

COMMUNICATION THEORY in the CAUSE of MAN

VOL. II NO. 6
PART B

Notes on the application of General Systems Theory, Cybernetics, Information Theory, and related fields of Communication Theory to the strengthening of democratic institutions on our planet.

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U.S.A.

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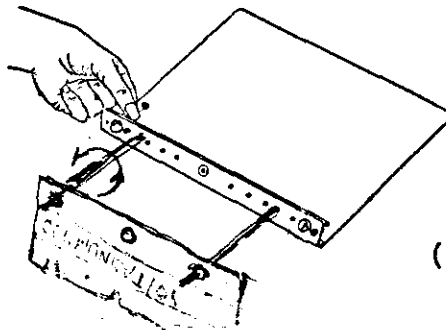
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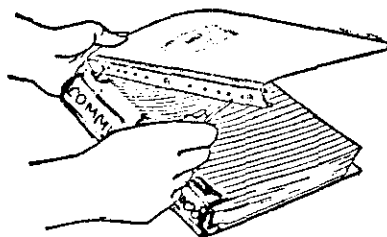
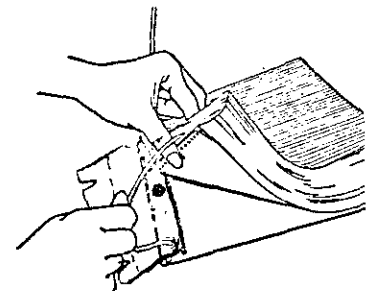
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by
Frederick Bernard Wood
SEPR Level "F"
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September 1973



- (c) Insert posts in third
from end holes of
binder stub. Turn
counter-clockwise until
heads are flush against
inside of channel.

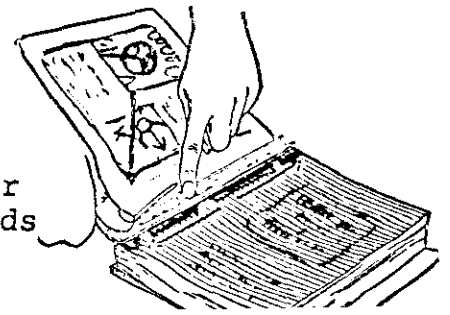
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in position, in an even
stack. Insert posts in
end holes.



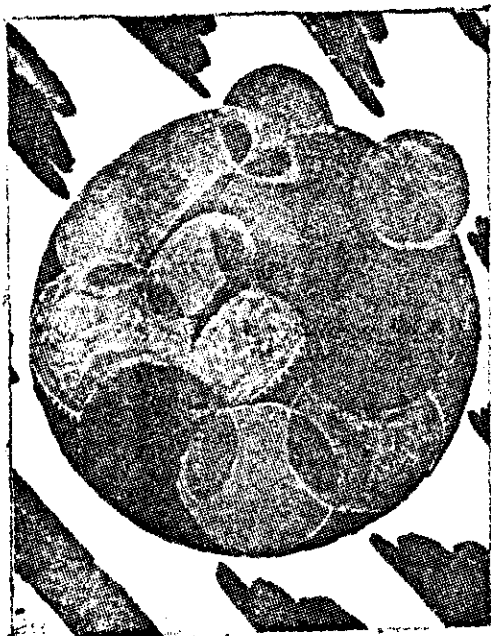
- (f) put top cover on with
stub turned under.
Fold edge of End Cover
over. Insert posts
thru third from end holes

- (g) Bend posts down into
channel. Push locks over
posts toward outside ends
of channel until snug.



COMMUNICATION THEORY in the CAUSE of MAN f.b. wood

COMMUNICATION THEORY in the CAUSE of MAN



Revised Supplement to CTCM
Vol. III, no. 3

The picture on the left is symbolic of the potential man has of using the cybernetic feedback loops available to him to amplify his intelligence for solving the current problems of mankind on this planet

A Man and Computer Struggling to Cope with
the Problems of an Increasingly Complex
Society

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The picture on the right is symbolic of the potential of the computation of entropy-like properties of social systems as a star to steer by in a disconnected society.



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Cut off border and glue to inside front cover.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Frederick Bernard Wood was born in Sacramento, California. He received most of his education in Berkeley and Oakland, California. After studying electrical engineering at the University of California, he worked on RADAR and Radar Test Equipment at the M.I.T. Radiation Laboratory during World War II. In 1945 he audited sociology courses at Harvard University. He included studies in international economic problems in his work for the M.S. degree at U.C. Berkeley. In 1952 he entered the computer industry, working principally on problems related to computer-communications systems. In 1953 he received a Ph.D. in electrical engineering at U.C., Berkeley. In 1956 he explored the possible relevance of "feedback" from Cybernetics, and "entropy" from Information Theory to the understanding of social problems through a series of discussions at the San Jose Unitarian Church. In 1959 he presented a pioneering paper on the social responsibility of engineers and scientists at the Western Joint Computer Conference, San Francisco. He presented papers on the entropylike properties of social systems and the problems of testing thematic hypotheses at a sequence of meetings: A.A.A.S., Cleveland, Ohio, December 1963; Congress of Social Psychiatry, London, England, August 1964; and A.A.A.S., Berkeley, California, December 1965. In April 1966 he presented a paper on the impact of equilibrium between order and diversity upon the development of democratic institutions at the American Humanist Assoc., Asilomar, California. He presented a paper on cybernetic aspects of processes that endanger the ecological balance at the Society for Social Responsibility in Science, New Haven, September 1969. He also presented further papers on entropylike properties of social systems at regional meetings of the Society for General Systems Research: San Jose, August 1971; and Portland, September 1972.

COMMUNICATION THEORY in the CAUSE of MAN --

-- An open-ended, incomplete book, being updated by each issue of the magazine: COMMUNICATION THEORY in the CAUSE of MAN.

Although most of the material to date has been written by author-editor-publisher, Frederick Bernard Wood, ten per cent of the space in the magazine is available for letters to the editor and short articles which are relevant to the outline of the book. Short articles are subject to review by referees who are members of appropriate scientific societies.

In the material collected into book form to date, the author finds that the specialization of our scientific age makes it difficult for one to obtain an overall view of human society. He uses analogies from mathematics to develop a chart of what different approaches, classes of activity, and types of phenomena are necessary to consider in order to have an adequate perspective of social problems, similar to the way a mathematician uses a "completeness theorem" to verify that a particular series of functions can represent the type of phenomenon he is studying.

He reviews the way hypotheses in physical science are developed and tested in order to set the procedures for testing some hypotheses in applied or engineering sociology. He discusses how models based upon electrical communication theory can be used to approximate some characteristics of sociological systems. These models are then used to relate Lindsay's principle of the "Thermodynamic Imperative" to specific examples of social and political problems. Since this is a pioneer work, much remains to be tested. In the spirit of science, specifications on how these hypotheses might be tested are discussed.

One model leads to a method of evaluating the internal degree of democracy in a social system. A second leads to a criterion of balance between order and diversity -- called "dynamic justice" corresponding to the stage of technical development of the country as measured by the distribution of electric power per capita in relationship to political philosophies.

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