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# And then...

And then all wars ended/Arms of every kind were outlawed and the masses gladly contributed them to giant foundries in which they were melted down and the metal poured back into the earth/The Pentagon was turned on its side and painted purple, yellow & green/All boundaries were dissolved/The slaughter of animals was forbidden/The whole of lower Manhattan became a meadow in which unfortunates from the Bowery were allowed to live out their fantasies in the sunshine and were cured/People swam in the sparkling rivers under blue skies streaked only with incense pouring from the new factories/The energy from dismantled nuclear weapons provided free heat and light/World health was restored/An abundance of organic vegetables, fruits and grains was growing wild along the discarded highways/National flags were sewn together into brightly coloured circus tents under which politicians were allowed to perform harmless theatrical games/The concept of work was forgotten.

## Terry Riley - A rainbow in curved air

# FEED BACK

### Unreliable but Useful

Dear Friends, The letter from David Pearce [Vol.5, No.6]. "Is India and China bad and Portugal good?" All nation states are bad and tyrannical, the larger, the worse. "Is a big overseas aid programme bad?" Yes. The aiders export their crazy economics. "The Radial House?" I thought nonsense. "Solar radiation, wind power etc.?" I think very much overrated, unreliable but useful if we go on wasting resources on flying aeroplanes about as Mr. Pearce thinks we should. Doesn't he realise that not only Maplin but Heathrow and Gatwick should be scrapped as well? Like the motor car, the aeroplane is a noisy stinking abomination which only serves to exacerbate our neuroses.

"Has the present socio-economic system created satisfactory living conditions for the mass of people?" Yes, it has indeed created a mass, a mass of value-free mindless idiots forming a society so atrocious that extinction through nuclear weapons looks like being the only just and possible outcome.

**Yours sincerely, Howard Cheney,  
Aylesmore Farm, Shipston on Stour,  
Warwicks. 23.1.75**

### Contradictions of Resurgence

Dear Sirs, The letter from David Pearce under 'Big is not Bad' [Vol.5, No.6] certainly raises some interesting points and I am glad that you published it.

Personally I am convinced that, in part, your editorial approach is to blame and that if you want to convince sympathetic minds then there must be a radical

rethink of your attitude. You have fallen into the trap of supporting two rather different groups. The first group have always believed that our materialistic, industrial society is basically bad and many have become vegetarians, never use modern materials if possible, and in some cases have joined communes so as to become independent.

The second group comprise those who have, and probably still, believe that our modern society is both good and bad but that for better or worse it is forcibly coming to an end and therefore they should prepare for a future in which, at the very minimum, they can survive and, at the best, perhaps help form, in the aftermath, a better society than the present one.

This is a simplification — as the two groups do overlap but the two philosophies are very different and on many issues they must be opposed. The inherent contradictions in many articles are only too apparent to critical readers. Yours sincerely, **Graham Knight,  
Callington Court Farm, Brenzett,  
Romney Marsh, Kent. 27.12.74.**

### Servants of Things

Dear Editor, Anatol Murad in his article on inflation [Vol.5, No.6] writes in terms of a financial system that has no longer a relationship to economic facts. When gold, silver and copper, which have a commodity value, were coined into circulation, money had two main functions, (1) to enable commodities to be exchanged, (2) to assess their relative value. Prices arose in the market between willing buyers and willing sellers, and were governed by quality and need (or scarcity), which are not constant. Money systems are not laws of nature and can be used or misused.

At the coinage stage, money could be spent, saved, (in a stocking), lent (without interest), or given away. When industrial production superseded the craftsmen, bank notes and eventually cheques