political wisdom in asking Mr. Whitlam's Labor Government to investigate its proposed increase in the price of steel. An increase in the price of steel automatically further stimulates inflation in a modern industrial economy. The ALP attempted to make political capital of the last BHP increase in steel prices, using this as their main example for the necessity for a prices justification tribunal, this allegedly one of the Labor Party's answers to inflation. Now that BHP has asked for an investigation months ahead of the proposed establishment of a prices justification tribunal BHP knows now that their case is completely watertight and that after some more of the taxpayers' money has been spent, Mr. Justice Moore will have to find that a price rise in necessary for the simple reason that BHP's financial costs have increased substantially since the last increase. These increased financial costs are the result of Government financial policy.

The establishment of yet another Government bureaucracy will have no effect whatever upon the basic causes of inflation. All it can do is to make it increasingly difficult for those actually engaged in running the nation's economic system.

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There are encouraging signs that an increasing number of Australian medical doctors may be embarking on a course of hard-line action, which will cause the Canberra Socialists a few headaches. It is no secret that the Australian Medical Association has been steadily losing members to the General Practitioners' Society, which according to

PLAN NOW FOR THE 1973 ANNUAL "NEW TIMES" DINNER

The annual national events centred on "The New Times" Dinner will undoubtedly reflect the quickening mood of crisis and increasing determination supporters to intensify their efforts. The Dinner will be held on Friday evening, September 21. This is a family function and bookings will be accepted only from bona fide supporters. A \$6 donation must accompany each booking. On the Saturday, September 22, the annual National Seminar of The League of Rights will be held, with three Papers being presented on Education. All League actionists are eligible to attend the National all-day VPA Conference of the League on Sunday, September 23.

Private hospitality can be arranged for interstate and country visitors. But we must stress that the organisers require plenty of forward advice. Make a note of the above dates now. The League national weekend is an experience from which all those attending always derive tremendous inspiration.

its journal does not believe that there is any future in a policy of compromise towards the Federal Government. Dr. Bruce Courtenay, a leading member of the AMA has recently resigned to join the General Practitioners' Society. He states, "I am convinced that it is too late to reform the AMA from within, and that only mass resignations and joining the only organisation with the intestinal fortitude to stand up for its principles, will protect us."

The General Practitioners' Society has opened a fighting fund and engaged a barrister to challenge the Government's stated intention of virtually conscripting doctors to participate in its medical and hospital benefits schemes. Section 51 of the Commonwealth Constitution gives the Government power to make laws with respect to medical and dental services, "but not so as to authorise any form of civil conscription." If the legal challenge were to suc-

ceed, it would defeat the Government's intention of trying to control doctors' fees.

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Developments in Southern Africa indicate that increasing international pressure is going to be applied to South Africa, Rhodesia and the Portuguese Territories. President Kaunda has permitted Zambia to be used as a major base for Communist-backed African terrorists attacking Rhodesia. Prime Minister Ian Smith has appealed to the British Government in the past to use its influence to deter Zambia from assisting terrorists, but nothing has been done. Now that Rhodesia has taken strong economic action against Zambia, it is being charged with "aggressive" behaviour! African dictators are calling for a major campaign to destroy Southern Africa's minority governments. It appears that Mr. Whitlam agrees with this programme!

THE BASIC ECOLOGICAL CHALLENGE

By J. D. MALAN

The accelerating development of environmental problems in recent years has resulted in a worldwide interest in the subject of ecology. It is not surprising that Marxists, central planners and various types of do-gooders have jumped on the ecology bandwagon, realising that environmental problems, sometimes grossly exaggerated, can be used to extend centralised power over the individual. But long before the current "progressives" came upon the scene, men like the father of ecology and sociology, Sir Patrick Geddes, the Earl of Northbourne, Sir Albert Howard and other conservatives, were drawing attention to the fact that unrealistic financial policies were making genuine conservation increasingly difficult.

Mr. J. D. Malan shows how the environmental crisis cannot be met without challenging present finance-economic policies; without dealing with basic causes instead of concentrating upon effects. The following are extracts from a booklet being published shortly.

Many publications from ecological and conservation organizations are carefully prepared and well presented arguments in favour of a more intelligent use of various parts of our natural environment, compared with their exploitation in the past.

As examples of logical arguments in favour of the care of the environment they are excellent, but as ways of achieving this desirable aim they mostly fail for one simple reason - - they do not attack the real causes of the abuses their authors wish to stop. To understand why this is so, it is necessary to return to basic principles.

The word 'ecology', and its associated words 'ecologist' and 'ecological', are more commonly used to refer to the biological aspects of the interdependence of various life forms sharing a common environment, and are sometimes used to refer only to non-human life forms. But by definition they have wider meanings and include sociological interdependence as well as biological, and it is in this wider sense that the title of this essay uses the word 'ecological'.

Far more difficult to define are the words 'conservationist' and 'preservationist', although popular usage relates them to a wide range of people who are interested in some aspect of the general problem of minimizing man-

kind's destructive impact on the natural environment. Without attempting to distinguish between a 'conservationist' and a 'preservationist', the former term will be used to cover both.

A third category rarely linked with either ecology or conservation, but which should be closely associated with both, is that of the Social Engineer, and it is the purpose of this essay to attempt to bring these three groups together. It will be shown that their interests have more in common than in conflict, and that no one group can effectively deal with their own special problem without the active co-operation of the others.

Indeed it is the central theme of this essay that there is, in reality, only one basic problem and only one avenue through which a solution can be achieved. The urgent need is to identify this basic problem.

Within the ranks of ecologists and conservationists there are both amateurs and professionals, but very few professional social workers could justly claim the title of Social Engineer. What, then, is a Social Engineer?

ENGINEERING AND NATURE

An engineer is a person who studies and applies the physical forces and materials found in our natural environment to achieve results, which do not otherwise occur. He

is bound by the nature of these forces and materials as he finds them, and stands in much the same relationship to the non-living environment as the ecologist does to the living environment. His essential ability is his understanding of nature as it is.

The social engineer uses the same philosophical approach in his study of the nature of the social aspects of human life. He is also bound by the Natural Laws governing the behaviour of both living and non-living components of the environment, and seeks to use his knowledge of these laws to achieve the desired results in the field of human society. The social engineer can be regarded as the ecologist of human society.

THE IMPORTANCE OF NATURAL LAW

It is essential to a correct understanding of the problems facing ecologists, conservationists and social engineers that there be an appreciation of the importance of Natural Law. As has been pointed out in the case of engineers, almost all branches of learning have accepted the necessity of understanding Natural Law as it applies to each particular subject.

This acceptance is usually instinctive, and only rarely is it realised consciously that the process of learning is primarily one of adjusting our mental processes until they agree with nature.

This obligation to respect Natural Law does not mean that we are, or should be, limited to the things or processes, which occur in nature without man's intervention. But it does mean that whatever action we take, the results will always follow certain patterns irrespective of whether we know about them or not. These behaviour patterns are what we call 'Natural Law', and they cannot be changed in any way whatsoever. They can, however, be understood and applied to our advantage.

In planning any action, including those which will change some characteristic of the environment, we make use of a wide variety of symbols, and it is most important to observe that these systems of symbols are designed so that the rules governing their manipulation ensure that the dynamic characteristics of the symbols correctly reflects the dynamic behaviour of the real things they represent. Failure to do this will render the symbols useless as a means of planning actions to produce specific results.

In the field of ecology it is necessary to know the inter-relationship of all the components of an environment. If these relationships were correctly represented by a computer programme, the effects of destroying a certain species of insect could be predicted by reducing its population as it is represented in the simulation programme. If this programme is faulty, the destruction of this insect in the real environment will have an effect which is different from the computer prediction, but nevertheless in accordance with the appropriate Natural Laws.

A clear understanding of this natural law philosophy is essential for the ecologist and conservationist, and for a slightly different reason for the social engineer, for

the social engineer will come into closer contact with the problems generated by the one and only branch of learning in which the obligation to respect Natural Law has not yet been acknowledged. But before considering this one exception, some further discussion of basic principles is needed to establish a firm foundation for our main theme.

PRINCIPLES OF ACTION

When any one of us, acting individually or as a member of a group, undertakes any action, however simple or humble, there are three basic concepts at work. They may be the subject of separate and detailed study or they may be entirely subconscious, but all three are always present. They are - - philosophy, policy and administration or action.

Philosophy is simply the belief or understanding of those fundamental truths, which relate to the contemplated action. We eat because experience tells us that such action will remove the unwanted feeling of hunger, but if the food is, unknown to us, poisoned, the results will be in accordance with that truth and not our erroneous understanding of it. At the other extreme, a trip to the moon involves enormous effort beforehand to make sure that our understanding of the basic truths involved is complete and accurate. It is these basic truths, which are referred to as Natural Law.

Policy is our expression of the results we desire — the continuation of life in the case of eating, with possibly other secondary results as well. A policy is always based on a philosophy, for without a philosophy we have no idea of the feasibility of our policy, and our actions become aimless and uncoordinated.

The third component of administration, or the action itself, is the means of achieving the fulfillment of our policy. It is here that we become involved with technology, and enter the field of the expert who is charged with the responsibility of implementing our policy and obtaining the required results.

A VITAL DISTINCTION

While philosophy deals with the facts of nature, either understood or misunderstood, policy is the expression of personal desires, or the desires of groups of individuals. It is a fundamental part of the Christian concept of a society of free men that each person should be as free to form his own policy as is consistent with his obligation to respect similar rights for other members of his society.

Only rarely are we able to implement our policies unaided, and as society becomes more technologically complex, we become less and less able to do so. To implement our policy we engage experts, who should be of our own choosing, to apply the various skills needed to achieve the required results, but it must be carefully noted that we do not expect the experts to modify our policy.

It is here that considerable confusion arises—the inability of most people to make that vital distinction between the quite separate functions of policy making, which is entirely non-technical and should be completely democratic, and that of the highly technical task of carrying out that policy. In addition it should be noted that the processes of administration are not democratic at all, and in fact could not function efficiently if they were.

At this point a small digression is appropriate to clear up some popular misconceptions regarding the nature of democracy. It is not 'majority rule' on all questions, as is so often claimed, but a system of government, which permits policies to be formulated by the individual concerned, or as close to him as possible. Under no circumstances would a democratic government permit control of policy to pass to the expert—the furthest it would be removed from the individual would be that on certain matters it would be the responsibility of Federal parliamentary representatives.

In practice the distinction between policy and administration may not be easy. A simple example, which is easy to follow, is the purchase of a railway ticket for travel between specified points A and B. This is a policy decision which states the transportation service required, while the running of the railway system is the technical administration operated by those experts who have been charged with the responsibility of providing that service.

Somewhat less obvious is the example of a prospective homeowner who is uncertain what type of house to build on a different site. It would be pointless for him to decide on a house style, which could not be built, so he consults a builder who advises him, or even draws a plan for him, based on his expert knowledge of the building trade. Who, then, decides the policy? It is still the owner, even though he may accept in total the builder's advice. Once construction starts, any discussion the owner may have with the builder on such matters as the size of some timbers, would be outside his role as policy maker. Here he enters the scene in the role of an expert, and demonstrates the fact that we all frequently step from one role to another in the course of a single project.

But no matter how obscure they may be, or how many different roles one individual may play in a single project, the three components—philosophy, policy and administration—are always present, can always be separately observed if sufficient care is taken in searching for them, and, most important, they are always related to each other and to the results which are achieved.

THE ECOLOGICAL CHALLENGE

There can be no doubt that in recent years there has been a worldwide awakening to the very real threat to our environment, which comes from a wide variety of social activities.

While there are almost endless ideas of how the treatment of our environment could be improved, some of

which are in direct conflict with each other, there is fairly general agreement that it should not be abused as it is at present, and that some way of protecting it is desirable. It could therefore be stated that both ecologists and conservationists have, in general, a common policy—respect for the environment and the avoidance of unnecessary damage to it.

It is also obvious that their policy is not being implemented because environmental abuses continue to increase. What action could, or should, be taken to obtain the desired results?

Observing the undesirable results, it should be the first task to examine present policy in detail, compare it with the preferred policy, and study the differences. How can this be done?

The first step is to examine the administrative actions, which are the immediate cause of the undesirable results. Unfortunately this is frequently regarded as the whole of the investigation, but it is the next step, which is the most vital. This is to analyse these actions with a view to ascertaining the nature of the underlying policy or policies, which they are implementing. It is this step, which is so often overlooked.

Many sincere and very hard-working ecologists and conservationists, including both professionals and amateurs, having observed these administrative actions, immediately organize a variety of attacks on the officials concerned in the mistaken belief that if only these people could be educated to act more responsibly all problems could be solved. Nothing could be further from the truth. Typical of statements which can be found in almost any plea for better treatment of our environment, are these examples from a leading Queensland conservation worker -- "The need for . . . a changed ministerial outlook" and "We come to the need to educate all those whose job it is to make decisions".

Far from being an effective way of achieving the desired results, such campaigns can only produce small, local, short-term benefits, and cannot affect the overall rate of increase of the long-term problem. In other words, any advances, which may appear impressive in their local context, are either small compared with the overall problem, or could even be the cause of an increase of it.

THE COMMON FACTOR

Environmental pollution problems can be divided into two broad categories—those that are caused by the removal of a natural component from the environment, and those, which result from the addition of some undesirable substance to the environment. Without any suggestion as to the relative importance of each, some examples of these two categories are:

Extractive processes—mining, excessive wildlife harvest, destructive forest exploitation, bad farming practices resulting in soil and habitat destruction, over-fishing (particularly on breeding grounds).

Additive processes—manufacturing industries (waste product effluents), bad farming practices (use of insecticides and chemicals unsuited to the local ecology), airlines (noise and exhaust gas pollution), power generation (thermal pollution), transportation (engine exhausts), oil drilling and transport (ocean pollution).

Most of these activities are unavoidable in a technologically advanced society, and it thus becomes important to determine an acceptable level of activity in each case. Two points should be considered—first, is the activity a closed system which recycles material and energy and therefore does not seriously alter the quantity or availability of total stocks, and, secondly, is the effect on the environment at such a level that the ecology could sustain the process for an indefinite period of time, and could recover if the process was discontinued. If the answer to both these questions is yes then it is probable that the environmental disturbances have not reached the pollution level.

All too often, however, economic reasons are advanced in favour of the non-recycling processes which, in the final analysis, simply convert natural raw materials into waste, and similar economic reasons appear to justify environmental disturbances at a level well into the realm of pollution. Those who campaign for the cessation of polluting processes display a lack of realism because they are suggesting what is, in terms of present economic conditions, quite impossible. What they should advocate is the careful and detailed analysis of these processes to discover why they are carried to such limits without regard to the natural consequences.

To do this each case should be analysed with a view to enumerating all the things it achieves, and classifying these effects as either desirable or otherwise. As an example, consider a mining project. Some of the results could be:

- (1) Consumption of materials needed for plant construction.
- (2) Employment of labour, with its associated distribution of money as wages, dividends, etc.
- (3) Creation of an opportunity for foreign money to enter Australia as capital investment.
- (4) Increased availability of the mineral for local use or export.
- (5) Virtually complete destruction of the natural environment in the immediate vicinity of the mine.
- (6) Sundry environmental disturbances associated with other parts of the project such as railways, ports, etc.

Supporters of such projects, including politicians and economists, will usually consider the first four items advantages and claim that the others must be accepted as the price of these gains. Similar listings of results from other types of projects will bring to light some very significant similarities. There will usually be claims that:

(A) The project will provide 'employment', with the implication that such is intrinsically desirable.

- (B) If the project involves the production of some commodity intended for export, it will enable our country to acquire money from some other country.
- (C) If it involves investment of money by some other country, it will help to overcome the shortage of money in this country.
- (D) In the case of projects involving additive pollution, it will be pointed out that the alternative treatment needed to avoid the pollution would be too costly and would either raise the price of the product to unacceptable levels at home or render it difficult to sell as an export.

However, many variations of the basic theme may be encountered, the one common factor which always appears in every individual case of environmental pollution is the plea that the avoidance of the pollution would either prevent the acquisition of money (through investments or exports), or interfere with the distribution of money (through employment), or it would involve the expenditure of additional money (for the alternative treatment processes which would render the project less economically attractive.

The one, and only one, common factor is always **SOME ASPECT OF MONEY DIRECTLY RELATED TO ITS SCARCITY**. Anyone wishing to bring about a more realistic attitude towards environmental protection must make some effort to understand this vital question before success becomes even remotely possible.

It is no exaggeration to say that ALL pollution problems, past, present and future ones which can be recognized in the planning stages of projects, can all be reduced to a question of money. And yet, in spite of this obvious connection, the vast majority of very enthusiastic ecologists and conservationists have no more than a trace of an idea of what this vital thing called money really is or how it functions.

Most are content to leave the financial side of the problem to the 'experts', confident that if a desire for a cure can be generated the financial problem will somehow be solved. They tend to credit the economists and other financial experts with the same respect for, and knowledge of, Natural Laws as they apply to their own particular subjects. In doing this they overlook two important facts - first that it is these same experts whose policies created the problem in the first place, which policies ensure that the only avenues through which the required money can be obtained are such that the solution of every problem creates another and bigger one in some other place or at some other time in the future. The second important fact that is overlooked is that the so-called 'science' of economics and finance is that one and only exception in all the fields of human knowledge which has so far refused to acknowledge the obligation to respect Natural Law.

By thus failing to understand the common factor — money—they are discarding their only chance of success.