

11/18/73-2/18/74

"Impact of Changing Life Styles on the
Unitarian-Universalist Movement in the U.S.A."

This report is an experiment in cooperation between the Long Range Planning Committee of the First Unitarian Church of San Jose and the magazine, COMMUNICATION THEORY in the CAUSE of MAN.

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The San Jose Unitarian Church has a unique opportunity in history. Our church is in close proximity to the site of a number of quantum jumps in the transition from the "Power Era" to the "Communication Era." Our proximity to an important segment of the computer industry in San Jose, supporting electronics sub-assembly industries up the peninsula, and a cluster of computer peripheral developers in Santa Clara County give the San Jose Unitarian Church and nearby Unitarian Fellowships and Churches a unique opportunity in history to both participate in and observe and interpret the impact on society of the revolutionary technological changes occurring in the transitions of the second industrial revolution.

A decade ago the movement for the understanding of these technological changes under the banner of "the cybercultural revolution" was successfully arrested by the maneuvering of the Biological Control Section of the Central Intelligence Agency behind the scenes in our engineering and scientific societies and the escalation of the war in Vietnam by a combination pressures from the Defence Dept., errors on the part of the president, and acquiescence on the part of Congress. However human beings have an intuitive potential for perceiving anti-humanistic developments in society, particularly students and other young people. Hence the student protests of the 1960's reached a high peak of activity. However the student protestors didn't have the background of understanding and the continuity that the strategists in the large corporations, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the N.A.M. had in planning the disabling of our democratic political procedures through the systematic financing of political campaigns against legislators and congressmen who were truly responsive to the needs of the people.

Here in San Jose we have almost the lowest percentage of scientists and engineers being active in organizations such as the Society for Social Responsibility in Science and the Federation of American Scientists of any comparable concentration of engineers and scientists in the United States. At the same time we have locally a high level of activity in human encounter groups, research on self-actualization, and experimentation with new life-styles. There is something disconnected here, as if a jig-saw puzzle was waiting to be put together. A few years ago the N.I.C.B. Intelligence Service coordinated the discussion of these problems among the leaders of our largest corporations. More recently Stanford Research Institute prepared a report on life styles for their clients, principally the leaders of our largest corporations. Although the details of such reports are classified as confidential or proprietary information, it is reported that in the process of changing life ways the United States will be crippling low in leaders(makers) in the period 1976 to 1982. It is probable that the Unitarian-Universalist movement has already been in this state of loss of leadership for several years, and if we develop an understanding of the process, can break out of the leadership crisis in the next few years, well ahead of the rest of the country.

Fortunately there is recent research on personality development which may help us understand what has happened to our potential leaders and how we can plan for developing the leadership we need. Some important work has been reported by Clare W. Graves, "A Systems View of Values Problems," Record of the IEEE Systems Science and Cybernetics Conf., Oct. 1969, Philadelphia, Pa. and Clare W. Graves, "Levels of Existence: An Open System Theory of Values," Journal of Humanistic Psychology, vol. X, No. 2, Fall 1970, pp. 131-155. The implications of these studies are outlined in a manuscript (file no. ^D253-F-21) for further analysis by the long range planning committee.

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References: Report LRPC-04(6/18/72) & SEPR No. 601(11/11/73)
File No. A-291