DEVELOPING AN EARTH BASED ECONOMY:

The earth is abundant with resources, and our outdated methods of rationing resources through monetary control are no longer relevant. The monetary system was created thousands of years ago during periods of great scarcity. Its initial purpose was contrived as a method of distributing goods and services based on labor contributions. It is not at all related to our true capacity to produce goods and services on this planet.

A Resource-Based Economy would be planetary by nature. The planet can only be diligently examined and operated from a holistic perspective. Sadly, the world today is divided by profit oriented commercial competition, religious groups, and primitive nationalistic ego identifications, making it currently difficult to organize our planetary resources.

Human beings are increasingly being replaced by automated machines in the workforce, causing unemployment and hence a reduction in the purchasing power of its citizenry. Over time, as this phenomenon progresses, a tipping point will occur when the lack of consumer purchasing power will destroy the monetary based economy, for it won't matter how cost effective the production companies are… people will simply not have any .money to buy the items with.

Those who are aware of this, often attempt to create solutions within the monetary system, usually suggesting some form of 'hyper-welfare socialist state", where the rich elite own the factories, a virtually non-existent middle class (perhaps 5% of the world's population) works to oversee the machine operations, while the rest of the world is given money to use, in the form of hand outs from the government. This type of idea is nothing but horrifying and absurd. It would lead to dictatorship, extreme liberty restrictions and great public anger, for the stratification of class is still there, giving those at the top access to more resources than the billions at the bottom.

Let's completely forget about our current monetary based social system. It is critical that we know what we have on this planet. This awareness can be obtained by real-time electronic feedback coming from all resource sectors of the planet, fed into a central computer database that monitors any growing scarcity or problem. This idea of planetary resource monitoring is not farfetched, even if it might sound complex. In fact, the US military and Pentagon already have satellites and ocean monitors for the purpose of defense. These instruments could simply be reoriented for the purpose of environmental monitoring rather than human monitoring.

What do we need? This is a very powerful question, for, besides food, water and shelter, most on the planet today have no idea what they really want or need, for they have never been informed as to the true state of technology. What we think we need is a direct result of the state of society's awareness of technological development. For instance, a person 300 years ago might need a needle and thread to fix a torn shirt. Today, they would think they need an electronic sewing machine,yetm ore accurately, what they really need is a kind of shirt material that doesn't tear easily or at all.

Our current monetary system, which generates wasteful, outdated products constantly just to keep industry and the economy going, does not have the ability or the desire to produce the most advanced tools for our use. This is because the majority of the products produced would not even exist if industry focused on what would best serve the needs of society. If I was going to build a desk for myself, I would try to make sure that desk would last as long as possible. Sadly, the exact opposite occurs in our current system, for the current monetary system thrives on planned obsolescence . Without it, the whole economy would collapse. In a saner world, we will make things that last.

Machine labor is exceedingly better than human labor, and output statistics have shown this continually. Industrial productivity increases when machine labor replaces human labor. This, of course, should be no surprise, for a machine does not get tired and it is always more accurate and consistent than a human. High-efficiency labor automation, coupled with scientifically managed resources will allow for a fluid, scarcity-less environment which could be operated by only a very small fraction of the population.

Production could eventually become so streamlined that a product is only created when the request is made by a person in need. Since there is no money used in this system, there is little need for a person to hoard their items. There is also no reason for a person to steal something that is available to everyone…and they certainly couldn't sell it.

In light of the fact that all goods in a Resource-Based Economy are designed to last as long as possible , the consumer culture values that exist today would also be outgrown. Not to mention the outgrowth of all of the other value distortions imposed by advertising today, which make people feel greedy, inferior or inept due to what they do and don't own. Advertising could not exist in this new system, outside of general product information available to people who think they might need it.

Recycling of the products that become outdated or inoperable must be optimized at the production stage, for each product designed has had incorporated into it the consideration of recycling in advance. Ideally, everything produced would be sustainable and recyclable. This strategic consideration would ensure that obsolete products would be reused, reducing waste to the maximum extent possible.

Now, one of the more difficult and confusing components for many to consider is the question of, " *Who will maintain the machines*?" The first major automated robot was deployed in 1961 at a General Motors Corporation plant where it unloaded a diecasting machine. In 1967, GM was using the robot for spot welding and attaching clips to seat frames. In 1970, the automaker built the first automated spot welding line, consisting of 28 robots.

In 1946, the first general-purpose electronic computer was developed- called ENIAC. This computer has 18,000 radio tubes, took up 680 square feet and weighed more than 30 tons. Penn professor Irving Brainerd once speculated that during the 80,223 hours ENIAC operated, it crunched more calculations than had been performed by all humanity since time began. Now, a computer chip measuring 0.02 inches (0.5 mm) square has the same performance power as the ENIAC. Now, machinery today is being combined with computerization; Cybernation.

Essentially, the computer is the brain of the machine and instructs the machine in terms of what it is to do. Cybernation is the Emancipation Proclamation for human kind, freeing us from the drudgery of common labor, opening new horizons for human potential and exploration.

In the words of Dr. Norbert Wiener, noted "Father of Cybernation": "*It is a degradation to human beings to chain them to an oar and use them as a source of power, but it is almost an equal degradation to assign them to purely repetitive tasks in a factory which demands less than a millionth of their brain power."*

In a monetary system everything produced is designed to break down, for everything is a product. Even NASA with its extreme need for the best materials and technology has a budget to deal with, and must cut corners if need be. Your cars and personal computers don't stand a chance. Both industries have a massive sub-industry for repairs and maintenance. If computers and cars were not designed to break down there is no reason why everything in your home, from your refrigerator to your stove, to your television, to your computer, could not last your entire lifetime without physical repair.

Products made today are made out of the cheapest possible materials in order to increase profit margins. Today you will find that most general products in the consumer industry are created in whole, or in part, out of plastic. Plastic is one of the cheapest synthetic materials available. It has no heat tolerance, is often too brittle and it weathers very quickly – so, of course, everything breaks down… that is the intent.

In cars today, there are often warning lights on the dashboard that will alert you to a problem with a particular part of the car. This idea can be expanded to all machinery to the degree where not only is the machine's on board computer 'aware' of a problem, supplemental machines can thereby be directed to replace the broken part in real time. The problem is that the production of such efficiency is not rewarded in the monetary system, so most people in society have no idea of what is actually possible.

In the words of Thorstein Veblen: "*If the country's productive industry were completely organized as a systematic whole, and was then managed by competent technicians…to maximize production of goods and services instead of, as now, being mishandled by ignorant businessmen…to maximize profits, the resulting output of goods and services would doubtless exceed the current output of goods and services by several hundred percent."*

But what about complex jobs, such as doctors, architects and the like? What exactly is a doctor, a carpenter, a plumber, an architect, or the like actually doing in their work? When a doctor examines you, all he or she is doing is referencing what he or she has learned. The bottom line here is that there really is no area of human operation that cannot be highly perfected by delegating decision-making processes to computer intelligence. Our mental labor is now being delegated to computers as well. If you have ever used a calculator, you have delegated your decision making to a machine. Logical reasoning , which is our cognitive ability to think out solutions to problems from a cause and effect standpoint, is entirely a technical process, based on the amount of information we have at any one time.

In fact, the only thing that now separates us from machines on a cognitive, utilitarian level is our ability to create complex associations in our mind. No computer today has yet to respond effectively to being "asked a complex question" in the English language. It requires that the language be transformed into one that it is programmed to understand, such as mathematics. However, new fields, such as 'Artificial Intelligence', (AI) are beginning to grow with incredible possibilities for this kind of "awareness". In time, computers will be able to achieve complex thought processes that were formerly only attributed to humans. There is no evidence to support the contrary.

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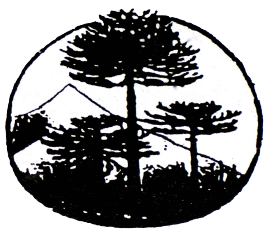
"The question is not whether we will be extremist, but what kind of extremist we will be- will we we be extremist for hate, or for love"
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