Man's Ultimate Goal

Why Mideast Talks Collapsed

INDOCHINA'S AGONY

"And your strength shall be spent in vain"

Robert Ellison — Black Star
U.S. POLICY COLLAPSING AROUND WORLD

With almost machine-gun rapidity Washington has suffered an unprecedented series of global reverses.

WHY THE MIDEAST PEACE TALKS FAILED

European correspondents Charles Hunting and David Ord cover Kissinger's capitulation.

INTERVIEW WITH GIDEON HAUSNER

Jerusalem correspondent Mark Armstrong interviews the famed Israeli jurist.

THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL

The Missing Dimension in Knowledge

What is mankind's ultimate goal? Here is a deeper look into mankind's destiny.

DOOMSDAY REVISITED

Scientific consensus is pointing mankind toward doomsday, but Bible prophets speak of a world after doomsday.

LET THEM EAT FISH

If the oceans are to feed the world, mariculture will lead the way, reports Associate Editor Charles Vinson.

GARNER TED ARMSTRONG SPEAKS OUT!

The editor recalls the war in which so many gave so much for so little.

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INDOCHINA'S AGONY: MEN AND BILLIONS SPENT IN VAIN

by Jeff Calkins

The unexpected success of a Communist spring offensive has accomplished in a few short weeks most of what 50,000 American lives and $170 billion sought to stav off for ten years.

South Vietnam's second largest city - Da Nang - has fallen to the North Vietnamese. With the loss of its last bastion in the north, the Saigon government gave up over 100,000 soldiers and an estimated $2 billion in equipment. One official termed the loss of the city, "the single biggest defeat for South Vietnam in the past twenty years.

While there is no way to fix an exact percentage of South Vietnam's territory now under Communist control, estimates run from 45% to 75%. With the fall of Da Nang, the war in Vietnam takes on more of the character of the war in neighboring Cambodia - an embattled, military government confronted into a few remaining cities teeming with swarms of refugees fleeing the encroaching Red offensive.

Painful Reminder of 10 Years Ago

The recent Communist gains have a particularly excruciating symbolism for Americans. It was in Da Nang in the spring of 1965 that the first contingent of battle-ready U.S. marines landed. And the blitzkrieg launched by North Vietnam could easily prove to be the beginning of the end for non-Communist Indochina. Congressional refusal to send "good money after bad" may turn out to be the one final definitive American act of consigning the area over to its regional imperialist power, Hanoi.

The situation is even more bleak in Cambodia. The Khmer Rouge have a stranglehold on the Mekong River and are slowly constricting the surrounded capital of the Phnom Penh. Communist shelling of the city's airport has effectively cut off the Cambodian capital from its only source of supplies - the American airlift.

America's Curse

The fall of the U.S.-supported government in Cambodia is a virtual certainty. And the blitzkrieg launched by North Vietnam could easily prove to be the beginning of the end for non-Communist Indochina. Congressional refusal to send "good money after bad" may turn out to be the one final definitive American act: that of consigning the area over to its regional imperialist power, Hanoi.

Thus, the war that paved the way for today's double-digit inflation; that angered many of America's allies and generated unprecedented anti-Americanism in Europe; that eagled the United States the scorn of much of the world; that divided the nation against itself and generated a decade of internal turmoil, may now come to an end with one final "no" from the American Congress. The fantastic investment of American manpower and materiel is being written off - a dramatic fulfillment of the biblical curse in Leviticus 26:20, "And you shall spend your strength in vain."
Washington Hit with “One-Two Punch” in Mideast

Admitting that his personal shuttle diplomacy had reached a dead end after encountering “irreconcilable differences” between Arab and Israeli leaders, Secretary of State Kissinger recently cautioned that the world has entered “a moment of potentially grave danger” requiring full-scale international diplomacy.

Kissinger avoided assigning blame for the collapse of the talks, though administration officials view Israel’s tough stance as the principal roadblock in the negotiations.

Though Kissinger views as “extremely unlikely” the possibility that the step-by-step bilateral tactic could ever be employed again in the Mideast, he has emphasized that the United States is “determined to continue the search for peace and justice in the Middle East.” He has announced that the United States will seek the resumption of the multinational Geneva Conference in an effort to prevent renewed warfare.

Faisal’s Death Adds Uncertainty

The untimely death of King Faisal of Saudi Arabia on March 25 has only served to complicate Mideast tension over the breakdown of the Kissinger peace efforts.

As keeper of Islam’s two holy cities, Mecca and Medina, Faisal was the spiritual leader of 600 million Moslems. He was known for his total adherence of Communism, fear of Soviet expansionism, and intense desire to settle the Arab-Israeli dispute despite his staunch anti-Israelism.

There is some concern that the more radical elements in the Arab world may now move toward renewed hostility with Israel. There is speculation that President Anwar Sadat of Egypt may also be forced to adopt a harder stance as a result of the Kissinger failure and the assassination of the Saudi chief-of-state.

Faisal, whose country—a key member of the 13-nation OPEC—possesses the world’s largest known oil reserves, had also been a powerful force for stabilizing oil prices, despite his past lead in boosting prices fourfold. Some sources in OPEC believe that Faisal’s death could plunge the oil cartel into its worst crisis ever, though there is considerable disagreement on this point.

“King Faisal always opposed the idea of a confrontation between producers and consumers,” commented one OPEC source. “It remains to be seen how the new situation will affect the organization.”

Skeptical Israel Cools to U.S. Pledges of Support

JERUSALEM: Tears of sorrow were mixed with relief when Secretary of State Henry Kissinger announced the failure of his latest attempt to bring progress toward peace in the Mideast. There was sorrow because Egypt had not accepted Israel’s “stretching hand.” Relief because Rabin’s cabinet had not compromised on Israeli security for what was commonly considered as relatively empty Egyptian proposals in exchange for the Aboon Roda oil fields and Sinai’s strategic Mafia and Giddi passes.

Upon his departure from Ben-Gurion airport, a dejected Kissinger proclaimed, “This is a sad day for America which has invested much hope and faith. We know it is a sad day also for Israel, which needs and wants not to be badly.”

America and President Ford were in genuine need of a diplomatic boost. With the “just and honorable peace” in Indochina rapidly turning into a full-scale de

Indochina Policy in Shambles


How capricious and cruel are history and fate. Today, only months after the above headline, America’s foreign policy – at least in Southeast Asia – is in shambles. The collapse of the U.S-supported Lon Nol regime in Cambodia seems imminent. Communist forces are rolling over South Vietnam. More than a dozen of its forty-four provinces are now under Communist control. Others are falling almost daily, in a perverse internal domino fashion.

Many analysts here see America’s present predicament in Indochina as the outcome of two interrelated factors. First was the failure by the United States to correctly assess the extent to which historical forces were influencing events in the region. For many centuries before the West’s intrusion into Asia, China exercised varying degree of hegemony throughout Southeast Asia. China’s internal decay combined with the expansion of the West changed all that. Some Australian observers feel that what is now taking place is simply a reversal – at least in part – to the historical pattern. Second has been America’s failure to appreciate the extent to which the Communist insurgency was also an expression of genuine nationalism. Having taken over France’s role in the Indochina theater, the United States became directly identified with the colonial West right from the beginning.

When President Nixon announced his “Vietnamization” of the Vietnam war a few years back, many Western observers saw it merely as a clever device to let the war drag on for years. They gave it little chance of succeeding, and they were being proved correct. The approaching collapse of the Lon Nol regime and the military situation in South Vietnam, President Thieu’s forces have suffered are seen here in Australia as bitter blows to U.S. prestige.

America’s Indochina policy is seen to be in ruins. America’s credibility as a reliable ally has been severely damaged.

— Don Abraham
Asian Nations "Reassessing" Ties With U.S.

Philippines Diversifying Its Foreign Policy

MANILA: "Does Cambodia now prove the U.S. domino theory of the 50's?" asked a Filipino columnist, Teodoro Valencia, in a recent column.

He answered his own question: "If Cambodia falls because the U.S. Congress refuses to give aid and in quantities necessary to save it, the United States will have given Asia the most vivid example of what American support means. Asian countries will have to reassess their relations with the U.S. . . . The domino theory applies to the impression of American prestige in Asia and the world."

Partly as a result of new realities in Asia, Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs P. Romulo said recently that his nation is fashioning a more independent and diversified foreign policy. This should not be taken as implying severance of ties with the United States but rather a revaluation of the long "special relationship" with Washington. There is no sick — as yet — of asking the U.S. to vacate its formidable military facilities in the country.

President Marcos has affirmed time and again that the government intends to pursue the policy of normalizing relations with all countries irrespective of race, creed, religion or ideology. The Philippines has already established diplomatic relations with the socialist countries of Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Poland, Hungary, Mongolia and Romania. The President of Romania will be visiting Manila next month.

President Marcos further states that the Philippines is ready to normalize relations with the People's Republic of China within the year and is initiating moves to normalize relations with the Soviet Union. In the past it would have been impossible to open ties with socialist countries because of unique relationship with the United States.

In the face of recent developments, however, it is obvious that the U.S. will play a reduced role in its former colony in the Far East. The Philippines is looking more to Asia and the Third World.

— Colin Adams and Jon Pustik

Thai Premier Calls for Speedy U.S. Troop Pullout

After two months of hectic political maneuvering following Thailand's first free election in 28 years, the 298-seat Thai National Assembly approved in mid-March an 8-party coalition government headed by Prime Minister Kukrit Prabmuang.

In a bid to win the support of left-wing parties in the vote of confidence, Mr. Kukrit stated he would seek the complete withdrawal of U.S. troops from Thailand within one year and the discontinuation of U.S. arms and ammunition shipments to Cambodia from American bases in Thailand.

"I'd like to see it done tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, three months, six months, a year — as soon as possible," he declared. The vote of confidence passed by a bare margin of 7 votes.

"Withdrawing the American forces doesn't mean that we don't like America," Mr. Kukrit added. "Our good relations must be confirmed, and the paper declared our relations with the People's Republic of China within the year and is initiating moves to normalize relations with the Soviet Union. In the past it would have been impossible to open ties with socialist countries because of unique relationship with the United States."

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Why Middle East Peace Talks Collapsed

"...the ambassadors of peace shall weep bitterly"—Isaiah 33:7.

by Charles Hunting and David Ord

At a time when the United States is receiving a series of blows across the globe, the breakdown of Dr. Kissinger's efforts toward peace in the Middle East is a tragic disappointment to all parties.

Yet the collapse of the talks was a predictable setback. For what is fast shaping up, in Plain Truth has forecast for over forty years, is a crisis unparalleled in all human history.

No one wants war. The Arabs don't want it. The Israelis crave the security that peace would bring. The United States has nothing to gain from the explosiveness of this powder keg.

Every industrial nation on the face of the earth stands to lose if there is another explosion in the Middle East. And so does every underdeveloped nation, whose people must be fed by oil-based fertilizers.

But despite the whole world's desire for peace in the Middle East, the ambassadors of peace are already bitterly disappointed— and they are going to weep bitterly before much more time has passed.

They Don't Know The Way

As soon as it became apparent that the peace-shuttle had reached a dead end, Dr. Kissinger, showing obvious disappointment at the failure of the talks, flew to confer with President Ford.

Despite his disillusionment, the Secretary of State could not afford to give up hope. Perhaps the shuttle could be resumed when the situation has quietened. Or maybe the parties could be brought back to the Geneva Conference.

Yet there is a growing awareness amonst the world's nations that even a return to Geneva would be merely another straw to clutch at. Few expect any positive ground to be gained in the talks.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that prospects for peace in the Middle East are bleak. A solution is as distant as ever. Not even Dr. Kissinger, with his personal credibility among both Arabs and Israelis, can bring peace.

In the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The way of peace they know not."

But can the world afford to stand idly by if another explosion in the Middle East jeopardizes the security of the entire planet?

When Talking Fails

General Douglas MacArthur once stated: "Men since the beginning of time have sought peace. Various methods through the ages have been attempted to devise an international process to prevent or settle disputes between nations. . . .Military alliances, bailiwick of power, legacies of nations, all in turn failed, leaving the only path to be the crucible of war."

Tragically, as every effort to bring peace by diplomacy proves inadequate, the Middle East is drifting closer to the solution that nations have always taken in the end: the path of war.

Yet another war could sever vital oil lines of European nations, bringing about economic strangulation. And the Europeans cannot afford to take such a risk.

The following morning at the Pope's ad-dress to the world there was even less enthusiasm from the many thousands who had gathered in St. Peter's square. The square was far from full, despite the Vatican's expressed desire to bring one of the largest crowds ever to Rome. Large numbers who did gather showed little interest in what was taking place.

But if Pope Paul's personal magnetism is not great enough to inspire even Catholic, what are his chances of leading Europe to unity?

For this reason, and since Bible prophecy does indicate that Europe will be guided by a powerful religious figure, it appears that a new pope who would be capable of capturing the minds of the masses may be just over the horizon.

In the Shoes of the Fisherman

As never before, the Catholic Church—the whole of Europe—needs a champion who could inspire the hearts of men in a way that has not been done in modern times.

After centuries during which miraculous occurrences have been few, could there arise in our day a pope with miracle-working powers—a pope whom the whole of Christianity thirsts for?

Could this be what it will take to unite ten nations in Europe and to forge a peace-keeping force that will go down to the Middle East and put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict?

If such were to occur, what would it mean to the United States and Britain, pre-dominantly Protestant countries? How would world peace be affected if there were to be a modern Holy Roman Empire led by a person working awesome miracles?

The Bible, which Plain Truth has used for over four decades to forecast world trends and conditions, supplies the vital answer.

You need to write for our free publication, The United States and British Common-wealth Prophecy. Also request the booklet, The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.

And keep reading every issue of Plain Truth. A staggering turn of events lies just ahead which you need to be informed about. Up-to-the-minute articles will keep you posted on the real meaning of today's world conditions.
Interview with Gideon Hausner

Only two days after the collapse of Henry Kissinger's personal diplomacy in the Middle East, Plain Truth correspondent in Jerusalem, Mark Armbrust, obtained an interview with noted Israeli attorney, author and political figure, Gideon Hausner.

Mr. Hausner was the prosecuting attorney of Adolf Eichmann and author of Justice in Jerusalem. He is today a respected and influential member of the Israeli government.

Q: Mr. Hausner, how do you view the breakdown of Henry Kissinger's negotiations? A: I'm sorry the negotiations broke down. I think our approach was reasonable, conciliatory. We were prepared for a far-reaching compromise. The Prime Minister [Rabin] at the very opening of the negotiations said the territories were no problem, that there was a breakdown of Henry Kissinger's negotiations? A: I think, our approach was reasonable, conciliatory. In Geneva we will, first and foremost put our approach was reasonable, conciliatory. In Geneva we will, first and foremost put

Q: Do you feel war is imminent? A: I wouldn't say that, but by way of preparation I think we have to be ready for it. For two reasons I don't think it's imminent. First of all, I believe that Arab rulers in their heart know that they cannot win the war. And secondly they also know that they will not advance them an inch forward. So if there is still any reasoning in this area, and people are not carried away by their own emotional outbursts, then there should be so war.

Europe Should Act as Mideast Peace “Co-guarantor” : Brandt

WASHINGTON, March 27, 1975, Reuters: Former West German Chancelor Willy Brandt said here today a final Middle East settlement must be a joint responsibility of the United States and the Soviet Union. He also urged “more Western European interest in and even engagement in the peace process.”

Mr. Brandt said that the most probable new co-guarantor should play the role of “something like a guarantee”.

Mr. Brandt said, “We're not in a position to do that. All of us must benefit from the peace process.”

Mr. Brandt also noted that the United States and the Soviet Union have a treaty responsibility to the creation of peace in the Middle East.

King Faisal of Saudi Arabia 1906-1975

The following biography of Saudi Arabia's late ruler, King Faisal, is excerpted from Reuter's news service dispatches.

Born the son of an obscure desert sheikh in 1906, Faisal rose to control the fate and fortune of Western industry. When he was born, oil had not yet been discovered in Arabia, and indeed the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia did not exist. The story he told is one of striking personal achievement. It is what has brought about American support so far. Since these basic goals, interests, and ideas continue as the problem continues, I hope the assistance will go on.

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The Incredible Human Potential... The Missing Dimension in Knowledge

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Was humanity put here on earth for a purpose? Winston Churchill said to the American Congress: "There is a purpose being worked out above us here," implying a higher power above working on earth. But why? What caused the placing of humanity here, and what is that purpose? Where are we going, and what is the way?

It is Satan who is the great destroyer! "And now, we read in Jude 6:7: "And the angels which kept not their own dominion, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day."

The verse which follows in this first chapter of the Bible describes the renewing of the face of the earth, with the production of that which God speaks of as his garden, the "sun, the moon, the stars, shrubs, flowers, vegetation -- then the creation of fish and fowl, animal life, and finally man." Indeed, the Great Lucifer

But first, before coming to man, we need to fill in the prehistoric portion of: "And the sin of the angels came to take place!" How did it start?

Remember, God the Creator preserves, implements, or permits it to be created by his government. What he creates is perfect and is used. This earth was to be inhabited and used by angels, originally.

When God placed angels -- apparently a third of all angels -- on the newly created, perfect, beautiful and glorious earth, he set over them, to administer the government of God, an angelarch -- a great cherub Lucifer. There were only two other cherubim of this extremely high rank, Michael and Gabriel.

So far, we see, are the supreme pinnacle of angels or spirit-composed beings within God's power to create. This Lucifer was to have been of awesome, majestic beauty, dazzling brightness, supreme knowledge and power, perfect as God created him! But God of necessity created him in the power of choice and decision, or he could not have possessed any individuality or character.

So we are using the supreme magnificence of this lowering pinnacle of God's created beings. Two different biblical passages tell us of his original created state.

First, notice what is revealed in Isaiah 14:12: "And said, "I will ascend to heaven, I will exalt myself, I will set myself upon the mountain of perfection, and I will sit in the place of God.""

This famous chapter begins with the time, shortly after his own creation, when the eternal God shall have intervened in this world's affairs. The people of Israel (not necessarily or exclusively the Israelis or Judah) shall have been in some captive state, and God shall intervene and bring them back to the Palestinian homeland.

"And it shall come to pass in the day that the Lord shall give thee rest from thy sorrow and from thy fear of the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve, that thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hast the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!"

The Lord had broken the staff of the wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers. He who smote the people in wrath... he that hindereth nations to rise up out of or ten nations to rise up out of or following the Common Market of today.

WEEK ENDING APRIL 19, 1975

plain truth
Britian will not be in that empire soon to come. This United Europe will conquer Israel — if you know who Israel is today, and I do not mean Judah, known as the Israelis today. All that I mean is a number of other prophesics, which there is not room to explain here.

But this “king of Babylons” shall at the time of this prophecy have been utterly defeated by the intervention of the living Christ in his power and glory. Continue on:

“The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing. Yea, the trees rejoice...” and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, “Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us” (verse 7).

I want to interpose an interesting bit of information right here. The oracle of Deuteronomy 10:19 today. All that involves a number of other prophecies, which there is not room to explain, says:

“Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us”

We have prized and stately trees should have been so largely destroyed, to totally deceived by Satan in the years very shortly ahead of us.

“Ho you are cut down to the ground, you art thou, who didst weaken the nations, cut, angel, Lucifer: who laid the nations low!” This the former of the dawn,” or “bringer of light,” as God military leader in his power — spoken of the first eleven verses.

The name “Lucifer” means “shining star of the dawn,” or “bringer of light,” as God military leader in his power — spoken of the first eleven verses. The same “Lucifer” means “shining star of the dawn,” or “bringer of light,” as God first created him. Now continue. “For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars [angels] of God. Notice, Lucifer had a throne; he was a ruler. His throne was on earth, for he was going to ascend into heaven. Continue:

“I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High” (verse 13). Actually, it is plain that Lucifer had nothing less in mind than knocking the Creator off his throne and becoming supreme god himself. Apparently he planned to put himself in place of God over the universe.

But finally, as the context returns again to the human type: “Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell [Heb. hadol], to the sides of the pit” (verse 15).

From that point, the thought returns to the human king. Here was the supreme masterpiece of God’s creative power, as an individually created being, threatening to turn on his own maker — as a frankenstein, to destroy his own maker — and assume all his powers to rule the whole universe.

He was not a government based upon the principle of love — of giving of outgoing concern for the good of others, but based on SELF-CENTEREDNESS, on vanity, lust, and greed, on envy, jealousy, the spirit of competition, hatred, violence and destruction, on darkness and error, instead of light and truth, on ugliness instead of beauty. Tura now to the other biblical passage (Continued on page 14, col. 1):

WEEK ENDING APRIL 19, 1975

ISRAEL’S MASADA and the ramp (left) which the Romans built to capture the rock.

by Brian Knowles

After the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, Masada, a boat-shaped rock rising more than 1,300 feet above the western shore of the Dead Sea, remained as the last undefeated outpost of the Zealot defenders.

According to Jewish historian Flavius Josephus, Masada was first fortified by Jonathan the priest.

But the man who made Masada a formidable fortress was Herod the Great — the same man who had built the great Temple in Jerusalem!

Between 36 and 30 B.C. Herod built a casemate wall around the top of Masada, defense towers, storerooms, great water cisterns, barracks, arsenals and palaces.

In A.D. 66, when the Jewish rebellion against the Roman occupation began, the Zealots captured Masada and held it throughout the entire war.

Jerusalem fell in A.D. 70 but Masada refused to be conquered. It became a point of frustration to the Roman strategists who tried time after time, but in vain, to take the fortress.

Following Jerusalem’s collapse, a few surviving patriots joined the defending group of efforts the Romans breached the wall in A.D. 73. Then it was only a matter of time before the legions broke through.

A Testimony of Silvus

When the soldiers of Silvus finally poured through the breach, they were not met with defending Jews but with unexpected silence. Where were the defenders? Had they escaped through some unknown passage?

None had escaped. All but two women and five children were dead. But not at the hands of the Romans!

The defenders of Masada had agreed that surrender to the Romans was untenable. “I cannot but esteem it a favour that God hath granted us, that it is still in our power to die bravely, and in a state of freedom,” said Eleazar, their leader, in urging mass suicide.

“...And let us spare nothing but our provisions; for they will be a testimonial when we are dead that we were not subdued for want of necessities, but that...we have preferred death before slavery.”

They believed it better to die than to submit. They took their own lives rather than give the Romans the satisfaction of surrender.

Israel — A National Masada?

Today the nation of Israel is under constant siege, constant threat of attack. Yet the Israelis are determined to hang on, to survive as a sovereign nation. The historic homeland of the Jewish people has become a national Masada. It is the land their God gave them when he brought them out of Egyptian slavery. It is a place where Jews can live in dignity and self-respect. And it is a land worth defending — no matter what the cost.

Noted Israeli archaeologist Yigael Yadin, who headed the team that excavated Masada in the sixties, summed it all up when he wrote: “...Masada represents for all of us in Israel...a symbol of courage, a monument to our great national figures, heroes who chose death over a life of physical and moral servitude” (Masada, Herod’s Fortress and the Zealot’s Last Stand, p. 11).

Today’s Israelis see the present military situation as the modern equivalent of the Roman legions of the first century. Greatly outnumbered by millions in the surrounding Arab nations, the modern Israeli must look to such symbols to bolster his courage in the face of apparently overwhelming odds against his survival.

It is not the Israelis’ desire to emulate the Zealots’ suicidal example. Rather they believe the siege of Masada teaches them they must keep their country strong enough so that they will never be faced with the Zealots’ desperate choice. That is why recruits of the Israeli Armed Corps swear this oath of allegiance on its summits:

“Masada shall not fall again.”

T. Gross — Great Fascia Photo
DOOMSDAY REVISITED

A prophet is not without honor — except in his own century.

Take the case of Thomas Robert Malthus, who, as economists and prognosticators go, has suffered more abuse and scorn than just about any modern prophet. It was Malthus who first told us earth had a population problem.

Malthusian Mathematics

"I say that the power of population is indefinitely greater than the power of the earth to produce subsistence for man," he wrote in the late 1790's. "Population, when unchecked, increases in a geometrical ratio. Subsistence increases in an arithmetical ratio." To Malthus, this meant there was absolutely no hope for effectively solving the world's poverty problem.

With the increase in population today, Tom Malthus has become a new-born hero. Current literature abounds with terms like "Neo-Malthusian," "Malthusian Math," or "The Second Coming of Thomas Malthus." Now we see a new crop of doomsayers vying for Malthus' mantle.

Heilbronner's Causes of "Worridoom"

In his new book, An Inquiry Into the Human Prospect, economist Robert Heilbronner lists what he feels are "three main sources, or perhaps levels of explanation, for the pall that has fallen over our spirits." The first basic source of "worridoom" he calls topical, meaning "the horde of disconcerting events whose unleashing we faithfully follow via the various mass media. According to Heilbronner, "violence in street crime, race riots, bombings, bizarre airplane hijackings, and shocking assassinations" fall into this category, which is, of course, headed by the late great Vietnam War.

A second contributor to worridoom, in the Heilbronner diagnosis, is attitudinal change, such as "our startled awareness that the quality of our surroundings, or life, is deteriorating." Into this second category falls the psychological impact of the ecological, environmental, and energy crises.

Heilbronner identifies the third horse pulling the worridoom troika as civilizational malaise. By this he means the failure of the almighty dollar, pound, franc, or Indian wampum to truly satisfy. Doubling Gross National Product does not double happiness. This civilization malaise "reflects the inability of a civilization directed to material improvement — higher incomes, better diets, miracles of medicine, triumphs of applied physics and chemistry — to satisfy the human spirit."

That's probably a fairly good way of categorizing the maelstrom of forebodings through which we must presently try to navigate. And it explains why, although most of us naturally gravitate toward optimism, we have come to find a similarity between our own secret misgivings and the thoughts of a classic pessimist like Malthus.

Computer-Coded Catastrophe

We should have known that in our computer age, sooner or later, someone
would think of a way to express major world trends in a computer language and foretell our future in a printout. And since computers never make mistakes (except on credit cards), there would be no need to argue about whether the future would be heaven or hell, since we'd have it spread out right before us in binary black and white.

Sure enough, the first computer "world model" has been constructed. It was developed at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the results obtained from it were published in a now-famous book called Limits to Growth.

While no one is claiming that MIT computers have irrevocably spread out the future, and the inertia of growth, much less a planned reorganization of society, is today even remotely imaginable.

But Heilbroner sees a possible solution through a beneficent Big Brother - a perpetual civilization machine, unaware that we were only one smoggy breath away from turning that delightful contraption into a rusty hulk stranded by a stagnant cesspool.

Perhaps it's the height of realistic optimism to speak of a post-doomsday world. That's where Bible prophecy stands alone in its unbounded optimism.

Until modern doomsayers made us stop and look around, we were rolling merrily ahead, unaware that the present perpetual civilization machine, unaware that we were only one smoggy breath away from turning that delightful contraption into a rusty hulk stranded by a stagnant cesspool.

It's to Growth and economic growth (as we know it) we refer for what they considered generous usage. food production and pollution out disaster unless both population and growth trends in world population, industrialization, pollution, food production, and resource depletion continue unchanged, the limits to growth of trend extrapolation have not proved very accurate.

If you would compare the success of the biblical predictions of 2,500 years ago to those predictions made by scientists just 25 years ago, you would find that Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel described the world of 1975 far more accurately than did the scientists of 1950.

The "Modern Jeremiah"

The prophet who gave his name to the pejorative term, Jeremiah, is seemingly back on the job after a 2,500-year sabbatical, during which he apparently earned a Ph.D. in investigative journalism.

Forseeing the calamities to strike during the twentieth century, Jeremiah wrote, "Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it: it is the time of Jacob's trouble: but he shall be saved out of it." (Jeremiah 30:7). This typical "jeremiad" speaks of doomsday (as "Jacob's trouble"), but it also speaks of the positive post-doomsday world - the world that follows it.

And as far as "modern Jeremiacs" go, the upbeat Jeremiah beginning in chapter 31, verse 7, deserves the term "jeremiad" just as much as his post-doomsday counterpart in chapter 30, verse 7.

Jeremiah the optimist wrote, "For thus saith the Lord; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O Lord, save thy people, the remnant of Israel." (Jeremiah 31:7-9).

"Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together; a great company shall return thither." (Jeremiah 31:7-9).

They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble." (Jeremiah 31:7-9).

Heilbroner warned, "No, there is no such thing as too few raw materials or too much pollution:

"Pessimism, Optimism, or Realism?"

Heilbroner wrote, "If then, by the question 'Is there hope for man?' we ask whether it is possible to meet the challenges of the future without the payment of a fearful price, the answer must be: No, there is no such thing as too few raw materials or too much pollution.

Heilbroner's favorite solution - a "no-growth economy" - would run so deeply against the personal interests of so many people that it seems unlikely we will smoothly and voluntarily make the switch.

Therefore, "Isolationist Prophecy"

With the advent of computers, prophecy has come to have a new meaning. If we should forget that its tap root runs three millennia deep. The world's first prophets were those called of God and sent to the nation of ancient Israel. Thus saith the Lord; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O Lord, save thy people, the remnant of Israel.

"The authoritative textbook, A Survey of Old Testament introduction, goes even further, stating: "The Holy Bible is like no other book in the world. It is the only book which presents itself as the written revelation of the one true God, intended for the salvation of man, and demonstrating its divine authority by many infallible proofs. Other religious documents... may claim to be the very word of God, but they contain no such self-authenticating proofs as does the Bible (for example, the phenomena of fulfilled prophecy)."

Human Prediction

Uninspired men have been trying to penetrate the dark vault of the future for centuries. Ancient diviners in Egypt and Mesopotamia examined the entrails of animals for omens concerning future events. Astrologers have studied the heavens seeking the same. Ancient Greeks had their oracles, and medieval palaces had their court magicians.

Today, although we still have diviners, astrologers, palmists, and oracles of all kinds, the dubious art of prediction is being transformed into a more scientific, more accurate, more scientific, and, in fact, very much more accurate. As we continue to accumulate more and more information, and as we continue to develop new methods of predicting the future, the future will become more predictable.

And it is this new breed of "prophets" called futurists. Their method of prediction involves the identification of trends and then extrapolating those trends into the future to show what will probably happen if trends are not changed.

But the strictly mechanical methods of trend extrapolation have not proved very successful.

If you would compare the success of the biblical predictions of 2,500 years ago to those predictions made by scientists just 25 years ago, you would find that Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel described the world of 1975 far more accurately than did the scientists of 1950.

Then, as the herald of the post-doomsday world - the world tomorrow, the Bible contains more good news than bad news. Write for a free subscription to "The Good News" magazine and the booklet "The Wonderful World Tomorrow."

"What It Will Be Like."

"If you've read these, we defy you to call us "Prophets of Doom.""

Instead, think of Plain Truth as the herald of the post-doomsday world - the world tomorrow."

WEEK ENDING APRIL 19, 1975
Keeping Your Wallet Above Water

Every day hundreds of people discover that they can no longer make ends meet. They encounter some sort of financial setback, job loss, and they finally fail at their financial brinkmanship.

Whatever the reasons, there are some positive steps that people should take to make lift-off on the financial limb more sustainable. Plain Truth interviewed Stan Benson of Consumer Credit Counsellors, Inc., a nonprofit service dedicated to helping those who are financially over-indebted. His advice follows:

PT: Would you give us a profile of the kind of person who comes to you for help?
SB: We find people coming to us with take-home pay of $400 a month. We are also dealing with people who earn $35,000 a year, with professionals—doctors, attorneys, teachers, and even some CPA's. The average indebtedness per client today, in Los Angeles, is $9,400 (exclusive of assets and real estate); a year ago that was only $6,000.

PT: What are the reasons for these people's financial problems?
SB: We see an awful lot of people who are going through divorce, which is devastating financially for both parties. Also major medical setbacks, people who didn't have the medical insurance to cover that emergency that came along. How many people can handle a $50,000 cancer in their family? Easy credit is a factor—the temptations of easy credit. And, of course, recession and inflation. Many people who come to us were watching it pretty close. They were right on the line, and suddenly everything was ten to fourteen percent higher in cost.

PT: In our society, are people over-stimulated to engage in credit buying?
SB: Some people are what we call "creditoholics." I know of people who will say, "Let's go out and just have a day at the shopping mall," for lack of anything else to do. We see a lot of this—the impulse buyer, not sitting down and planning his needs, but just walking by the store and saying, "Hey, looks good." And he has the card handy.

PT: Does credit buying help or hinder a person in the long run?
SB: I think that most economists would agree that the use of credit is a very important aspect of American life. It's really a very small percentage, in the long run, who either abuse the privilege or through misfortune get into problems with the use of credit.

PT: If someone is deep in debt, what realistic steps can he take?
SB: Immediately he should contact his creditors and tell them, "I'm having a problem, I'm going through a divorce." I've just lost

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WEEK ENDING APRIL 19, 1975
my job,” or, “I’ve had a medical setback.” Surprising to many, the creditors are human; they may ask, “Can pay the interest only?” or, “When do you think you’ll be able to start your payments again?” But people hide. They skip payments, and then they’re in trouble. To communicate with the creditors, I would say, “It’s of paramount importance. And one of the first things a person should do is seek professional counseling. And, let’s say the problem is unemployment. People should find out what’s available to them through government programs. It’s very, very important to find out what’s available to you through the law.

PT: Do you find that people in financial straits cut the wrong things out of their budget?
SB: When a person gets in debt, he begins to talk about himself, “Where can I cut back?” Sometimes he makes the wrong choices. We find, for example, that the first thing cut out is life insurance or health insurance.

PT: Should people consider bankruptcy?
SB: The federal bankruptcy laws, I think, are a good thing for those people who absolutely have to use bankruptcy as a way out. But one of my concerns is the many calls that we receive from those people who ask us to help them file bankruptcy. And when we question them a little bit, we find out that they’re only $1,500 to $2,000 in debt. If they had come to Consumer Credit Counselors, they could have set up a budget and probably been out of debt within two, three, four or six months.

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For fourteen years it’s on your credit report that you filed bankruptcy. That makes it very, very difficult to establish credit again with major department stores, banks, finance companies and so forth. That doesn’t mean that you can’t get credit. There are some of what we call “less than reputable” firms that will actually go to the bankruptcy courts and will seek out the name of everybody who has filed bankruptcy to solicit for credit accounts. They still use that is they can sell their time and mind for a much higher cost to people who can’t use bankruptcy as a means of escape. Because you can only file bankruptcy once every six years.

PT: Are people aware of the seriousness of our time?
SB: Well, I think there’s a great seriousness. We don’t talk enough about how people are now beginning to cut back on their credit purchases. They’re getting more money into their savings and into their credit accounts.

PT: But people hide. They skip payments, and then the fear of the unknown; caused manifested in one word: “pleasure.”

WEEK ENDING APRIL 19, 1975

Human

Translation to my brain: “Sigh! Quick as a bullet! The whole pack of cigarettes, uh? do you think you may be in for something bad?”

There was also the very practical consideration that cigarettes cost money. I think at the time I was still more interested in baseball cards than in my own smoking, which was a good example. Anyway, it was all kind of silly — especially that fire dancing so close to my lips. So I didn’t smoke, and I wasn’t really frightened.

Now that I’m older, and that people are now beginning to cut back on their credit purchases. They’re getting more money into their savings and into their credit accounts.

But I think the thing that galls me the most is the hypocrisy of it all — cigarette ads showing a fresh-faced, rosy couple lapping and splashing in the water of a mountain stream amidst a green forest and a clear, blue, vibrant sky with fresh, clean air. What do cigarettes have that’s better than a fresh breath-a-chew or a fresh breath-a-chew, rosy couple splashing in the water of a mountain stream surrounded by a green forest, a clear, blue, vibrant sky with fresh, clean air? Isn’t cigarette smoke the total antithesis of fresh air?

And doctors who smoke? How can those who have dedicated their lives to the preservation of life knowingly make a mockery of that devotion to life to others by their example?

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Garner Ted Armstrong

speaks out!

All for Nought

Stunned Americans may now reflect upon the exultant headlines following former President Nixon's announcement that a peace agreement had been concluded with Communist forces in Vietnam. "The long war is over," they shouted. "Peace after 12 years," they crowed. "Peace!"

Though Americans were no longer "directly" (a very debatable term, as subsequent revelations trickled out to the public) involved in the Vietnam struggle, the war continued unabated. Today, as we see the incredible nightmare of human suffering and listen to the death cries of an entire nation, as we saw the madness of the maimed and dead, as we listen, appalled, to the eyewitness accounts of frenzied, panic-stricken mobs fleeing before the advancing Communists, as we read of the Vietnamese divisions abandoning hundreds of millions of dollars worth of U.S.-made weapons to the enemy and turning their guns on their own kindred that ways, in mad sprees of looting or frenzied efforts at escape, we should reflect upon those headlines and the events of the 60s that preceded them.

By 1973, Vietnam had become one of the worst nightmares of America history. The United States had been heavily involved in Vietnam for about 12 years — with the last five or six preceding 1973 literally shaking the nation to its foundations, causing reverberations which, in turn, shock every nation on earth. By the time of those now ironic headlines announcing "war's end," there were no great celebrations, no explosive national bell ringing. There were no ticker-tape parades welcoming returning troops — no real sense of satisfaction for a job "well done."

Vietnam was the war that changed America. It changed us mentally, morally, emotionally, and spiritually. It quite literally took as grievous a toll on the American home front as it did on the Vietnam battlefield. It cost 46,000 American lives in combat and another 10,000 lost from other causes. It had cost $170 BILLION — financed by defense cutbacks, by our own people's suffering and sacrifices, and by our own people's hard work and energy from giant domestic programs to pay the bills for the fighting.

Now the war was joined. Dozens of Vietnamese names now trickle easily from American lips. Hundreds of thousands of our citizens have been there. Da Nang, Ben Hoa, Cam Ranh Bay. Hue. There are the memories of buddies who died there, the memories of the "living room" war, fought on television before Americans at dinner time, the memories of Calley's trial.

When Richard Nixon came to the White House, Vietnam was "Johnson's war." Quickly, it became "Nixon's war." to the antivwars. Now, the war was being wound down. Gradual disengagement, as the Vietnam troops could take over battlefields positions from their American benefactors, became the rule of the day.

Skillful negotiations finally brought about the release of most POWs, and so the long war was "over." "Peace After 12 Years," the headlines said.

But the fighting went on and on. The only difference was those who were dying were not Americans. Vietnam gradually became third-page news. Today, it's back on page one. It's the cover story of our magazines.

The War That Changed A People

Make no mistake about it, Vietnam changed America in many significant ways.

Vietnam revived dormant yearnings for isolation from foreign troubles; which is being continuously reflected in other areas, including attitudes toward American support of Israel. Vietnam destroyed America's feelings that it possessed the "rightness" to solve the world's problems. Our "rightness" was sullied by the screams of the dying under massive B-52 bombing at -

AMERICA'S WARS

Battle Deaths

In World War I, 53,402 American servicemen were killed in action. In World War II, the toll was 291,567. The figures were 670,846; The Korean War: 103,284; Vietnam: 303,475.

U.S. Bombing in Tonnages

World War I: 204,002; World War II: 670,846; The Korean War: 103,284; Vietnam: 303,475.

The Cost of the War in Billions of Dollars

World War I: 315,754,000; World War II: 670,846; The Korean War: 103,284; Vietnam: 303,475.

Length of U.S. Involvement in Major Wars

World War I: 1 yr.; World War II: 6 yr.; The Korean War: 3 yr.; Vietnam: 12 yr.
A MODEST PROPOSAL FOR A DICTATORSHIP IN ITALY

By J. G. Calander

ROME: As I boarded the early morning Alpino Express in Munich, bound for Rome, I got my first taste of Italy. After a week of traveling the trains of northern Europe, I had become ruined by the luxury and punctuality of European trains. They were often punctual to the minute, and once in a while, departed thirty minutes late, and our "first class" accommodations were deucedly second rate. Strike one.

Now, after four days in this land of robust red wine, pasta, and musical governments, I've finally learned to avoid anyone who looks official. The whole Italian economy is a vast wasteland of paperwork. Paralysis is a way of life. Everywhere there is a form to fill.

To cope with this morass of red tape—not to mention the plethora of higher taxes, price controls, wild drivers, and all the other hang-ups of Italian daily life—some local politicians have installed a special expediter—the "supersecretario"—whose sole duty is to brieve whomever needs bribing to get some thing done.

The idea has merit, but why stop at the private level? What Italy needs is a "super-secretario" who could get things done at a national level, someone who, miracle of miracles, could get the mail delivered the same day it's sent. After all, when it takes three years to get a pension check, you might as well get another.

It's time Italy gave up its cumbersome system of democracy. Nobody takes the Italian government seriously anymore, least of all the Italians. Right! Policies in Italy have grown stale. Italian prime ministers come and go fast they don't have time to leave their portrait painted, much less hung.

This governmental obscurity and bureaucracy stagnating has reached the saturation point. Let's have some one of us courage to stand up and say something.

We need a few strong leaders from somewhere to pick up the pieces, someone who would be recognizable if you saw his face in a history book.

The Romans named their dictator. Might this technique build great monuments, savvy social reforms, and back the landscape with his picture painted on his newly built public walls. This benign duke could fulfill his transcendent role as "the rightful heir of Caesar." in a new Roman Empire.

No man weak sentence center-left coalition ministries masquerading as democracy. Let a new governmental masquerade as democracy. Let a new multiparty political system rise to its feet as if it had been dead for centuries.

Who knows— he might even make the trains run on time.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT ITALIAN BUREAUCRACY

Italy was the only nation in Europe that stepped up to the border, instead of merely sending a deputy to examine our papers while the train was in motion. So we lost another half hour at the Brenner Pass showing our passports.

As we switched cars in Verona, we had our second taste of the prototypical Italian civil servant. I wanted to change U.S. travelers' checks into lire. Nothing. Just pocket change, 100,000 lire or so. There was nobody waiting in line at the exchange window, but the man behind the glass was "busy" shuffling one paper to one pile, another to the next pile, and back again. I waited for ten minutes, then began to weakly ask for the change. After five minutes, he looked up and lazily examined all my identification papers, before reluctantly giving me lira.

I was lucky to get any service. You see, it was almost quitting time in the afternoon.

 Đó(23,204),(983,971)
The INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL…

Actually, the entire epic here in chapter 26 speaks of the ancient great commercial center of Tyre. It was the capital metropolis of the ancient world, even as Babylon was the political capital. Tyre was the New York, the London, the Tokyo, or the Paris of the ancient world. The ancient Tyre, port of the world's ships and merchant's glorious herself in her beauty, even as Paris in our time.

Chapter 27 carries on with comparisons to passages in the 18th book of the book of Revelation referring to a political-religious leader to come (vs. 9-19).

But coming to chapter 28, the theme comes more completely to the time just now ahead of us, the same time depicted in Isaiah 14, that speaks of the prince of Tyre, an earthly ruler. God says to the prophet Ezekiel:

"Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyre [actually referring to a powerful religious leader to arise soon, in our time], Thus saith the Lord God; Thou art wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from thee: with thy wisdom and with thy understanding thou hast gotten thy riches, and hast rotten mildew and silver into the sea…"

"Then shalt thou be brought down to the grave, and thy merchandise shall be consumed in the midst of the seas." (Ezek. 28:18-19).

What a Super Being?

But at this point, as in Isaiah 14, the lesser human type lifts to a greater spirit antitype:

"Yet, take courage. The awesome human heart is lifted up because of thy riches… Therefore was thy heart lifted up from thy heart as the heart of God; therefore will I bring strangers upon thee, the terrible of the nations: I will cast thee down, and thou shalt die in the midst of the seas in the depth of the sea…"

"Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; yet hast thou inhabited this earth. His throne was here, "Every precious stone shall be for the workmanship of the tabrets and of the pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created." (verse 15). He was a created being – not born human. He was a spirit being – not human spirit. He was the sum total of all that God had ever created, the supreme talent, abilitites, potential, perfect in beauty, wisdom, power, knowledge, intellect, and all things within the almighty power of God to create to God's own image.

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Religion in Australia
by Dennis G. Luker

Churches are not very important to most Australians. Even though 87 percent of the population officially claims a religious belief, only about 25 percent attend church. Attendance is far less in Canada (44%) and America (43%) but more than in Britain (20%). The major denominations in Australia are Church of England, Catholic, Methodist and Presbyterian— in that order. The more religiously- emotional evangelical groups, like Baptists, are not strong in Australia (1.4% of population compared with 16.7% in U.S.).

Australians love their personal freedom and independence, and many of them feel religion might interfere with something they want to do. There is definite opposition to "Bible banger" and "religionists," generally called "wowsers" in Australia. Until fairly recently, "wowsers" were politically influential, and they attacked gambling, drinking, smoking, and sport on Sundays—pleasures and pastimes the average Australian especially enjoys.

Australia, unlike America, was not founded by religious people seeking religious freedom. The first settlement in 1788 was made up of convicts from England, not religious pilgrims. Subsequent immigration did not change this, so Australia's early development was without religious motivation. Early traditions and attitudes have remained with modern Australians and have produced a less religiously inclined nation of people, when compared to America, Canada or the average European country.

Although the population generally is very secular, surveys reveal that a majority of people hold to some sort of morality. The Golden Rule, "do unto others as you would have them do unto you," could be interpreted as an expression of Australians' "mate-ship"— treating others as a "mate" or "bloody" and giving them a "fair-go." Australians are basically humanists, believing in the dignity of man and the value of human life.

The traditional concepts of Christianity are accepted, but contrary doctrines are rejected. As one Australian writer puts it, "Hell has been abolished as unfair to undertakers. If there is a happy eternal life, it's for everyone. The concept of evil is un-Australian; One must look for the good in people." Recent surveys in Australia show that church attendance is declining, especially among young people. Reasons most often given for not attending were "lack of interest," "too busy," "more interested in sport," "services too dull" and "too much hypocrisy." These answers hint at the root of the problem. Religion in the churches today does not do what the average Australian wants— is no longer to protect the ego and interesting, something that gives answers to today's problems and a purpose in life that fits the Australian concept— a "fair-go" for everyone.

Religious freedom in Australia is too young to be noticed by most people. It will die unless the churches get back to their role as the Bible and the true principles of "mateship" revealed in that book. ♦

Christianity vs. Psychiatry
d by D.P. Wainwright

When a Christian friend of mine recently visited a psychiatrist for a psychological crisis, he found that prayer was recommended as part of the treatment. Not that the psychiatrist believed in God, but that he felt that if his patient had such a belief he could be of some therapeutic value. It's no coincidence that increasing reliance upon psychiatry has generally paralleled an overall decline in the effectiveness of traditional Christianity.

However, disbelief in God has not solved society's mental problems. It has only given the psychiatrist a great deal more work to do.

What many people haven't realized is that there are many similarities between the methods that psychiatry commonly treats neuroses and what the Bible advocates in such a case. The ultimate "cure" for the Christian, however, is totally different from the results the psychiatrist often achieves for his patient.

A talk I had with a clinical psychologist in private practice exemplifies a fairly standard approach in treating mental problems. Normal therapy is to drive the individual into his neurosis to the point where he is forced to face the way he really is. So far so good. The patient is encouraged to become realistic by his style of living; he becomes genuinely sick of himself.

Once this stage is reached he is shown that he is not free to fulfill his real potential. He is encouraged to recognize his unique talents.

From then on the process is one of building up the ego of that individual so that he can begin to fulfill this potential. With successful treatment the individual is a person who is humanly capitalizing on the valid and natural talents he has.

Week Ending April 19, 1975

Grow Lovely Growing Old
by Orb B. Berin

Let me grow lovely growing old— So many fine things do; Lusts and ivory, and gold. And silk need not be a glamour load. And there is healing in old trees Old streets a glamour look. Why may not I, as well as these Grow lovely, growing old? ♦

Nuclear War, Energy Crisis, Food Shortage, and NOW...
AEROSOL ARMAGEDDON
by Robert Ginkray

What do supersersonic transports, aerosol sprays, and nuclear weapons have in common? All produce chemical agents capable of penetrating and decomposing the protective ozone in the earth's atmosphere. Without the ozone, all living things could die from exposure to the worst of the sun's ultraviolet radiation.

The chemical agents in question are oxides of nitrogen, released into the upper atmosphere by the jet engines of supersonic transports (SS'Ts) and by nuclear explosions, and free chlorine, derived in aerosol cans. Relatively small amounts of these agents are sufficient to destroy large quantities of ozone, itself an extremely unstable molecule.

SS'Ts and Nuclear Bombs

The potential dangers from SS'Ts and nuclear explosions are staggering. Both the SS'T and the free chlorine inject nitrogen oxides into the atmosphere that can significantly reduce the protection afforded by the ozone layer.

A 50 percent increase in nitrogen oxides may decrease ozone levels by between 20 and 12%. This would result in a 14% to 24% increase in potentially hazardous ultraviolet radiation reaching the earth's surface.

Catastrophic Catalysts

Yet the most alarming threat is probably the aerosol propellants. The aerosol propellants are largely inert to chemical reaction and have generally been assumed to be harmless. In certain cases, however, ultraviolet light causes decomposition of the propellant to form a "catalytic" reaction that can occur in the atmosphere which destroys ozone.

An estimated 10 billion pounds of aerosol propellant are already present in the atmosphere and every year nearly a billion additional pounds are being dispersed into the environment from spray cans and industrial applications. The result is a growing concern that the ozone layer may be markedly reduced over the next two decades.

60,000 Deaths

The National Resources Defense Council claims that continued buildup of aerosol propellants in the atmosphere is depleting the ozone layer that shields the earth from ultraviolet radiation and is increasing the risk of radiation-induced skin cancer. The council asserts that within 20 years the ozone layer may be depleted by as much as 16% with an additional 5000 to 1.5 million additional cases of skin cancer and 20,000 to 60,000 deaths annually.

"The planet is a living thing. A reduction in the atmosphere may lead to an increased melting of the polar ice caps. This has disastrous implications for human life. The ozone layer is the "ozone filter" that allows the production of ozone at a significantly higher rate. After all, ultraviolet light is directly responsible for the destruction of ozone in the stratosphere. Perhaps the whole system has a long-term negative feedback stability.

On the other hand, aerosols have probably already doomed more people than were killed by the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. The threat is very real, and it's not just a bad joke.

"We are talking," says space scientist Thomas M. Donahue, "about the end of the world—doomday in 25 years."

Aerosols? Ozone? Doomsday? The iron is over and it's not just a bad joke. It's a symptom of a fundamental contradiction in the Zeitgeist.

BRITAIN SINKING WITH FLAIR

Telly Savalas, TV's tough New York police ace, Kojak, recently took up residence in London. Featured on for BBC television, Savalas was asked why he had decided to make Britain his home when the future of the British police looked so bleak. He answered: "I had a certain admiration for the British people. I liked their style— their flair!" Savalas himself is now living beyond its means to the extent of 6p in every £1. Dekker's "Sink the British Police" was overtaken by 6 old pence in every pound, was living beyond his means by only 2.5 new pence.

And nowadays, unlike Mr. McIaver, who in the end resigned to Australia to make good, the nation no longer has a Commonwealth that will save her in her hour of need—an hour of need which could well turn into an hour of desperation if, in a final fit of "Baa!," the British people can't even send themselves to the European Community in June.

Meanwhile, in the face of massive inflation and the deficit of irreplaceable wage claims, the government—in a socialist style—relied upon "a more equitable distribution of wealth" as part of its effort to appease the unions. Magnanimous principles, but with no real substance, did not work, but had only the effect of the right word—disparation to the wind.

No wonder leading commentators are claiming that the politicians are simply re-arranging the deckchairs on board the Titanic.

That's flair.
Man's Ultimate Goal
Why Mideast Talks Collapsed

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Plain Truth
WEEK ENDING APRIL 19, 1975

"And your strength shall be spent in vain"

Robert Oster — Black Star