

IX. For a long time, human societies have had values similar to ours, without great success in their realization. If we blame that failure on human nature or original sin, then we're stuck. The human race is a biological entity, and biological evolution takes time that we don't have. We prefer to think that failure has come because the tools weren't ready. (or weren't used with enough conscious awareness, ed.). The Transformation is being brought about by the rapid evolution of man's tools, both hardware and (especially) software. If we can push that evolution in the direction of information/communication systems, it may make the big difference.

X. "... take a clay lump to make the dish, and the clay's usefulness is just where it isn't. . . . So you take what of it there is to use what of it there isn't." That's from Lao Tzu, one of the oldest software designers. The value of this note is just where it isn't, in the space it encloses, not in the space it fills. Our ways of working inside this space are growing so fast, and are so open to change that any attempt to describe them is self-defeating. If you find yourself in the same space, and want to share ways of working or problems to work on with us, that's why we're here.

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First Progress report letter on rough plans for a Nation-wide "Movement"\* Distribution Set-up

(\*Open to suggestions for a better word than "movement" or "radical" to describe the broader and more comprehensive conception of social change that has occurred since feminists, gays, high school kids, hippies, ecology people, anarchists, etc. have joined/changed/expanded the

politically narrower "movement" of a year or two ago).

It all started a couple of months ago with the following article in *Vocations for Social Change*:

"There are several small, new radical presses which are producing valuable stuff but which have trouble getting it out, simply because there is no movement distribution network yet. My idea of what is needed is, (1) individuals around the country, on campuses, in the smaller cities as well as large ones, to introduce the liberal/hip/left/campus/head bookstores to movement publications—any and everything from Liberation/Ramparts type periodicals to underground papers, to pamphlet and poster publishers like Times Change Press, People's Press, R.E.P., etc. The individuals would probably have sets of samples, would take orders (and forward them to the publishing group), and hopefully make commissions sufficient to make the efforts worthwhile. Besides these individuals (or collectives) though, it would be necessary to have (2) a nation-wide structure in which to work—a co-ordinating office or something, to get new people distributing, to guarantee commissions and fair play, to send kits of samples around, to publish lists of what stores buy (and pay!), etc.

Financing might come from something like this: Bookstores get 40% off the list price, as it now goes. The local distributor would get maybe 12%. And 3% would go to support the co-ordinating office—leaving the publisher with 45%. A lot of us are feeling the need for outreach—getting beyond the cities and movement. It's badly needed at this time. If anything does come of it, let us hear about it, o.k.?"

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