

Secondly, the culture must place a stress on *becoming*, not just on being. This translates to a tolerance for, and even an encouragement of transitional phase behavior. Genius tends to plan ahead, often very far ahead, and a society that focuses on being emphasizes immediate gratification, comfort and pleasure and distrusts activities that relate to remote goals. Becoming, though, should be part of being, and the mature, thinking individual is always becoming, for today he is somewhat different from the way he was yesterday, and tomorrow he will be different from the way he is today.

Next, other forms of *freedom* and *tolerance* must be manifest in the culture for it to grow and develop. The creative individual must be allowed to move unhampered between different and even contrasting cultural stimuli. America itself emerged from a synergistic combination of English and German philosophies, values and traditions merged with the new, adventurous, enterprising and individualistic spirit of the colonies.

Those who focus upon the material resources that creative eras utilize to express their wealth miss the entire point of the matter. The explosions of knowledge, wisdom and mastery of the environment such as took place when Americans moved westward and settled the frontier are *not* secondary to the land conquest.

It is the other way around—the knowledge explosion made the land conquest possible. The Indian could not stop both the gun and the new plow. An idiot alone on an island with a family of chickens will eat roast fowl, then starve; an individual of creative intelligence will develop an array of egg recipes and will learn to breed and cull his flock.

Both the conquest and exploitation of the frontier and the survival tactic on the deserted island are done best when creative juices are sprinkled on the situation. If our nation is to emerge intact from this era of economic instability it must move again toward the type of social order which both rewards and fosters creativity. If you unduly tax creativity and productivity (which we do) you will get less and less of it, and if you reward indolence you will soon be drowning in indolent beings (which we are).

Instruments of Socialism and Cultural Decline

The philosophy of scarcity is a predominant influence in producing the slide of our great nation toward oblivion. The government and the instruments of education and persuasion are currently in the hands of those motivated primarily by that philosophy and the grasping greed it produces. Control, dominance and wealth redistribution are the socialist formula, and they are techniques

of cultural suicide—not growth and development.

The philosophy of abundance recognizes that free minds can and will wrench wealth from the environment if allowed to do so. Just as the space shuttle Columbia lay undiscovered in the crust of the earth until our minds were ready to conceive it, there are even greater discoveries yet to be made. These discoveries can and will produce a social order of growth and abundance if they're not prevented from doing so by the choking bureaucracy of our repressive, ever-hungry government.

Unfortunately, many are placing their trust in the apparatus of government at this time of economic and social crisis in the mistaken belief that it can reverse the process of decay and dissolution. This hope is sheer folly, for it has been the unrelenting implementation of counterproductive government policies which has been the major force in creating the onrushing calamity. The public debt is beyond control, the size of the bureaucracy continuously escalates, and even those who sense the reality of an impending calamity are in the grip of a vague, anesthetized helplessness which is usually described as malaise.

Others are trusting in material objects such as diamonds, gold, silver, art or antiques to shelter their wealth during this period of instability. An external device of dubious

value (currency) is used to acquire other external devices (goods) of less dubious value, and these devices are then secreted. We call people who randomly steal items for which they have no reasonable immediate or deferred need kleptomaniacs and consider them ill. People who purchase a variety of items with equal randomness we call consumers and have built an entire commercial system about them.

Materialism Is an Outgrowth of the Philosophy of Scarcity

Materialism, or the preoccupation with the acquisition of money or the devices it can purchase, is an outgrowth of the philosophy of scarcity. Surely, if *things* are the measure of man, and if there are not enough things to go around, then it is reasonable to be constantly concerned with acquiring things. The thing-oriented individual often decides that it is a waste of time to continue to yearn for the old freedoms, questions whether or not they ever really existed anyway, and busies himself constructing substitute gratifications to replace those he feels have been permanently lost.

Those of us who are thing-oriented people often view both objects and people as commodities—including ourselves. We think, "I am what I have"—and we collect injustices done to us as if those injustices were valuable possessions as well. Our