



AMERICA

*A Direct Democracy
created, and maintained
by the people, for the people.*

A SIMPLE VISION UPON WHICH TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD

The Democracy That Never Was
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Paradigm Shift

*How can life on Earth be safeguarded
against the threat of extinction, or is it too late
to put human illnesses back
into Pandora's Box*

This is a description of a society that I would like to live in, and in which I would like to have brought up my children. My friends have called it "Gottlieb's World," not to ridicule it, but because they know of no one else idealistic enough to envision such a world. I call this society "America," for if there is a people logically situated to change their existing political system to something like the one I have imagined, it is the American people.

Fictional America is not a Utopia, because the people who inhabit it do the same foolish and, often, stupid things people do. But it's a fairer and friendlier society than any Earth society I know of, one that nurtures all its citizens so that in return they may nurture it.

As a concept, America is practical and possible, if the people want it and if the will to do what must be done is there. But it is only a basis upon which to build the better world of which we all dream.

*Oh brave new world
that has such people in't*
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
author / observer of humanity

Can we transform all the hostile human communities on planet Earth into friendlier communities that are more considerate of people, nature, and all other natural life forms?

I believe it can be done, probably with the greatest of difficulty. But if everyone is made to understand that their survival, the survival of their descendants, and the survival of the species is at stake, and if the determination is there, perhaps, the changes that *must* be made will be made.

The problem lies not only in deciding which elements of the American society need changing, but in building a larger constituency than those individuals and groups who, for selfish reasons, will resist these, or any changes that threaten their lifestyles.

Paradigm is a term originally used within the scientific and academic communities meaning a different model or example. If Earth people are to survive the nasty future that now lies in store for them, they must adopt a new philosophical paradigm shift, a realistic, logical way to perceive life.

It must be one that instills people with optimism, one that produces dramatic change of thought and behavior within the passive masses by making them understand they don't live as hermits but in a people collective with other people, and selfish behavior that harms others of the collective is wrong, destructive, and unacceptable to the collective.

Following is a description of a *true* democratic society I call "America." The assumption is that it has evolved from the U.S., for the probability is if the U.S. were the first to undergo such a transformation, citizens of other Earth societies would quickly follow.

True democracy is the social system feared most by rich people. It is the form of government rejected by the "Founding Fathers" of the U.S. republic, who preferred to create a "representative" democracy in which rich Americans, or people susceptible to the influence of wealth, are your representatives. True or "*Direct*" democracy is the form of government recommended for the U.S. by young Americans in their 1962 *Port Huron Manifesto*, a document every generation of Americans should be required

to read.

It may be difficult for you to envision such a society, but it's simply because there are no role models, and the institutions needed by such a political-economic system have yet to be invented. *They don't exist.* Certainly, the class-inspired institutions of today, such as the two-party political system, two-part legislature, private property, and privately controlled money and credit systems don't belong in a society governed by *all* of its citizens.

The modern concept of direct democracy began in 1970 when Professor Peter C. Dienel of the Bergische Universitit, Wuppertal, Germany presented his idea of "Planning Cells." A planning cell is a working group of 25 randomly selected ordinary citizens who assemble for a short period of time (usually no more than four days) to resolve a single issue.

The group is divided into revolving, intermixed groups of 5 persons, each group presented with all sides of an issue by specialists, and supervised by two moderators, one male and one female. The groups discuss, deliberate, and finally recommend solutions that are presented to the public as a *Citizens Report.*"

Outside distractions are eliminated or reduced as much as possible. Participants are reimbursed for loss of earnings, given an expense allowance, and where young children are involved necessary care is provided.

Since their first application, planning cells have been utilized hundreds of times in more than 40 locations and have proven that ordinary commoners who have been given the particulars of an issue can understand the issue, mediate conflicts, and provide solutions to problems as well, or better, than their political representatives.

It's amazing how many Americans are totally unaware of what's been happening to their country. It's even more amazing that among those who are aware, and who constantly criticize various social conditions, there seem to be none with the imagination, or the interest, to conceive of a better society in which to live and bring up children.

The following description of a fictional, high-level, *true* democracy is meant to show how a mature human society would function and the benefits to be derived. It is meant to be a catalyst for people ready for change; a model to help understand the course of action necessary to transform the hostile, hierarchical U.S. society into a friendly, just society and a true democracy.

FICTIONAL AMERICA

Throughout the history of our species *true democracy*, also called *direct* or *participatory* democracy has been the universal dream of all oppressed people. A vague dream, as none has understood how such a political system should be structured. Today, many Americans voice the opinions that such a system is impossible for the

frailties of people make them incapable of governing themselves. The truth is that true democracy *is* impossible without the faith of ordinary people that it *is* possible and without their full participation.

True Democracy is the social system feared most by rich people. It is the form of government rejected by the "Founding Fathers" of the U.S. republic who, if they had really wanted a true democracy, would have designed their new political system around New England's town meeting. It is the form of government recommended for the U.S. by young Americans in their 1962 *Port Huron Manifesto*, a document every generation of Americans should be required to read.

The following assumes Americans have requested their brightest young people and their wisest elders to collaborate and design a new political-economic system for them to consider and that such a transformation has already been accomplished.

Among the prerequisites for this new society are:

1. A society that cannot be taken to war, without a vote of approval by 75 percent of the people.
2. A political system in which the people truly determine the values and laws of their society, and are always kept aware of issues relating to local, regional, or interests of the republic.
3. A fair and honest economic system that prevents inflation and depression. One that offers jobs to all who wish to work at a fair wage, and encourages individuals to become entrepreneurs. One that restricts the amount of wealth an individual or a corporation can remove from the republic's economic pool, and also restricts the power a corporation may wield within its industry and the marketplace.
4. A system of justice, not merely of law and order.
5. A system of free public education for all citizens from preschool through college.
6. Reasonably priced housing in neighborhoods designed for neighborliness, with shopping areas and schools within walking distance.
7. Reasonably priced public healthcare for all.
8. Laws that restrict and punish individuals and corporations for polluting cities or the natural environment, and programs to revitalize the republic's forests, farmlands, air, and waterways.

Of course, there were other concerns, but these were the basics.

The *America* suggested by the design committee isn't a Utopia, for it is still populated by people who possess human frailties and do many of the foolish things people do. However, the political, economic, and education systems create a more mature and friendlier place for its working citizens than the United States has ever been.

It's a republic that nourishes the lives of all citizens, rich and poor, male and female, white, black, and all other skin colors, and it possesses a social environment in which commoners the world over will want their children and their children's children to be born.

POLITICAL NOURISHMENT

President Wilson once said:

... When I think over what we are engaged in doing in the field of politics, I conceive it this way, men who are behind any interest always unite in organization, and the danger in every country is that these special interests will be the only things organized, and that the common interest will be unorganized against them. The business of government is to organize the common interest against the special interests...

This is a very different perception of government's function than those held by most people, but it's a viewpoint held by the citizens of fictional America, who have finally realized the only way to guarantee that common interests are strong enough to wield society's powers is to form a True Democracy.

To assure no citizen ever forgets the path to true freedom, the design committee also created a philosophy, to keep Americans on the safe path of self-rule called "*The Philosophy of Active Humanism.*"

- *Active Humanism is a belief based upon logic and self-determination.*
- *It's a belief change is the essence of life, and change, growth, evolution, and progress are one and the same; a belief active energy lies at the core of change, and the controlled and directed use of human energy combined with conscious reason will produce positive physical and intellectual change.*
- *It's a belief an essential education is the catalyst to intellectual evolution and mature human behavior, and that a conscious effort is necessary for the species to metamorphosis from low, animal-level to high, human-level.*
- *It's a belief in the Principle of the Greater-Force, a belief cooperation between lots of people is the only way to fuse the Greater-Force, and consideration for the needs of one another the only way to retain it.*
- *It's a belief welfare is what a human society and government should be all about, for provision of the common welfare is why people have grouped together since the beginning of time.*
- *It's a belief in the collective responsibility of society to ensure*

the welfare of each and every citizen, not merely rich citizens, white citizens, aggressive citizens, or male citizens; a belief part of this responsibility is to guarantee each citizen access to the needs of survival and a fair share of society's good things.

• *It's a belief people are born, live, and die just as other living forms; a belief life-after-death has never been proven to exist, and it's foolish to base human behavior on the "faith" it does when it's more likely it doesn't. And because people have only one opportunity to enjoy the good things of planet Earth and contribute to the species' welfare, it's a belief it is in society's best interest to ensure every citizen is given the opportunity to develop and become all he or she can become.*

• *Active Humanism's sole relationship to supernaturalism is the belief that if there is a Creator, he, she, or it has endowed the human species with a unique brain as its major means of survival, and will offer no additional assistance to help an individual, or the species, to survive. Not ever!*

• *It's a belief the current selfish use of the brain for private wealth and power is destructive and can end only in disaster for the species and the planet; a belief the good life for all is here on planet Earth, if people actively and intelligently cooperate to secure it for all; a belief the species must learn to use the brain effectively for the common good or perish from the Earth.*

• *It's a belief that only when such a philosophy is held by the majority of a society's commoners, can the society be transformed into a more equitable place for all.*

The core philosophy of fictional Americans is comprised of Active Humanism plus the two following premises:

One: you can change and improve people's intellectual and physical behavior by changing their social environment from hostile to friendly.

Two: you can transform a hostile social environment to friendly by changing a "them-against-us" form of government to one truly of the people, by the people, and for the people.

NEW GOVERNMENT

Fictional America is a union of individuals not, as it is in the United States, a union of fifty semi-sovereign states each structured to favor its dominant groups. The fifty-one kingdoms and the fifty-one different sets of rulers, with fifty-one different sets of laws, and fifty-one different sets of taxing formulations don't exist in America, for Americans consider themselves *Americans*, not Californians, New Yorkers, or whatever the geographic region in which they live.

Their *New Government* is designed to make an active citizenry the driving force of politics. Citizen participation in the republic's lawmaking and administrative processes is conceived as a *duty*, not a right; an *obligation*, not a privilege. The premise is, if an American expects to share the benefits of the *American System*, he or she must pay their dues, being *born* an American isn't enough. Each citizen is required to contribute to society's welfare by participating in government on a rotating basis: to take his or her full responsibilities and obligations in establishing and maintaining society's values, policies, and progress.

Although the delegates of 1787 rejected both the mandatory vote and commoner participation in government, Americans *insist* upon both. They believe their new republic has a better chance for survival, and its citizens a better chance for security, if all citizens have a voice in choosing their form of government and every citizen is required to participate in its administration and maintenance. They understand a dedicated political commitment from each citizen is the only way to secure true democracy and true freedom.

It all starts with a two-part contract between the whole American citizenry, collectively known as "society," and each individual citizen. It *isn't* between groups of people with geographic, political, economic, religious, or ethnic differences—all superficial differences. It's between the individual citizens of the republic. Nor is it a *legal* document, but merely a *pledge*, part of the foundation upon which this new society builds its strength.

The pledge is not to a flag or to a country. It is a citizen's commitment of allegiance to all other citizens: a commitment that he or she will make specific contributions of time and effort to society's welfare at predetermined times during their lifetime, contributions that will earn them specific rights as an American citizen, rights they pledge to give fellow citizens. This doesn't mean they must love their fellow citizens, or even like them. It does mean they must respect *every* citizen's claims to the rights *they* expect from society.

It's the strategy that ties every American to every other American, regardless of race, religion, or the amount of money in the bank. The common denominator is *American citizen*. Such an understanding is the necessary first step to acquiring true equality and true freedom for all citizens of the republic.

Fictional America *is* a republic of sovereign regions, each maintaining its own interests and welfare. However, unlike the federal structure of the U.S., in which each state is allowed to establish its own laws and policies, the citizens of this fictional American republic believe true equality can be attained only if all fifty regions adopt the identical form of government, laws, and policies, therefore, they have all adopted *New Government*, an efficient, bottoms-up political form.

The alarms are probably clamoring within your head right now: does this mean a strong central government that governs the overall republic? What about the doctrine

that "*government is best that governs least?*"

Such a claim is true, but only when applied to *them-against-us* governments. Only when government is comprised of people whose interests are unrelated, or contrary, to the interests of the governed, and government's unregulated powers allow these people to care for *their* interests at the expense of the governed. *Such a claim is neither true, nor relevant, in a true democracy in which the government is all of its citizens.*

New Government is one of the social inventions necessary for a participatory democracy to be successful. It is government from the bottom up as opposed to hierarchical systems that govern from the top down. It is a system that disperses political power equally among all citizens, eliminating political bullying and minimizing economic abuse. In New Government it is the individual at the local level who possesses political control.

To assure the success of their venture, fictional Americans believe the long-range planning of corporate boardrooms will prove just as efficient when brought into the republic's political planning rooms by people who have a direct stake in the results of such planning.

New Government is a giant support system, very much like support groups in the U.S. for alcoholics, divorcees, and other emotionally vulnerable people. Unlike these groups, however, which begin to function only *after* a person has suffered the consequences of a hostile social system, New Government utilizes the republic's resources to protect citizens *before* they suffer physical, emotional, intellectual, or economic abuse.

To help preserve and maintain the natural health of planet Earth for future generations, New Government has been authorized to control the use of the republic's natural resources.

To nourish intellectual and emotional maturity and to eliminate ignorance of the masses, New Government has been empowered to deliver free education throughout life to all American citizens, young and old.

To restrict accumulation of excessive economic wealth and power by aggressive, ambitious citizens, and reduce extreme economic differences within the republic, New Government has been empowered to regulate the economy.

To increase domestic tranquility and reduce international conflict, New Government has been authorized to vigorously promote the concepts of cooperation and consideration.

Fictional America retains the fifty geographic regions of the U.S. called "states," but has labeled them "regions" and has changed their structure to reflect the bottom-up form of political system. It has also retained one central, administration. None of the administrations, whether local, regional or at the republic level has the power to create laws. Their function is merely to expedite the wishes of the citizens and see that

the wheels of society keep turning. The 50 regions hold equal political power and are fused together by the principle of harmony. *It is the need to get along with one another, not the need to compete that makes fictional America work as well as it does.*

And just how does it work?

First, the resources of America are divided into seven sectors, each sector administered by an agency responsible for its development and regulation. The duties of each agency are clearly defined, each functioning on the local, regional, and republic levels. The seven resource sectors are:

1. Natural
2. Human
3. Education
4. Justice
5. Economy
6. Science & Technology
7. International Relations

It is the function of each sector's Executive Committee to keep the citizenry and the administrations aware of significant happenings in their sector.

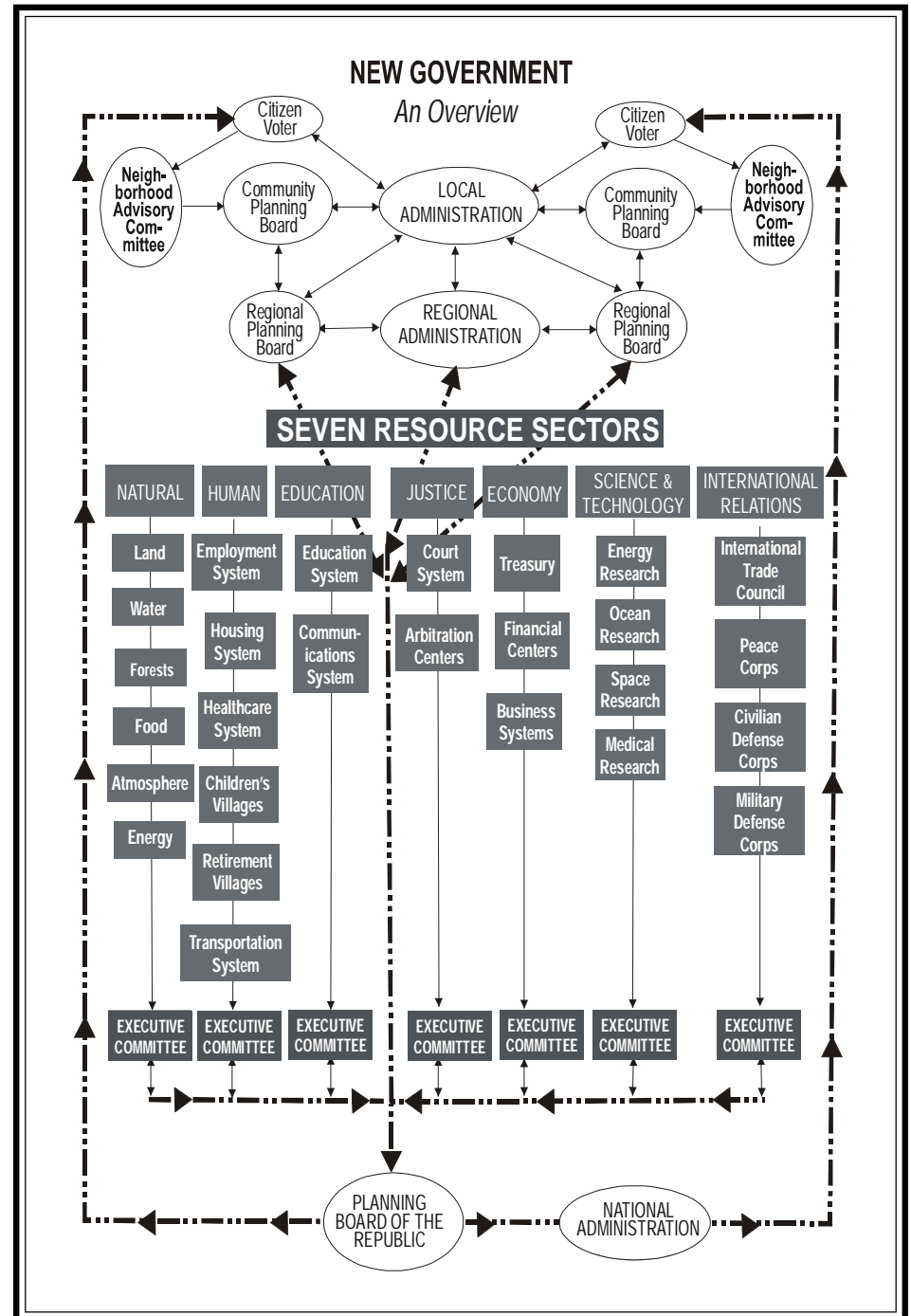
Americans have adopted Professor Dienel's concept as the basis for New Government, but they prefer the label *Neighborhood Advisory Committee to Planning Cell*.

New Government begins at the neighborhood level. Whenever deemed necessary neighborhood residents, or one of the administrations may convene one, or more, Neighborhood Advisory Committees. To guarantee an accurate representation of the affected population, at any time there may be many such committees functioning simultaneously throughout a given area. Issues may involve taxes or expenditures, new laws, neighborhood or municipal improvements, or housing regulations. There are no limits to a topic of discussion as long as it is relevant to the welfare of the area's residents.

As with Professor Dienel's *Planning Cell* committee, the *Neighborhood Advisory Committee* is comprised of 25 ordinary citizens selected arbitrarily by lottery, plus two trained mediators—one woman, one man—plus one specialist from each of the seven sectors relevant to the issue(s).

The committee holds intense meetings for two days following planning cell procedures previously explained, and when its business is finished it reports its conclusions to the Community Planning Board and the Local Administration. It then dissolves, and members return to their everyday lives.

Community Planning Boards guide the activities and growth of each town and city in the republic. The composition of the board is similar to that of the Neighborhood Advisory Committee: 25 ordinary citizen/voters selected arbitrarily by lottery, two moderators, one male and one female, and one specialist from each of the seven



sectors relevant to the issue(s) being considered. Community Planning Boards and Local Administrations consider the Neighborhood Advisory Committee's report and then make recommendations to the community via print, radio and television. Prior to making recommendations, and to assure consistency with central guidelines, each Community Planning Board sends its recommendations to the Regional Planning Board, which forwards it to the Planning Board of the Republic. Community Planning Board members serve a term of six months with pay, and then return to private life.

The Regional Planning Board is responsible for coordinating the activities of all communities in the region. Its composition is the same as a Community Planning Board, and its members also serve six months with pay and then return to private life.

The Planning Board of the Republic is responsible for coordinating activities of the fifty regional administrations, collecting and coordinating data from each of the seven sector headquarters, and conducting all international affairs. Its members serve one year with pay and then return to private life.

This board is comparable to the Senate of the United States. It is comprised of two ordinary citizen/voters from each of the fifty regions selected arbitrarily by lottery, plus four trained mediators—two women, two men—plus two specialists from each of the seven sectors. The board coordinates all activities of the resource sectors, keeps the citizenry informed of all republic and international events affecting their lives, and creates, and recommends short-term and long-term programs for the entire republic.

The chairperson of the Planning Board of the Republic functions as its *spokesperson*, speaking often to the citizenry via the *Open Forum* television network. He or she is officially the Chief Executive of the International Sector.

Once each week, citizens visit the *American Citizen's Website* where all current proposals are explained. They are expected to cast votes on all issues pertaining to their welfare.

All Planning Boards have the power to suggest laws, but none possess the authority to create laws. In America, lawmaking responsibilities belong exclusively to the individual citizens.

It's important you understand this very real distinction between the government of the U.S. and the New Government of fictional America. In the U.S., both state and national administrations *are* involved with dictating laws that may, or may not, be compatible with community needs and wants. And often aren't. In fictional America, the people believe it is unnecessary for administrations at the regional or republic levels to get involved with community needs and wants as these laws and regulations are made at the grass root level by the citizens closest to community needs and wants.

Upon completion of a term as citizen/administrator, members of all planning boards resume private lives, leaving responsibilities of New Government to others of

the 300-million American citizens.

This form of organization guarantees that citizens receive the most accurate, current information upon which to base all voting decisions. Each is periodically selected by lottery to assist in the administration of government, and each receives proper training to help fulfill administrative obligations. *By fulfilling their obligations to New Government, each citizen participates in doing the things that nourish society, so it can nourish them.*

Together, citizen/voters, Neighborhood Advisory Committees, Planning Boards, and citizen/administrators are responsible for the overall health of fictional America. *Together, they are New Government*, a political structure providing consistency and continuity of philosophy and political policy at all levels of the American republic; a consistency and continuity missing in the political structure of the United States.

INTELLECTUAL NOURISHMENT

The men who wrote the Constitution of the United States were aware of the relationship between an educated citizenry and a functioning democracy. Most delegates, however, were fearful of an educated commoner, for an educated commoner is a knowledgeable person, and a knowledgeable person would hardly ever be satisfied with a social system that produces immense wealth for the some and deep poverty for many. So has it been throughout the two centuries of U.S. existence, and so will it be if allowed to be.

There is a general disagreement and confusion in the U.S. as to what the function and content of an *essential* education should be, and the best ways to deliver such education to the student. Whether this is an honest condition, or merely the result of a contrived plan initiated by elite powers to keep the children of commoners ignorant of many essential truths may never be known.

Generally, however, the function of a basic, or *essential*, education will be to prepare young citizens not only to cope with challenges being hurled at them today, but also the unimaginable and unexpected challenges of the future. Such an education, whether by trained teachers or well-meaning parents, will do more than impart knowledge or develop vocational skills. It will help to develop the child's curiosity and teach him or her to function productively. It will impart values that help to develop realistic and positive lifetime habits of thought and behavior. It will teach young people how to *think*.

Citizens of fictional America understand the relationship between participatory democracy and education. They realize that to govern properly extensive knowledge is needed, high, human-level thinking is needed as opposed to low, animal-level thinking, emotional discipline is needed, and command of language is needed.

Americans believe free, public school education plus the cooperative use of physical energies by all citizens will help to build a true civilization. Provisions are made,

therefore, to assure all citizens are granted every opportunity to fully mature.

These beliefs give fictional Americans a vitality and sense of common purpose throughout life currently absent in current Earth societies.

EDUCATION SYSTEM

Americans believe it is the responsibility and obligation of each generation to teach the following generation not only how to survive, but how to survive with dignity and integrity. This is accomplished by organizing society's resources to provide education for all citizens, and by allowing all who are willing and capable of teaching—to teach. They believe the function of education is not merely to fill the heads of their young with information and knowledge, but to develop the ability of analyzing bits of information, fitting them together when appropriate, and uncovering their hidden meanings.

In America, the concepts of “progress” and “growth” do not mean bigger cities with bigger buildings, and more people crammed into smaller areas to provide developers, politicians, and shopkeepers greater revenues. Nor do they mean increased sales for the manufacturing communities. In America, the concept of “progress” refers to the increase of essential knowledge and skills within the general population, and the evolution of the overall citizenry from low, animal-levels to high, human-levels of thought and behavior.

Low, animal-level thinking and behavior reveal dominance of the primitive animal over the thinking subsystem. It is immature thinking that involves the immediate gratification of personal needs or wants. It's emotional, selfish, often illogical thought. *I have seen something, and I want it. Moreover, I want it right now, or as quickly as I can get it.* It's easily identifiable in the behavior of human infants and children, or most primitive animals.

Human, high-level thinking is mature and unemotional thinking. It's what scientists do as they seek new information and knowledge. It's what inventors do as they seek solutions to practical problems, and artists and musicians do as they create something from nothing. It's what philosophers do as they seek truth, wisdom and the path to universal peace and happiness.

High, human-level thinking is often impersonal, abstract thought involving study and deliberation. It is the very best of which humans are capable, and what the species, obviously, has been created to do. Yet, just as obviously, not many people do it, for although everyone possesses intelligence, not everyone uses it well.

In America, there is no price tag for education. From kindergarten through college, the public treasury finances public education, which is free to all citizens—and *mandatory* for all who are capable. In fictional America ignorance is frowned upon and laziness, lack of interest, or lack of time are not acceptable reasons for ignorance.

Citizen education is administered and supervised by the *Education System*. The system's prime objectives are to prepare young citizens to meet life's challenges indi-

vidually, and collectively, and to help each individual develop faith in self's abilities. The system accomplishes its objectives by providing each child with the skills of high, human-level thinking and problem solving, promoting wisdom and the application of wisdom to social relationships, and by instilling individuals with a sense of social obligation and responsibility.

These objectives are similar to the once much-touted goals of the U.S. business community's “reengineering” policies that helped corporate employees to communicate and work more effectively together. However, the American Education System's “reengineering,” or “programming,” isn't to produce greater profits for some, but a more harmonious, beneficial life for all.

The educators of New Government have divided a human life cycle into five stages: infancy, childhood, young adult, mature adult, and elder. Fictional Americans expect citizens to acquire specific information and experiences during each stage.

As it is believed a curious self is a healthy self, during *infancy* parents are required to help develop their child's curiosity by consciously functioning as teacher/role model as well as parent. Child and parents participate in programs designed to help everyone cope with their new relationship and the infant to cope with the newness of everything.

The programs are designed to strengthen the child/parent relationship and to develop the infant's positive habits of thought and behavior. They are also designed to help build the infant's self-esteem during these formative years, when such confidence is needed most.

Americans believe a school should be a healthy environment for children and teachers. Accordingly, schools in America are designed along the order of shopping malls in the U.S. They're spacious, friendly, inviting environments filled with trees, shrubs, and flowers. To ensure that each child receives his or her share of personal instruction, classrooms are smaller than in the United States, with fewer students for each teacher.

Because schools are also considered healthier gathering places than bars, lounges, or shopping malls, many function as community centers, remaining open during evening hours to provide safe, friendly places to hold neighborhood social and cultural activities.

During the *childhood* period, which includes kindergarten through elementary school, children are formally introduced to the three building blocks of high, human-level thinking and behavior: *curiosity*, *cooperation*, and *consideration*. In elementary school, young children are introduced to the complexities of human relationships. They are taught to recognize and acknowledge the needs and wants of others and the advantages of doing some things together and others separately.

At the beginning of each school day, the children make a pledge of allegiance not to an inanimate flag, but to each other and to all citizens of America. The pledge,

which is nothing more than the American social contract, helps to transform the contract into a vital and integral part of each day.

Elementary school children are started on effective communications skills, for Americans understand the right of free speech is useless to people who can neither read, write, nor speak intelligently and effectively. They understand these abilities are among the essential skills of human survival, without which an individual is dependent upon others to solve many everyday problems, and without which participation in a participatory democracy would be difficult.

Elementary school children are also taught they are unique animals with unlimited potential. They are taught to distinguish between right and wrong, negative and positive, low-level and high-level thinking and behavior.

Highschool students are taught about human strengths and weaknesses and their relationship to human problems. They are taught to discipline themselves and are made aware life's obstacles may be overcome by themselves or with the aid of others, whichever *they* believe appropriate.

They are instilled with values that equate time not with collecting money, but with collecting and sharing *people experiences*: of picnics and concerts in the park, of friendly conversations and debates, of hiking remote mountain trails and rafting down white water rivers, of wandering the halls of museums to gain a better understanding of the past, and of traveling the world and intermingling with people of other cultures.

They're made to understand that *time* should be positioned at the top of their value scale right beside *life*; for once gone neither can be replaced, and that chances to experience and to learn should not be delayed for *a more opportune* or *convenient* time, for such may never come.

They're taught the importance of contemplation and the necessity of setting aside daily thinking time to be consciously spent in solitude *away* from the distractions of everyday activities, such as television and the computer. They're made aware it is the planet that nourishes them and makes life possible, and that the most dangerous problem facing Americans and other Earth people is the rapid destruction of the planet by irresponsible men and their corporations, or empire-builders with their war-mongering governments.

Periodically, a committee comprised of educators, medical specialists, and parents assess the abilities and talents of each student, developing a "Growth Program" designed to nurture his or her natural abilities.

Highschool and college students are given advanced courses in the use of language. They're taught to respect the power of words and are familiarized with the art of demagoguery and the techniques by which double-talk and lies are cleverly delivered as "truth." They're warned of the dangers of emotionally charged words, such as "patriotism, communism, socialism, radical, conservative, and leftist."

They are exposed to the techniques of conflict resolution and mediation, and

helped to understand the present by learning of the past, concentrating more on people relationships and less on dates and events. They're encouraged to study and discuss the thoughts of great philosophers and authors, and to distinguish between truth and theory. They're taught about human dignity and helped to understand ideals such as justice and honor are never compromised and never outdated. They're also taught that unregulated production is irresponsibly destructive, and impulsive consumption is childishly foolish.

They're taught that wealthy U.S. citizens and their corporations gained supremacy over political governments not only because they are efficiently organized, or because they create long-range goals and have the perseverance to successfully execute them, but because so many common, working citizens of the U.S. republic choose to remain foolishly indifferent to "politics," the only process by which they can possibly solve, or eliminate, the republic's social problems.

Highschool and college students are taught about loneliness and the biological and social reasons for male-female relationships. They're taught the importance of selecting a life-mate with whom to share the challenges and memories of life. They're encouraged to establish a stable relationship *before* having children, and taught such a relationship goes hand in hand with maturity.

Students are taught to think of parenting as a cooperative social venture and made to understand New Government will hold them just as accountable for the quality of children they bring up, as it holds business people for the quality of the products and services *they* inject into society. Males are made to understand New Government will hold them legally, financially, and morally responsible for any offspring, until the child reaches adulthood.

Students are made aware of the global population problem and counseled that under such conditions, breeding like rabbits isn't what intelligent people should be doing. They're made aware the availability of desirable jobs is related to population: the more people seeking employment, the fewer desirable jobs to go around. It's basic logic 101.

College students are introduced to the concept of participatory democracy and taught why New Government is ideally structured to produce such a political system. They are instilled with the knowledge and the skills to effectively operate and maintain the integrity of New Government. They're introduced to the science of peace, and taught that true civilization begins with a respect for all forms of life and a tolerance for people who are physically different, or hold different philosophies of life.

College students are required to serve one year in the *Peace Corps*, visiting other countries, gaining experiences with people of other cultures. Those who show a liking and an aptitude for such people relationships are invited to join the International Trade Council.

In America, education is not a competitive activity, and educators reject the low,

animal-level concept of “good” and “poor” students. Americans understand that children have different capabilities and learn at different levels of efficiency. Each student is encouraged to do his or her best and allowed to take final exams when ready to take them. Grades are based upon capabilities, projected potential, and actual progress of the individual and *not* compared with standards or grades of other students.

After graduation from high school and college, school records are transferred to the American Public Archives, *never* to be released to a private corporation, to be judged for employment potential. In fictional America, all graduates are competent.

Highschool and college students are periodically required to assist at local *Children’s Villages*, which were created to care for orphans and abused children during the transitional period from the U.S. to the American republic. In this way, each young citizen receives direct experience with the consequences of undisciplined low-level behavior. They are also required to assist at local hospitals and various New Government agencies.

To give young people a further appreciation of society’s complex needs and problems, each student is required to gain firsthand experience of the ways society disposes of its refuse and toxic materials by participating in the collection of garbage. In America, garbage collecting is considered among the republic’s most essential functions, and garbage collectors are among the highest paid public employees.

Young adults are encouraged to experience nature’s pleasures *before* they’re committed to family and employment obligations; *before* their so-called “golden years” when the body can no longer climb challenging peaks, and the self is too weary and cautious to chance the turbulence of white-water.

At some time during young adulthood, all citizens are required to begin participating in local government, much as U.S. citizens today are expected to serve military or jury duty.

Throughout their lives, Americans are encouraged to think about and discuss everything, and not accept a claim as truth, if it is unclear or illogical.

Teaching in America is regarded as crucial to survival of the republic, and public educators, also, are among the most respected and highest paid public employees. There are more teachers in the American Education System than in the U.S. Education System, and far fewer students per class.

Teacher qualifications, however, are higher than those for teachers in the United States, and citizens wishing to teach must not only prove capable in their specialties and well versed in the techniques of knowledge transfer, but also show they possess a nature suitable for teaching.

By demanding everyone acquire the same basic education and learn the same basic social skills, will a society produce human robots?

Of course not! Humans are incredibly complex animals, possessing a great many options from which to develop individuality. They differ physically, intellectually,

and emotionally. They possess different talents, ambitions, and needs. Add differences of economic status and the consequent diversities of interests, and it should be apparent the few social philosophies and skills required by New Government comprise only a small fraction of the knowledge a person can acquire in a lifetime.

Fictional Americans, however, understand that learning and effectively using these mandatory social skills are more essential to the survival of their republic and of the human species, than upon the development of any other human abilities or technologies.

They understand, if every human on planet Earth mastered the use of computers and space travel—but still couldn’t get along with neighbors, near or far, and still weren’t considerate of each other’s needs—little of importance would have been mastered. They realize the only way to sustain a participatory democracy in a large republic such as theirs is by promoting, throughout the entire republic, the skills of cooperation, consideration, and high-level thought and behavior.

COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

Fictional America’s communications system is comprised of three networks: the *Open Forum Network*, the *Education Network*, and the *Entertainment Network* each a public corporation.

OPEN FORUM NETWORK

Aristotle claimed that a community or state could function properly, only if every citizen were within listening range of a single person. Fictional Americans believe their republic and all communities will function properly only if *every* citizen holds the power to give voice, and all citizens can hear.

The heart of the communications system is *Open Forum*, the medium that allows citizens to participate in the policy and lawmaking processes of government. It’s the vehicle by which citizen/housewives, citizen/firemen, citizen/bakers, citizen/nurses, citizen/artists, citizen/postal clerks, citizen/sales clerks, citizen/secretaries and all other citizens are given the opportunity to offer opinions and suggestions to citizen/administrators—and to each other.

Every home is equipped with an interactive telecommunications device, enabling citizen/voters at home to respond to the questions and recommendations of citizen/administrators and the chairperson of the Planning Board of the Republic. All topics are accepted for discussion or debate on Open Forum guaranteeing the true concerns of the American people are attended.

Open Forum is the means by which all citizens of the republic identify common ideals and values, choose which rights they reserve for themselves and which they relinquish to society, which products are to be produced in the country and which imported, what to teach in public schools and what not, and all the other important decisions now made in the U.S. republic by politicians and self-interest power groups.

Public affairs in America are *never* conducted behind closed doors. Open Forum

cameras cover *all* official public meetings, assuring citizens access to all the information they should have, when they should have it.

Only after exhaustive examination of an issue is a vote taken. If the topic is of local interest, only citizens of the locality vote. If it's of regional importance, all citizens of the region are expected to vote. When of relevance to the republic, every citizen in the republic is required to vote. Prior to voting on issues, both proponents and opponents are allowed to state views in Open Forum.

Sixty-five percent of citizen/voters must accept a proposal for it to become public policy. This guarantees social policies are made by a clear majority of citizens. Open Forum is also the source of local, regional, republic, and international news.

Commercial advertising isn't accepted.

Does a mandatory voting law conflict with the concept of individual freedom? Is it wrong for society to require every capable citizen to cast a vote on every important issue? Is the inconvenience of compulsory voting an unreasonable price to pay for true liberty? Is it wrong for a society to expect its citizens to function as mature, responsible people and contribute not only to their own well-being, but also to society's?

No more wrong than a society that demands its citizen/drivers wear seat belts for their own welfare, or come to a complete halt at stop signs. Certainly, no more wrong than one demanding its citizens go to war and die for it.

EDUCATION NETWORK

In America, education is viewed as a lifelong process, and citizens are encouraged, and assisted, to continue their formal education after graduating college. This is facilitated by the *Education Network*, which brings specialized credit courses directly into the home.

It's through this network that the men and women of education and science are brought into the social mainstream as an active, positive social force, free from the isolated bondage to which they've been condemned by the rulers of low-level societies, such as the United States.

In America, schools and scientific research facilities are considered instruments of social change, and all academic and scientific news is brought to the citizenry directly from the source, and not filtered through privately owned news services or government agencies. This guarantees all citizens receive the latest findings and newest theories in all academic and scientific disciplines. Citizens are not allowed to remain ignorant of information affecting their lives.

Only relevant commercial advertising is accepted on this network.

ENTERTAINMENT NETWORK

The third part of New Government's communications system is the *Entertainment Network*. This network functions as a counterforce to the privately owned entertainment industry and the heavy dose of sex, violence, and mind-polluting garbage it injects into the U.S. society.

The network, which includes television, movies, radio, recording, and video productions, provides a showcase for the invisible talents of Americans who aren't in "show biz" but would like to be, even if only temporarily.

Productions may originate within a private or public source but, in all instances, the criteria for acceptance by a local network affiliate is originality and proficiency. Because the network belongs to the people, and *not* to private industry, the length of a television or radio performance isn't restricted to thirty or sixty-minute segments as it is with commercial programming in the United States, but may be as long or brief as its creators believe it should be.

Amateur entertainers are encouraged to hone their skills by performing throughout the network of *Children's Villages* and *Retirement Villages*. Exchange programs between communities make it possible for the productions and talents of one community to be enjoyed by citizens of another. Videos of productions are stored at the Public Archives for the enjoyment of future generations. Limited commercial advertising is accepted.

ECONOMIC NOURISHMENT

When the founders of the Constitution of the United States sat down to draw up a blueprint for their new republic, monarchy was the type of government they knew and understood best: societies governed by kings and aristocracies, whose whims were enforced by armed troops. The history of human kind, which they knew well, confirmed all nations of the past had similar them-against-us governments.

Their knowledge of history also informed them many monarchs had enriched themselves by using the powers of state to develop and operate state businesses—in direct competition to the private sector. None of the delegates, however, wanted their personal means of accumulating wealth jeopardized by political authorities. It's why the Constitution is designed not only to protect the property of the privileged from the propertyless masses, but also from the men of government. It's why U.S. governments are forbidden from competing in the market place.

Fictional Americans, however, *reject* the primacy of private property and capitalism as the central core of their society. They don't believe *economic* values should be the prime values of humanity; the values that promote social contentment, peace, and true progress; the values that protect the environment, promote essential education, and eliminate illiteracy and poverty.

They're not against *free enterprise*, they simply don't believe the free, unrestricted enterprise of the United States is appropriate for them. Nor do they believe placing the welfare of a corporation or industry before the welfare of a community or the republic healthy, or logical. Americans firmly believe an economic system that allows a comparatively few wealthy families and private groups to grasp control of a nation's resources is socially destructive. They believe their economic system should be more

rewarding to the workers who produce the real wealth of the republic.

New Government incorporates suggestions presented in the platform of the 1872 National Labor and Reform Party as well as those offered by respected economists in the 1930s, all of which take into account that a system professing to offer political equality without an associated system of economic justice is a farce. New Government treats natural resources as an economic pool of wealth to be shared by all citizens although not necessarily on an equal basis, for it is recognized that people have unequal abilities, ambitions, and perseverance and should be rewarded accordingly.

In Open Forum, Americans have authorized New Government to control and regulate both the republic's natural and productive resources, and have approved economic policies to prevent an individual or group from gorging on the republic's pool of wealth.

They've passed laws to prohibit and punish anyone depleting or poisoning natural resources endangering the health or safety of present or future generations, and have established four economic principles designed to produce an economic system compatible with the objectives of their social system. These principles assure that the privately owned corporate tail can never wag the public dog, as it does in the United States.

ECONOMIC PRINCIPLE ONE

AMERICAN PEOPLE OWN NATURAL RESOURCES

Because Americans understand private ownership of natural resources has been a destructive force throughout all of human history, depriving many to indulge the few, and because they acknowledge the claims of future generations to these natural resources, New Government has been given responsibility of all seven resources within the republic's geographic boundaries.

The waters, lands, and air space above the republic have been declared public property, with rents to be used for the benefit of the whole society, and not for select individuals or groups. *All homeowners have been reimbursed for the land underneath their homes.*

Homes and other structures that have been produced by man, and not nature, are considered *personal*, not real property, and remain privately owned. Citizens may buy and sell them, as always.

Though land and water have been removed from private ownership, citizens may still lease and use them following approved policies and regulations. It's illegal, however, for any citizen or group of citizens to destroy or contaminate a natural resource in any way. This is considered a major crime, calling for harsh punishment.

Neither foreign citizens nor foreign corporations may own real property or structures upon American soil.

ECONOMIC PRINCIPLE TWO

NEW GOVERNMENT REGULATES THE ECONOMY

Americans believe it is ludicrous for social agencies to starve for funds while private money manipulators create money out of thin air to be used for private benefit. They believe, as many Americans of the 19th century believed, that the people's government, and not private interests, should control the republic's money supply. Accordingly, they have authorized New Government to take full control of the republic's financial health by establishing a publicly owned banking system, as opposed to the privately owned banks of U.S. and its Federal Reserve System.

As it is a proven truth economic prosperity is produced by lots of people with surplus money to spend, New Government's economic policy is that the greatest possible economic prosperity will be produced if *all* adult citizens have surplus money, and it has introduced four unique concepts to the republic's money system.

Unique Concept One: The value of the American dollar is based upon the present and future physical and intellectual productive capabilities of the American people, and upon their willingness to produce the products and services needed to nourish the American society. It holds no relationship to the amount of shiny metals stored in a treasury.

Unique Concept Two: America's monetary system is very much like the Subtreasury Plan proposed by some citizens of the U.S. in the 1830s. It is comprised of an *American Treasury*, and a network of *American Financial Centers*. The Treasury, a government agency, is the republic's central bank, producing and monitoring the republic's money supply, also operating and maintaining the *American Credit System*.

The Treasury's function is to nourish the economic health of the republic and not to produce profit for private owners, as it is with the U.S. Federal Reserve System. It's to meet the legitimate and realistic financial needs of all citizens. It's to guarantee the money supply is used to benefit society, and not moneylenders, speculators, or other special interest groups.

New Government's basic income is derived from bank surpluses produced by traditional deposit creation, and the rental of real estate for residential, agricultural, and commercial purposes. It is not derived by taxation.

Profits from deposit creation are used not only to finance personal and business borrowing, but also help to finance community projects such as Children's Villages, Retirement Villages, and Healthcare Centers.

The American Treasury does charter private banks, but these may serve only corporations, and not individuals. Private bankers are legally prohibited from doing business with individual citizens. Nor are they allowed the benefits of deposit creation. When a private banker makes a loan, it's the *bank's* money he's lending, and bookkeeping records must legally show the proper reduction of capital with each loan.

A private bank is restricted to a single location, as private bank chains are illegal. Also, New Government does insure deposits in American Financial Centers, but it

doesn't insure deposits in private banks. In America, public is public and private is private.

If you were a public employee, would you refuse payment in American dollars because New Government printed money without first borrowing from a money-lender? Wouldn't you trust a social system you help to maintain?

If you were a supplier to an agency of New Government, would you refuse to do business with it because it didn't have shiny gold or silver to pay you? Wouldn't it be sufficient to have the guarantee of the entire American people to secure the value of their dollar with blood and sweat? It should. It's the only guarantee the Congress of the United States has given since 1971, when the U.S. was taken off the gold standard.

Unique Concept Three: Adult citizens automatically receive American Credit Cards granting limited credit at *all* legitimate businesses throughout the republic. These are the republic's only legal credit cards for individuals. Private banks and money-rich corporations may offer such services only to corporate accounts.

The identification on an American Credit Card is assigned to the citizen at birth. It's this identification used throughout life as he or she fulfills various public commitments, and in return receives various citizen credits and benefits. The card entitles a citizen to financial credit in any American Financial Center in the republic. However, the credit obtained isn't a *loan* as it is in the United States. It's an advance on earnings, and low, *simple* interest rates are charged. The use of compound interest is illegal in America.

Nor are business owners required to pay fees for accepting credit card payments as they are in the U.S. The American Treasury assumes all administrative and maintenance costs for this program.

Unique Concept Four: In America, individuals or groups are never allowed to accumulate the economic power that allows them to abuse other Americans or interfere with the country's economic health.

New Government has been authorized to restrict the size and activities of all corporations, which it does with a few policies designed to remove working Americans from under the oppressive thumb of wealthier Americans.

First: Only people may own corporations: corporations aren't allowed to own other corporations. This makes holding companies and other deceptive, tax-evading, lawyer devices illegal.

Second: The concept of employment in the U.S. refers primarily to *private* employment. In America, however, New Government provides millions of employment opportunities relevant to society's health, as well as those assuring government's efficient operation. These include cleaning polluted waters, planting trees and nurturing forests, providing citizens with essential education, rebuilding slum areas and overcrowded communities, operating American Financial Centers, and constructing and maintaining Retirement Villages, Healthcare Centers, and Children's Villages. In es-

sence, New Government employs citizens to perform all the necessary social services that are under-funded and neglected in the United States, because private power groups want them under-funded and neglected.

Fictional Americans understand that "neighborliness" begins in the home, that if the home isn't a caring, nurturing place, and children aren't taught tolerance and respect for others, *neighborliness* and true *civilizations* will remain only a dream. Because understanding parents and homemakers are essential to the welfare of American society, stay-at-home mothers are considered employees. Americans have authorized New Government to establish policies rewarding economic credits to successful homemakers, and parents who provide their children a healthy upbringing and an essential education. These credits include the benefits offered by American Healthcare Clinics and American Retirement Villages.

Third: To restrict the accumulation of individual wealth and power, New Government limits the amount of wealth a citizen may remove in a lifetime from the republic's economic pool. The amount is realistic enough to provide incentive, and generous enough to indulge human desires for a "superior" material lifestyle. But upon reaching this level of affluence it's mandatory for a citizen to withdraw from the economic arena, leaving it for others who have yet to provide financial security for themselves and their families.

These basic money policies prevent individuals and private corporations from tampering with the republic's financial health, and guarantee funds are always available for society's public needs and wants.

Personal financial records are unavailable to private enterprise. Private firms are allowed to maintain a limited database of their customers, but legally prohibited from sharing or selling the information to others. Nor may they legally possess personal records of citizens who *aren't* active customers. Personal privacy is zealously enforced in America, and prying, or spying, upon an individual or group is considered a serious crime.

ECONOMIC PRINCIPLE THREE: PUBLIC COMPANIES ARE TRULY PUBLIC

American commoners understand laws and regulations can't prevent human greed anymore than they can other human traits, but they know as long as they remain united and wield the greater political force, it will be difficult for greedy collectors of wealth and power to gain or abuse power.

Enterprise is encouraged in America, but *not* the free, unregulated enterprise found in the U.S. by which citizens are legally allowed to do as they please with their property and wealth.

Any American may obtain an "individual" business license and open a business and as long as he or she doesn't steal from the citizenry with overpriced wares or inferior services the license is renewable.

Hundreds of years ago, when the concept of corporation was first conceived, the investors of a corporation were awarded a charter to conduct business for a *restricted* period of time by a king or other authorizing body. At the end of this period, if the corporation had lived up to the expectations of the authorizing body, the charter could be renewed for another limited period. *If it failed expectations, the charter was canceled.*

In the U.S., however, a corporation is allowed to remain in existence as long as shareholders *want* it to remain in existence. But that's not the way it works in fictional America. In America, renewal of a corporate charter isn't dependent upon its profitability, but upon its efficiency, fairness and honesty toward the segment of the public it serves. Nor are corporations legally awarded the "rights" of people, as is so foolishly done in the U.S.

Americans wishing to form a corporation to do business with the American public on the local, regional, or republic level, first must obtain the appropriate charter, which is valid only for a designated period of time. Corporate financial records are *always* available to New Government auditors at any time, and excessive complaints from the general public may cause revocation of the charter. There is a separate charter for corporations wishing to conduct business on the international level.

Based upon the logic that it's essential to police the honesty of groups that have traditionally proven themselves to be among the most dishonest, the citizenry, in Open Forum, has authorized the *Department of Audits* to check the books of all corporations. This agency is comparable to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, but it doesn't collect taxes, it simply monitors the honesty and ethics of licensed businesses and chartered corporations.

Worker wages are untaxed in America, because Americans believe all wages should belong to the worker. Corporate profits are untaxed for a similar reason: *Americans believe what's fair for one is fair for all.* Nor are employers expected to undertake responsibility for worker health and retirement insurance as they are in the U.S. New Government has undertaken responsibility for citizen/workers' health and retirement programs.

Because the quick-profit frenzy in the fantasy land of Wall Street influences the U.S. economy more than the real world activities of production and sales, Americans utilize an alternative method to provide needed capitalization for new or existing corporations.

Applications for public stock offerings are made to a New Government agency that verifies the offering's legitimacy and then announces the stock offering on Open Forum. Citizens wishing to invest in the venture may do so, but investments are limited to a tiny fraction of a single percentage point of its value. If enough interest is shown by the public and sufficient capital raised, the application is approved; if insufficient, it is rejected. This method of capitalization eliminates power grabs by banks,

insurance companies, and other wealthy investors, and removes pressures upon corporate managers. It also guarantees equal voting powers to all shareholders.

When a privately held corporation accepts government aid, fictional Americans consider it a public *investment*, and from the moment of acceptance the corporation becomes a public corporation. Then, what it does and how it does it are no longer private matters, but public.

The economic activities of America have been divided into three spheres of influence, each rated by its relative importance to the security of citizens and the republic. Citizen consensus, taken in Open Forum, is that all activities crucial to the security of their society should be removed from the private sector and transformed into public corporations.

Sphere-one contains essential activities: food, healthcare, munitions and armaments, pharmaceuticals, housing, energy, chemicals, and mass transportation, among others. Sphere-one corporations are all owned by the public.

Citizen/employees of public corporations earn a special class of shares called, "worker/investor" shares making them part owners of the company, automatically giving them a voice in management as well as a share of profits. If they do an efficient job, they profit. If not, like any other investor, they lose.

Sphere-two contains less essential industries. Sphere three contains only activities that contribute to creature comforts or produce trivial products. Corporations within these two spheres remain privately owned. However, should any grow to a size where it wields excessive influence within its industry or upon the general public, citizens reserve the right to break it into smaller units or to transform it into a public corporation.

In America, managers of corporations haven't the power to fleece shareholders with inflated salaries, and all are held legally accountable to shareholders and to society for the honesty and fairness of their corporations.

If research and development of a product or technology is at the expense of the corporation, it is given an opportunity to exclusively market the product or technology for a reasonable, but limited, period of time. If a product or technology is developed partially, or wholly, with *public* funds, the public owns it and initial manufacturing and marketing rights are awarded in open bid to the company offering the highest quality product or service at a fair price.

Corporations are not allowed to claim sole proprietary rights to inventions, formulas, literary works, musical works, or other creations of the brain as they are in the U.S. Proprietary rights are always assigned to the individuals or groups actually making the intellectual contribution, and financial royalties, where applicable, are shared between *creators* and the corporations employing them.

ECONOMIC PRINCIPLE FOUR:
WAGES AND PROFITS ARE FAIR

Many men, in many eras, have commented upon the fact that the actual producers of wealth remain the poorest. Perhaps, none has said it as well as Abraham Lincoln in 1847:

...Inasmuch as most good things are produced by labor, it follows that all such things of right belong to those whose labor has produced them. But it has so happened, in all ages of the world, that some have labored, and others have without labor enjoyed a large proportion of the fruits. This is wrong and should not continue. To secure to each laborer the whole product of his labor, or as nearly as possible, is a worthy object of any good government...

Americans believe this. They also believe only respectable employment can produce the security and dignity needed for full maturity, and have authorized New Government to eliminate unreasonable levels of unemployment. Accordingly, it has fixed the minimum-maximum rates to be paid to *unskilled* citizen/workers for an hour's labor. These enable citizens with little education or vocational training to comfortably support themselves and their families while they seek the training necessary to improve their economic condition. The policy helps unskilled citizens to lift themselves out of poverty.

New Government has, also, established the minimum-maximum rates to be paid to *skilled* citizen/workers, taking into consideration their relative importance to society's welfare, and the costs and time necessary to acquire these special skills. This category includes lawyers, doctors, accountants and all the other so-called "professionals" who in the U.S. are allowed to take "as much as the market will bear."

Currently, fictional Americans are discussing the possibility of replacing their money system with a *credit system* eliminating the need for money, enabling citizens to carry only an American Credit Card. All working citizens, whether government or privately employed, would be paid in credits to be banked in American Financial Centers. In addition, all credits earned from New Government programs, such as the *Good Parent* program, would be deposited in the same account.

New Government does not have an unemployment insurance plan. There are no handouts of money; there is only fair employment. The *American Employment Network*, operating in conjunction with the private employment industry, guarantees a job to every citizen who wants one. To perform effectively the network, in cooperation with the Education System and the Planning Board of the Republic, conduct an ongoing program to help forecast the republic's future employment needs. The three agencies assure talent and energies are available when and where the jobs are available, or needed.

As the code of the marketplace in America is "Let the seller beware," the citizens

have authorized New Government to regulate what the Congress of the United States has always refused to regulate—prices. New Government has established rates of markup and profit for various business activities, and prices of goods are based upon actual production *costs*, as they were, once-upon-a-time, in the U.S.

These few economic policies enable New Government to eliminate inflation and depression by stabilizing the republic's economy. They allow New Government to quash excessive private economic power, promote a fairer distribution of wealth and opportunities, and bestow a comparatively high value upon the lives of all citizens.

Social Nourishment

There are other benefits enjoyed by fictional Americans. Some are obvious, others not so obvious. A few of the benefits listed below require a small monthly or annual fee. All have been discussed by the citizenry in Open Forum, and approved on the basis that mature people always pay their own way in life.

INDIVIDUAL

There are no personal income taxes in America. Most government and social needs are paid by rental income from the republic's natural resources plus surpluses produced by the American Financial System.

Unlike the hostile, uncaring societies of the past that have allowed the lives of their common citizens to fade into oblivion, unrecorded and unrecognized, Americans care enough to have created the *American Memories Program*. This is the program by which each citizen leaves a statement of personal philosophy to posterity. It's the record that proclaims to the world he or she has existed. Every life is documented, and records placed in a branch of the American Public Archives.

To assure elder citizens of the U.S. are included in the program as the U.S. pseudo-democracy is being transformed into a true democracy, high school students visit the elderly residents of nursing homes, collecting information about each: writings, photos, taped recitations—*memories*.

FAMILY

If the individual is considered the flower of the American social system, the family is the garden in which emotional stability and positive intellectual growth is nurtured. Positive family relationships are high on the American value scale. Parents are rewarded for their efforts with credits in New Government's *Good Parent* program.

To guarantee every newborn a nurturing environment, New Government uses its authority and all its powers to promote the family and the values of family unity. Throughout all of life, and in many ways, Americans are reminded that a stable, caring society is merely an extension of stable, caring families.

HEALTHCARE

In America, the health of the citizenry begins with the intake of healthy foods. Americans, therefore, believe farmers are essential to the republic and the food indus-

try, assigned to sphere one, has been removed from control of corporate conglomerates and returned to family farmers.

Many New Government programs are designed to assist small family farmers. One such program transfers the processing, transportation, and distribution of food from profit-making middlemen to nonprofit, public corporations. Public corporations also provide small farmers with the expensive, temporarily needed machinery necessary for seasonal planting and harvesting.

These programs function in conjunction with the *Water Conservation & Dispersion Program* that researches and implements methods and systems to utilize existing water supplies more efficiently. This includes a major effort to capture, process, and transport rainwater where needed.

American Healthcare Centers, which are found in every city and town across the republic, are dedicated to the total health needs of the citizen. Each contains a medical clinic that performs all preliminary medical examinations. Should specialized *private sector* medical services be necessary after such an examination, citizen/patients are given an estimate of probable costs to help them shop wisely. At birth a child is assigned to the family's Healthcare Center, which is expected to care for the medical needs of each family member.

Americans prefer doctors to concentrate upon their health, and not upon their wallets, as is done in the U.S. In America, a citizen is allowed to become a doctor or a businessperson, but not both, as the objectives of the two are conflicting. Doctors are not allowed to own hospitals, clinics, or diagnostic labs; these are always *public* corporations funded by the community, or by New Government. Or both.

Because pharmaceutical companies are public and not private companies, drugs are also more reasonably and honestly priced in America than in the United States.

Each neighborhood possesses a *Healthcare Fitness Complex* offering public baths, exercise rooms, diet clinics, health lectures, and dozens of other programs related to physical and emotional health.

American Children's Villages provide homes to the children who regularly are abused and beaten by immature, emotionally unstable grown-ups. Each village is staffed by mature adults who provide children with love, care, and guidance; preventing them from becoming lawbreakers and prostitutes; helping them to become emotionally and intellectually stable; helping them to become productive, happy citizens.

Healthcare Centers and Children's Villages are two social inventions initiated by the American people to maintain the public welfare.

HOUSING

Americans believe natural life forms should live in natural environments. They understand the stress and strain of living in overcrowded, hostile cities contribute to intellectual, emotional, and physical human disorders. Americans also understand that people cherish privacy. However, the deliberately designed isolation of townhouses

and walled-in fortress homes offered by many U.S. developers in response to the fear generated by the media's emphasis on violent crime are not to their liking. They understand that people have always needed *neighborhood* just as they have always needed *family*, for while the family fills the emotional need for home and love the neighborhood helps fulfill the need to belong to a group.

Americans want neighborhood communities, not "developments." They understand builders can't build "neighborhoods," that neighborhoods evolve from the sociability of people and their daily activities, so they've asked architects to give them designs conducive to neighborhood life, with shopping centers and schools within walking or bicycling distance, and homes conducive to socializing with neighbors, for times when people feel like socializing.

New Government has established programs to eradicate all slums and congested cities remaining from the previous political order, and has begun replacing them with environments responsive to the needs of people.

The trend in America is to small, neighborhood owned businesses. The megastore chains in the U.S. are no more, for it is recognized that they have driven hundreds of thousands of local citizens out of business, and taken away the warmth of the neighborhood shopping experience and the often anticipated interaction with familiar neighborhood entrepreneurs.

When citizens, in Open Forum, decide they prefer to shop a larger retail outlet providing a variety of services or wares under a single roof, the outlet becomes a *community* corporation organized into small departments, each owned by a resident of the community. Such a concept is similar to the franchised "specialty" departments in large U.S. department stores, or modern, indoor "flea markets" that have sprouted all across the U.S. republic

INSURANCE

People living in a money society need the assurance that the funds to protect against the disruptions of life are available when needed. For a price, they insure themselves against every possible type of economic disaster from the costs of replacing a shipment of bananas lost at sea to the funeral expenses of an unexpected death; from the repair bill of a smashed auto fender to the future costs of a child's education.

Humans are the most insecure life form on the planet. Throughout the ages, these insecurities and fears have produced the species worst habits and traditions, and helped many opportunists to amass great wealth.

Fear of change forces us to cling to institutions that stifle positive creative energies. Fear of death has given birth to organized religion, which presumably gives purpose to life by promising a highly improbable "life-after-death."

Fear of economic deprivation and hardship has given birth to the insurance industry, imbedded today in the cultures of most "civilized" societies.

An *insurance* company is a money company started by one or a group of wealthy

people who have pooled their money to provide the financial and legal requirements necessary to offer insurance services.

The insurance industry, like the gambling industry, plays the percentages, which are always in their favor. It's why both industries are extremely prosperous, and why there are so many casinos and insurance companies in the U.S.A. today. It's why casino resorts have the money to build the most glamorous, luxurious, and expensive architectural creations on the planet, and why insurance companies can build some of the biggest buildings on the most expensive real estate in the biggest cities of the U.S. All accomplished with *your* money.

In Open Forum, the citizens of America agreed they don't want privately owned insurance companies in their social system, seeing no logical reason why they, as intelligent individuals, can't pool their own money and form their own nonprofit insurance services. Because they believe this arrangement would provide insurance at the lowest possible cost to everyone, they have authorized New Government to establish various insurance programs.

A monthly, or annual, premium paid into the *Retirement Program* guarantees residence in an American Retirement Village; paid into the *Healthcare Program* guarantees lifetime medical care; paid into the *Vehicle Maintenance Program* guarantees service and repair of vehicles; paid into the *Funeral Program* guarantees funeral costs; and a premium paid into the *Homeowner's Program* guarantees home repair and replacement in times of disaster.

None of these programs pay *cash* to the insured: they merely replace the wares or provide the services specified in the policy. *Wares and services are provided only by qualified, certified vendors.* This policy eliminates much of the fraud and thievery plaguing the insurance industry of the U.S., resulting in lower insurance premiums for all Americans, saving them millions, if not billions, of dollars annually.

It also guarantees that private insurance companies won't own the biggest buildings in America.

LAW, ORDER, AND JUSTICE

The objective of *The Law* in fictional America is to maintain social order and provide justice to *all*. There are no laws favoring one group of citizens over another, and rich Americans have no special influence within the system.

Infractions of law are graded according to the seriousness of the crime. A *first-level* crime is a major offense, a *second-level* crime an intermediate offense, and a *third-level* crime a minor offense.

Penalties for infraction of law are uniform throughout the country. In this way, penalties for wrongdoing are consistent in every court in the land and all Americans are treated equally under the law. The citizenry in *Open Forum* have established all penalties.

The belief of Americans is that most "lawbreakers" are ordinary citizens guilty of

temporary criminal behavior: that they are citizens needing help. New Government, therefore, rejects physical punishment as a norm and tries instead to determine and correct the underlying causes of an individual's antisocial behavior. Only when a citizen uses brute-force to harm another citizen is punishment harsh, and possibly terminal. In many instances, Healthcare Center psychiatrists, psychologists, and sociologists first examine a lawbreaker, and then present their recommendations to the court.

There are no judges in America; a single individual isn't allowed to play god. A jury of ordinary citizens not only determines whether or not the accused is guilty, but also determines the level of punishment.

For minor civil disputes, the judicial system uses arbitration and mediation, not court trial, saving money and time. Every citizen receives training in both techniques and is expected to serve within the judicial system when called.

ECONOMIC RETIREMENT

Studies show most working U.S. citizens do little, or nothing, to prepare for retirement. Earnings are too meager, and they are constantly cajoled to spend what little they have by the capitalist-controlled media.

Understanding that jobs are limited, upon reaching the status of elder citizens are *required* to retire from economic activity to make room for the young people first entering the economy. Those who have been capable, or fortunate, in their money dealings can select their private retirement lifestyle. All others may move into one of the thousands of *American Retirement Villages* spread across the republic. The villages are a perfect example of people providing for themselves through cooperation and planning.

By participating in New Government, and by making regular payments to the Retirement Fund, Americans earn the right to this security. It's one of the benefits of being an American. The system involves each citizen in the retirement process, relieving them of the prospect of facing his or her elder years alone at the mercy of human predators. By one method or another, everyone is guaranteed that they will live their final years in comfort and with dignity.

When Americans retire from economic life they don't retire from civic life. They continue serving on Citizen Advisory Committees, they continue to vote, and they continue to function as active, contributing citizens in a society that wants them to continue functioning as active, contributing citizens.

DEFENSE OF THE REPUBLIC

Here, we find thinking radically different than found in the U.S. Of course, it's a strategy established by *common* citizens, who are usually sent to die in wars, and not by privileged citizens, who normally start wars.

Americans fully understand there are other people on planet Earth who covet their natural resources. But the American philosophy of defense is unlike any other

people on Earth, past or present. They understand big countries with high tech, expensive weaponry don't necessarily win wars anymore; Korea, Vietnam, the Russian attempt to conquer Afghanistan and the U.S attempt to invade Afghanistan and Iraq attest to this truth.

Control of the republic's military force is the responsibility of the International Relations Sector for, after all, war is nothing more than another way Establishments conduct international relations: the low, animal-level way.

Because American commoners of 1787 hated war and distrusted standing armies, the Constitution of the United States didn't give the president of the United States the power to declare war, and the power to raise armed troops was restricted to the individual states. The president could issue a call for troops *only* to repel attack. Fictional Americans agree with this principle, therefore, the Planning Board of the Republic *cannot* declare war. Only citizen/voters in Open Forum can make such a decision.

The American military consists of a single *defense* force, forbidden by law to set foot on foreign soil during times of peace, and forbidden to use force against American citizens at any time, for any reason.

Because fictional Americans believe a people aren't conquered until the enemy physically occupies its territories, all American adults are required to train as citizen/soldiers during specific periods of their lives. In the event of an invasion, neighborhood armories make weapons available instantly.

There is only one government spy agency in America, and that has but a single function. It's to accurately pinpoint, at a moment's notice, the exact location of all potential enemy leaders and their families. In the event of a sneak, brute-force attack upon American soil, or act of terrorism against the American people, it is these people—and only these people—against whom swift, pinpoint retaliation is made. Americans will not vent anger or take revenge against innocent commoners, as leaders of the U.S. frequently do.

THE COMMON DREAM

Americans understand most of them will never be rich. But they also understand the acquisition of wealth is a universal dream, and the dream itself a stimulant that gives purpose to purposeless lives. It's why people with little money are so easily seduced by the urge to gamble.

Gambling and lotteries in North America go back to the very beginning of the continent's development. The original Jamestown was financed by a lottery of the Virginia Company in London, England. And as popular as cards and dice were in all thirteen colonies, so did almost every county seat have a lottery wheel. Throughout American history the lottery has been a popular method of raising money for churches, schools, and relief funds. Lottery funds helped to establish such institutions as Harvard, Yale, and Princeton.

Private groups interested primarily in profit, however, managed lotteries. In the

1840s, public indignation over the corruption and flagrant dishonesty within lottery operations generated a reform movement. By 1860, lottery permits were stopped in all but three states.

In Louisiana, one of the three, lotteries were promoted as fundraisers for popular charities, and politicians continued to issue lottery permits to gambling syndicates. Of course, Louisiana politicians, bankers, and newspaper owners continued to get their cut of the profits.

After the soft economic conditions of the 1970s, politicians across the U.S. adopted the lottery technique as a means to raise additional funds without raising taxes. Today, state lotteries flourish, as unaccountable to the public and as prone as ever to the dishonesty of dishonest people.

Wanting even more money to squander, many U.S. state politicians have legalized casino gambling to get the increased income from taxes. Nourished by the base instincts of a hopeless citizenry, gambling casinos have sprouted in most all regions of the U.S.

But what other than the dream of gaining unexpected wealth can shed a ray of hope upon poor people, and keep them pacified? Didn't the Oceania Establishment of Orwell's *1984* use the same devious device to salve the anger and frustration of its common working masses?

Fictional Americans understand gambling is almost as natural as breathing, and that there will always be people willing to gamble a little to win a lot. The *American Lottery System's* function, however, isn't to raise money for education or social needs, presumably, as it is in the United States. It is designed to soften the gambling urge, and to fulfill the universal dream of wealth for as many Americans as possible; to give people who would normally never possess wealth the opportunity to enjoy life as it can be enjoyed *only* by possession of wealth.

The American Lottery System promotes fifty-one weekly lotteries: fifty regional and one for the entire republic. The system functions without middlemen, and all money raised is distributed to winners. Minus costs, of course.

Although it's a goal of the lottery to produce as many financially independent citizens as possible, it's a responsibility of New Government to see that citizens *don't* gamble away earnings or savings in an attempt to win. Each adult citizen, therefore, is allowed to legally buy *only* two tickets per week: one for the regional lottery and one for the republic's lottery. Computers at American Financial Centers certify winners have bought no more than legally allowed. The citizen's American Credit Card number is the control factor. Attempts to buy more than one ticket in a specific lottery, or a ticket in a regional lottery, other than of residence, invalidates a ticket.

Each week, there are fifty coordinated, but separate, regional lotteries held in America. First-place winners get \$5-million, no less, no more. Immediate disbursement. One-lump sum. Tax-free. Additional numbers are drawn for lesser percentages

until all available money is dispensed.

The weekly lottery of the republic uses the same rules: One ticket per week, per person. First place winner receives \$25-million. No more, no less. Immediate disbursement. One-lump sum. No taxes. All remaining money disbursed in lesser percentages until all available money is dispensed.

After winning first prize, it is illegal for a citizen to ever again participate in a lottery. The philosophy is one major win is enough; it's someone else's turn.

*These are but a few of the possible benefits offered
by a well structured True Democracy. These should be
the goals of any changes made to the pseudo-democratic
U.S. system or any other political system whose
citizens are repressed and discontented.*

CHAPTERS FOR CHANGE

The ultimate objective of this Institute educational program is to help working Americans to understand what must be done to unify and produce the greater political force. *It is to guide them in creating a true participatory democracy.* It will be promoted through seminars, printed literature, videos, and the Institute's website.

All Americans will be asked to form, or join, a *Chapter For Change*, each Chapter to contain no more than fifteen members; each small enough to have meetings personal and controllable. It's imperative each Chapter be uniquely identified, for in no other way can the number of members and national distribution be accurately determined.

Chapter meetings are discussion meetings. Topics discussed are the structure, philosophies, and other elements of the fictional direct democracy in this book called "America." Additional topics will be suggested by the Institute, or by Chapter members. The function of the Chapter Program is to eliminate the confusion of what a direct democracy is, or isn't, clarify how a properly structured DD system would operate, what benefits common citizens could enjoy, and what its negative aspects might be. In this way, when Chapter members agree to take action or set goals, all will possess the identical understanding, of what actions and goals they have agreed upon, and more importantly, the expected results.

Every Chapter will be connected to every other Chapter via e-mail and all are expected to communicate with one another until all—or most—of the Chapters have the identical understanding about direct democracy and the path necessary to install a

DD government. The Chapters Program offers every Chapter member a freedom of interactive participation never available to the rank and file of traditional political systems. All Chapters will form and become members of a regional Chapter Central, and all Chapter Centrals shall communicate with one another.

*You see things and you say; Why?
But I dream things that never were;
and say "Why not?"*
GEORGE BERNARD SHAW
author / philosopher



**American Institute of
Direct Democracy®**

<http://www.americaninstituteofdd.com>
aidd@fastmail.fm