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MIKROS is an LA SFL Publication, issued quarterly at 5¢ per copy. Editorial discretion is the only restriction to material published. Fiction submitted will be passed on to FUTURIA FANTASIA. Letters received will appear in VOICE OF THE IMAGI-NATION. Ads will be exchanged with other fan mags. Address: Russ Hodgkins, 1903 West 84th Place, Los Angeles, Calif.

WE HASTEN TO APOLOGIZE

We thot, when we mailed the proceeding issue of MIKROS to youse guys and gals, that we had made the situation as understandable as possible. But--and we bow our heads with shame--it seems we failed. For lo, we have been showered with frantic inquiries, demanding to know where and what are the first four MIKROS'. Or is it MIKRI?

Patiently then, we repeat what we said last time. The LA SFL has issued, at odd intervals during the past year or so, four leaflets, each with a different title. 'Twas not long until we were accused of aiding and abetting confusion among indexers of fan publications, with the result, that after going into a huddle, we came up with a solution --or so we thot. The sensible thing to do, we decided, was to adopt a name for these things, under which they could parade their wares.

By this time the fifth issue was being whipped into shape, and, assuming that our reader(s) would understand our little word of explanation, we named it MIKROS #5, and immediately began to worry about the next issue. Fandom--and that means you--obviously disagreed. You insisted on fretting over #5, and frantically searching for clues as to the whereabouts of the first four of the species, which we should have told you, appeared under these titles:

THE TELEVISION DETECTIVE	(MIKROS #1)	Mar 1938
MADGE'S PRIZE MSS.	(MIKROS #2)	Oct 1938
HOLLERBOCHEN COMES BACK	(MIKROS #3)	Nov 1938
SABINA OF THE WHITE CYLINDER	(MIKROS #4)	Feb 1939

All of our subscribers and friends have received by this time, a copy of the initial issue of Ray Bradbury's FUTURIA FANTASIA, and lest it too cause sleepless nights, we again explain...

Ever since the demise of MADGE we've been the recipients of pitous letters begging for her return. This, of course, is impossible at present, but being basically tender-hearted creatures, we've done what to our mind is the next best thing. And that dear readers, as you very well know, is the quarterly publication of the VOICE OF THE IMAGI-NATION, edited by that famous figure of the fantascience field, the one, the only, the original FJA. Not content with that, we decided upon a more frequent appearance of MIKROS, quarterly we hope, more often if possible. This will be edited by yours truly, Russ Hodgkins. Then finally, after much arguing and arm-waving we decided to issue FUTURIA FANTASIA as another quarterly LA SFL Publication, edited, tho don't ask us why, by "Humor" Bradbury.

Now a word to our subscribers. You will, of course, receive all three of our publications, providing you remit in installments of 25¢ or more. Any amount less will bring you our current issue, unless you specify otherwise. Subscriptions for LASFL Publications, and letters for VoM may be sent to Box 6475 Met. Station, LA. Material for FUTURIA FANTASIA should be sent to 1841 So. Manhattan Pl., LA.

So there you have it! Twelve to fourteen magazines per year, bringing you fiction, articles, poetry, and departments, published by the west-coasters who built IMAGINATION! into one of fandom's most popular journals. Your support is all we need. (Catch on?)

COMMENT from DOC LOWNDES

Two interesting reactions to ' On Yerke's article on Technocracy,
 Bruce Yerke's article on Tech- ' a few words: Yerke omits th most im-
 nocracy, published in our last ' portant questn of all: how is th tran-
 issue, have been received. ' sition from capitalism to Technocracy
 The first is presented here. ' to com about? It is all very wel to
 -----1 loath politics, but, how r U going to
 evad them? The general principls of

Technocracy r scientific, & in th scientific Socialist nations they
 shal (& perhaps already r) b put into effect. I cannot, howevr, get
 along with "pur" scienc or "pur" reasoning when dealing with human be-
 ings who r not "pur" in any way. A "revolt of the scientists" is a
 swel idea on th surface, but in effect it wud turn into th sam genorl
 thing that McClary outlind in his "3000 Years". Scientists, usually, r
 not wel enuf in touch with mankind, & hav not enuf experimental know-
 ledge of both th best & worst in human psychology to b capabl of assis-
 ting, or rathr leading (for scientists r certainly valuabl assistants
 in th progress of a peopl's revolution) th way to a new era. With a
 few exceptions they considr themselv "abov" mankind & therfor feel
 themselv capabl of "leading" mankind into utopia. Which is sadly,
 tragically rong. As Eugene Debs used to say: "If I can lead U into
 Socialism, somon els can lead U out." Th human race cannot b lead,
 herded, into a new ordr by "divinly-inspird" leadrs. Such a cours mite
 tru, bring about many needed reforms, & giv th outward appearances of a
 new era, but actually it wuld not. It wuld not b genuine. Th momnt
 th "leadrs" backs wer turnd, th peopl wuld revert to th old ordr, go
 back to capitalism, simply because the understood nothing better. I
 quite agree, now, with McClary & am glad that, tho late, I hav at last
 com to c what a valuabl piec of work his "3000 Years" really is.

Genuine revolution must com from "below", not abov. Th peopl must show
 that they desir to be lead, by their own representatives (NOT som demi-
 god--& demagogue--from th clouds, pulling ideologies out of his hat)
 toward a goal they know within themselv to b right. Ther is no royal
 road to a new era. Every Bolshevik leadr is one of th peopl, one
 who has workd his way toward th end of understanding th scientific
 means of attaining th new ordr. This may appear to b besid th point,
 but it is not. Ther r a great many scientists who feel themselv "ap-
 pointd" to "sav" th world. A Technocracy, ruld by such scientists wuld
 b stupid tyranny. They wuld find themselv forced to use every measur
 that th fascists use, &, in th end, they wuld b destroyd, just as
 surely as th fascists wil b destroyd.

But, let it b firmly understood
 that I do not ridicul eithr th principls of Technocracy nor thos who
 advocate it. It is in th directn of progres, &, th Technocratic stfan
 is certainly a Michelist. To try to divorc th "pur" theories of Tech
 nocracy from "impur" politics, & commend such a cours as a worthy l
 for stfans, is sheer escapism, howevr.

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OF VITAL IMPORTANCE to every stf
 fan and writer, is an article by
 Henry Kuttner, slated for an
 early appearance in The Writer's
 Digest. He sees all, knows all,
 and tells all! Don't miss it !!

YOUR EDITOR, along with the rest of
 fandom, has been under the impres-
 sion that Dom Passante was just an-
 other pseudonym. But imagine his
 surprise when introduced to Dom P.
 recently by NY's Julie Schwartz !!!

REPLY TO LOWNDES

by T. BRUCE YERKE and
RUSS HODGKINS

The preceding comments certainly cannot be called a factual argument, and therefore we shan't argue with you, Mr. Lowndes, as it is obvious that you have your basic assumptions wrong, and know less about Technocracy than the majority of fans know about Michelism.

You question as to the method by which Technocracy would be put into operation. We might answer that with another question, and ask if you have a fool-proof, letter-perfect plan all timed to the exact minute and allowing for every possible mischance, by which Communism, Socialism, or anything else is going to get in? Technocracy hopes to go into operation the most practical way possible, such as a nation-wide plebissite. If not that, the movement will grow strong enough to make the majority of Americans aware of the economic situation. Technocracy will not use force. It does not train its members for street fights, but rather to understand. In this nation, a revolution would so upset the technical functions that when the smoke had cleared away, there would be millions dead from lack of food, industry at a standstill, and a complete absence of sanitation, leading to widespread disease. It is a fact that if the electrical power supply in New York was disrupted for less than six hours, the whole city would burn down! This because of the rate at which fires break out. These are not figures concocted by Technocracy, but by the New York City Fire Dep't. In a like manner, there is only a three days' supply of food in the city, and if the power were shut off, the problem of sewage disposal would soon lead to an epidemic. This was demonstrated during the floods of a year or so ago in the New England States.

Technocracy, at the present time, isn't interested in getting numbers of the emotional butterfly type. It is interested in forming a nucleus who will be able to lead, in the eventual collapse of the Price System. Public speakers, pamphlets, etc., are being prepared, and Technocracy has a nation-wide network of radio communications, as well as its section-to-section system. And, Technocracy could go into operation on a seventy-two hour call!!

You say, Mr. Lowndes, that the "revolution" would not be "genuine". First, it would not be a revolution, either by force, or without the consent of the majority. In this nation it only takes $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the population to make a hell of a lot of noise (such as the various isms are now doing), but it takes 65% of the population to make a really major change. So it is utterly impossible for a small and powerful minority to take over this Continent, unless a majority of the people wish it, at which time it is then legal. Regarding the "genuinness" of the "revolution", brother, it would be the most genuine thing ever conceived. Other social changes, the Russian, et al, were accomplished, for one thing, by a minority, and occurred when enough of the people were discontent with the economic system under which they were living. Even tho the revolution occurred, business and industry could have continued under the same system. Technocracy, however, will only be instituted when it will be UTTERLY IMPOSSIBLE for the North American Continent to continue under the Price System, the ancient method of scarcity value. The Technocratic change will come from all sides by natural causes, and the people will flock to the one thing that offers them a solution.

to use them in MIKROS, you may.

The Monad is also the emblem of a railway, by the way.

Doubt is DC forbids such organizations as Technocracy; the committee for immediate world federation, along the lines of "Union Now" has a headquarters in my fair city, tho some people doubtless consider such an idea unpatriotic.

Spouse you know that Wiggy was once nuts on Technocracy; don't know how he feels on the subject, now that he's sold out to W&Co.

My very early impressions of Technocracy were very slight and quite distorted, but I was able to discount them. Then when I got an old issue of WS from along in early 33, when it had its vogue, and found it bristling with matters appertaining to Technocracy, I got my more definite picture of it, from which I judged it to closely resemble my own Utopia.

The figures on what Technocracy can do with the standard of living leave the same dizzy feeling you get when you hear that for the cost of the World War you could buy a good middle class home for every family in England, Belgium, France, Germany, Russia, US, Canada, Australia, and in addition provide every city in those countries with a 6 million dollar library, a 10 million dollar municipal auditorium, 75 to a hundred nurses and doctors, and in addition buy out France and Belgium. In other words, sanity under any system could work wonders.

To the unemployed man the difference between 1260 dollars per year and 1440 doesn't look great. Once he is making 1260, however, the difference becomes more forcefully impressed upon him. Similarly between various sane systems; once living under them, the defects would begin to call out for correction.

Technocracy as described looks like an American Communism; cleansed of the impurities of Marxian dogma and European terminology, it nevertheless has the inherent weakness of Communism along with the strengths of socialism.

The 30 percent rule concerning depressions is just a bit too neat to believe. For we have had more than three depressions in the past, which under that rule would have us already on rock bottom. Moreover, it fails to account of changes in the capitalist system, regulations on speculation, etc. In the past we have just muddled thru our depressions; this time we are doing something about it. Flaw 1.

The neat HGW blocks of apartments for practically everyone to live in fails to take humanature into account. I'd have kicked myself for saying such a thing two years ago, but that's the way I feel now. Very few people would be content, in a land of plenty, to live in such homes, however neat and gadgety. The great majority would want to work a little bit more and have a home with a yard and an opportunity to follow out their own ideas of architecture and landscaping. There is no great danger in private property when the state has the right of eminent domain, and is in the habit of using it. Moreover, even if Homo could get by on four hours a day for 165 days a year, he would be

a coward to do so; there is the work of progress to go on, the many tasks we aren't able to do now, jungles to be explored, Antarctica to be mapped, space to be conquered, and even more tasks opening up. Flaws 2 and 3.

Finally, for the present, your discussion leaves the impression that everyone is to receive equal compensation--the crowning flaw. For men differ in ability to do useful work, and an incentive is needed for those of high intelligence to apply it toward advancing the state yet further. For geniuses, hours of work will not measure the good to humanity; an hour of work done by Tom Edison would equal years of labor from John Holding of Mud Creek, Oklahoma. Or do you believe that environment is everything? Men are unequal in ability to contribute to progress; there must be proportional compensation to drive those with ability to use it.

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REPLY TO SPEER

by T. BRUCE YERKE and
RUSS HODGKINS

You, Mr. Speer, have the same malady with which Mr. Lowndes is suffering. That is, in trying to refute a factual statement with "opinions" and "beliefs". Obviously, we cannot argue the point. All we can do is to point out erroneous assumptions, and to repeat that Technocracy, Inc., has spent 20 years accumulating the facts of the situation in which we find ourselves. Bear in mind that Technocracy is not the result of, nor concerned with, wishful thinking, day-dreaming, political dogmas, or European philosophic importations. It is the first and only American organization with the answer for an American problem.

Your terse remark about the monad might be answered with a: So What! However, we will point out that the monad is only a part emblem of the Northern Pacific Railway. It is not complete unless it has the ring around it which says "Northern Pacific Railway", and in addition it is black and red. The monad itself is a Chinese symbol, and has been known to all Orientals since the eleventh century. Its application for Technocracy is two-fold. Namely, analysis and synthesis, or its objective, the functional control of distribution and consumption, dynamic balance.

You misinterpret entirely the depression statement. If you will read again the paragraph in question, you will find that Bruce stated that depressions of the past have "been 30% lower in total deflation than the one immediately preceeding it." Our early depressions were very small affairs and lasted only a short time, chiefly because the causes were financial manipulations. It took a long time to build up to the serious technological disturbances we have today, and the first of these was the 1929 affair, when production and consumption fell better than 30%. It was nearly three years later before we reached the bottom and the upturn began, due to relief spending. The next depression came in 1937 (the oscillations are becoming more rapid) when government spending was drastically curtailed. This time it took only six

months to reach a bottom 30% lower than in 1929. Generous government spending creates an upward trend in production due to modernizing equipment, throwing millions of men onto the industrial slag-heap. This practice is going on at a steadily accelerating rate, and already it has reached the point where only 2% of all work done on this Continent is performed by human labor. Where, we ask you, are the Metropolis-like workers the Communists love to prattle about? Certainly not slaving for a gigantic piece of mechanical equipment. Automatic controls are more accurate, more efficient, and don't go on strike! Wake up! This is a power age!

Technocracy, based on natural laws, would have no objective in trying to violate "humanature". You will find on close examination that human nature is usually nothing more than a set of behavior patterns, which change readily with the environment. Housing under the Technate will be optional. If a family wish to have their private home they may do so, with as much ground around it as they can care for. And it will be a home so far superior to anything in existence today that it could not be duplicated unless the owner's income is in the six-figure column. Apartments will be so desirable that many people will prefer them. Complete sound-proofing, air-conditioning, garbage and sewage disposal, garage service, selenium-tube food delivery system, and dozens of other innovations will result in North America being the first area on earth ever to possess real "planned cities"--urban-ates. The cities of tomorrow will really be "machines for living"!

Your comment about being a coward only to work four hours a day is quite amusing. The point is this: To operate all the functional jobs of the Continent requires something less than 5 million operators. Those 5 million, operating the plants and industries on a full-time balanced load basis, could drown our citizens in a flood of goods and services. There's no sense in working any longer. Why since the days of Adam the human race has looked forward to the time when they would not have to break their backs slaving all day, so that they could get just enough to live on. One of mankind's greatest ambitions is to consume more and work less, and at last we have an opportunity to do just that! The Continental Research Sequence will probably be one division which will disregard the 4-hour day rule, because under the Technate research will be done by those who wish to do that type of thing, and when a man is doing a job he likes, hours mean nothing. The 4-hour rule applies mainly to functional jobs such as steel, fuel, agriculture, etc., where a schedule must be maintained. Your "work of progress" will be the life work of those who choose to explore out of the way places, and to pioneer in space.

Your "crowning flaw" displays your lack of thought on the subject. You will have to learn to differentiate between a person's ability to consume, and his ability to "do work". An abundance cannot be efficiently divided. When there is more than enough to go around, it is utterly stupid to deny someone a portion, simply because he isn't as inherently smart as the other fellow. What would you do with the surplus denied Mr. A? In an economy of abundance you cannot give it to the poor, for there are no poor. You cannot give it to someone else because he is a "good little boy", for he already has all he can use. To destroy it would be the height of folly. Therefore, give it to Mr. A because he is a human being and he can consume just as much as the other fellow. It's not his fault if he is not as smart as his neigh-

