

## HOPE 2000

Please think about this .... I have some ideas, opinions and beliefs on a subject which I feel to be the most pressing issue of our time.

I believe that our present institutions of commerce, government, politics, education and industry are not willing or able to deal with our social/environmental needs in a time frame which will allow present and future generations to enjoy a good quality of life.

Growth for growth's sake is a policy which accelerates the rate of destruction of the life support system which we all share. In return we gain the dubious short-term benefits of a high material standard of living for some, a compulsive consumer mentality for many and a state of poverty for most.

I believe that our ultimate fate is a doomsday of some sort. In the meantime I would like to see us work towards a stay of execution by a drastic reduction in energy conversion and the adoption, maintenance and ongoing development of technologies and social policies which are friendly to the environment and benefit the quality of life for all.

I am not a political man. I believe that this is a stand-alone issue which should have priority over all political or economic considerations. We can no longer afford to play political football with our tenancy on this planet. We can no longer use the world's resources and the labour of the people as gambling chips in an international casino of investment gaming.

I believe that the degradation of our living environment is not a political issue. It is a worldwide emergency which parallels the development of cancer in a person's body. By the time it causes enough pain and discomfort to be disabling, the patient's condition is often too far advanced for effective treatment. Similarly, if voters in our democratic system do not take the warnings of competent, concerned and honest men seriously, and if responsible leadership does not emerge and find acceptance, we are likely to be in the palliative ward very much sooner.

I believe we have to combine into an a-political movement which works towards running our affairs according to two definable priorities: quality of life and environmental integrity.

Under this acronym:

H.O.P.E.

Help Our 

Planet people
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 Endure

Our political and economic systems could perhaps be transformed into servants of a saner purpose. Our present systems are part of a fatal social disease.

It's not as problematical as you might think. Just don't think up too many problems.

Let go of the old stuff - you'll have two hands free to build the new. The difference between what we really know, and what we think we know, is infinity. Habits and vested interests are not knowledge. Control is not management. Pragmatism is not a value. There's no discretion without values.

Hope is vested only in the unknown.