

November/December 2013

TRENDEVENTS

Welcome to the November/December issue. (TrendEvents is published monthly, except during the winter & summer holidays.) Fitting for the winter holidays, Food is this issue's theme. This issue also features highlights of Technocracy, Inc.'s *Blueprint for the Future*.

TECHNOCRACY—COAST TO COAST

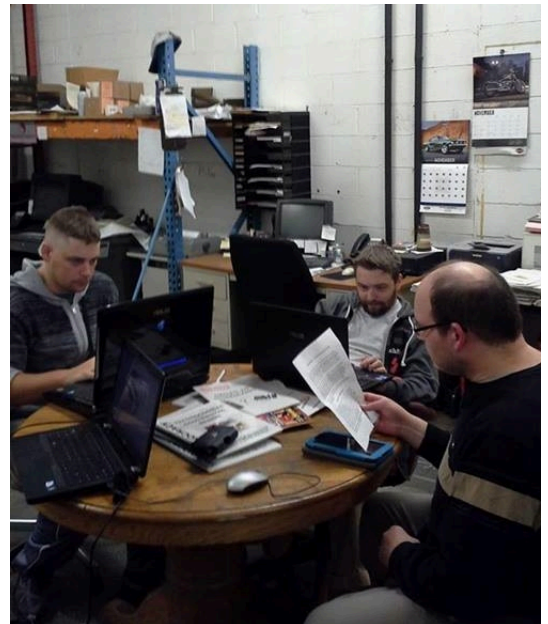


George Wright, Michael Rittenhouse, Donna Laury, Jeremy Laury & Joshua Laury

Continental Headquarters' George Wright traveled cross-country to visit to the York, Pennsylvania section. While there, George addressed the section, and held valuable discussions with the members. York members have been hard at work with regular meetings, event tabling, literature drives and charity efforts.

The City of York is an extremely significant location. The U.S. Continental Congress adopted the Articles of Confederation in 1777, giving York a claim to be the first Capital of the USA. York is an industrial center, including one of the largest Harley-Davidson factories.

The York Section regularly posts updates on its [Facebook page](#).



CIVIL RIGHTS

PRISONS

The Nation; October 7, 2013: "Prisons Over Schools"

With only 5% of the world's population, the U.S. has over 25% of its prisoners. The United States incarcerates more people under the age of 21 than any other country. Children as young as 13 have been sentenced to life with no possibility of parole. In California, 45% of juvenile offenders locked up for life without parole in a murder case were not convicted as the killer, but because they were present at or connected with the crime.

Incarceration rates are linked with poor education: an NAACP study found that neighborhoods with low educational performance also had high rates of incarceration. The gap in educational achievement between black and Latino students and their white counterparts is well documented, and it closely tracks with public investment in education. According to the Sentencing Project, blacks are almost six times as likely as whites to be imprisoned, and Hispanics are nearly twice as likely. African-Americans comprise less than 14% of the population but nearly 40% of those imprisoned.

"The media decry the declining quality of education in America in comparison with countries like Finland, which have soared in educational attainment. It's worth pausing to consider that well-educated, low crime Finland also has one of the lowest rates of incarceration—sixty prisoners per 100,000 people, as compared with the U.S. rate of 716 per 100,000."

Would you care to further investigate Technocracy, Inc.'s design for a scientific functional society?

To join with others who see the use of science and technology as an alternative to a system unable to adjust to our modern world? Our websites will guide you through this unique process.

Websites: <http://www.technocracyinc.org> www.Technocracyvan.ca

ECONOMICS, ENERGY & RESOURCE DATA DASHBOARD

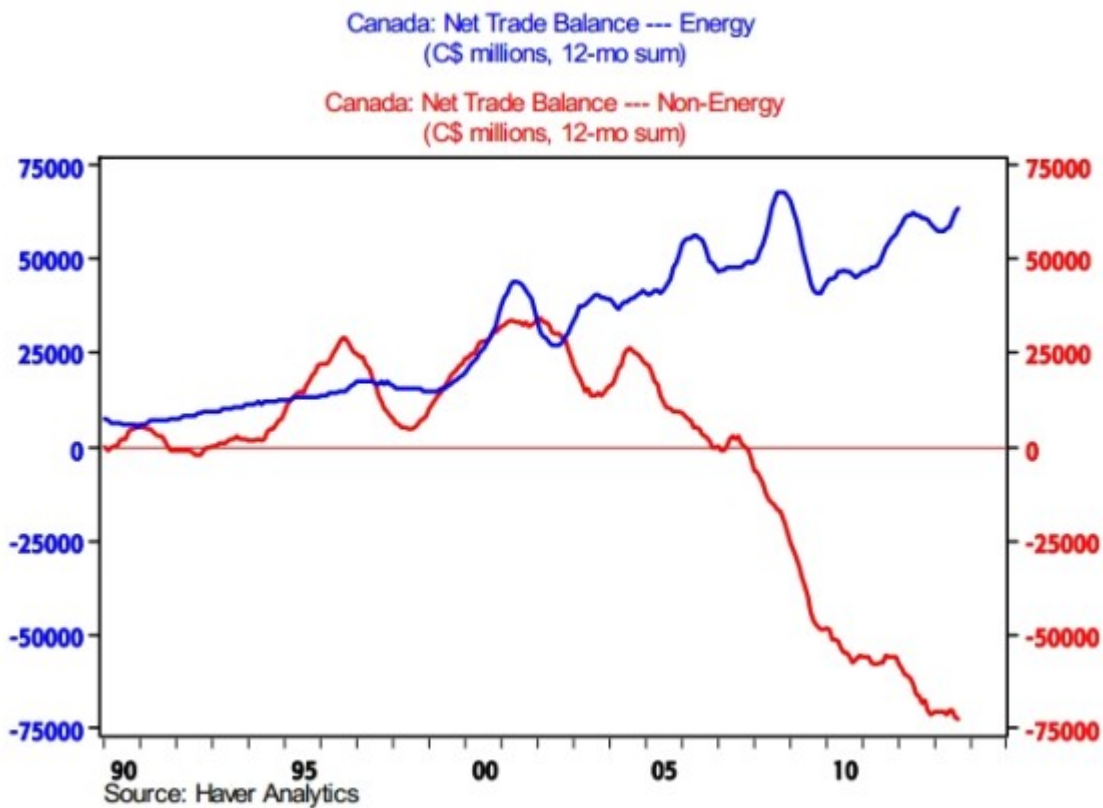
- **Canada's Great Economic Divide, In One Chart—Energy vs. Non-Energy**
(*Huffington Post Canada*, November 16, 2013)

While Canada's "energy exports have seen a \$63.6-billion surplus for the past 12 months, everything else has seen a \$72.9-billion deficit." Further, "the overwhelming

majority of economic benefits from the oilsands boom are limited to Alberta.” Despite gains in the energy sector, “since 2000, Canadian exports have suffered through their own version of the lost decade, with volumes essentially unchanged over that spell.”

“Nowhere is this more clear than in the auto industry, once one of the major drivers of central Canada’s economy. Vehicle production is down nine per cent this year.”

“And the worst may be yet to come. Analyst Joe McCabe recently told an auto industry conference he expects car manufacturing to shrink another 28 per cent over the next decade.”



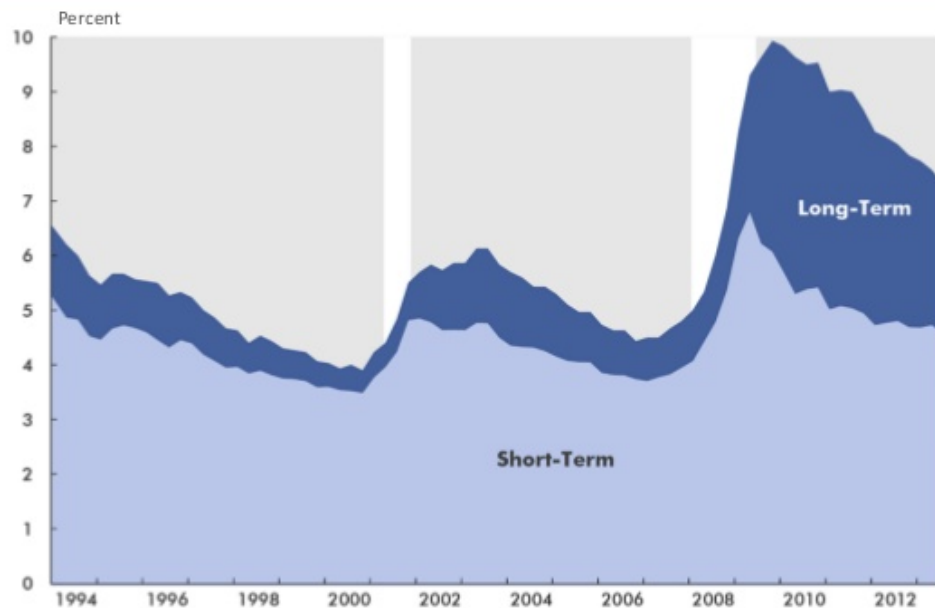
BMO/Haver Analytics

- **US Long-term Unemployment Extremely Persistent**

(U.S. Congressional Budget Office, *Budget Conference Committee Presentation*, 11-13-13)

While short-term unemployment has slightly improved, long-term unemployment still remains proportionally extremely high. **Editor comment:** this may be a sign of permanent structural changes in the US economy due to disruptions from the 2008 Global Financial Crisis, such as the discontinuation of major parts of General Motors. With these jobs permanently lost, cuts to the U.S. education system have prevented adequate worker retraining for the skills required for newly created jobs. (See chart on next page.)

Short-Term and Long-Term Unemployment Rates



The long-term unemployment rate refers to workers who have been unemployed for at least 27 weeks; the short-term unemployment rate refers to all other unemployed workers.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

3

Source: U.S. Congressional Budget Office publication 44759

- **MoNAD Simulator**

The Model of North American Distribution (MoNAD) simulates how the Price System results in excessive concentration of wealth that increases poverty and social instability, while dampening talent and individual initiative. It shows how, counter-intuitively, profits by themselves result in decreasing revenues and wages, and how the Price System requires debt financing to avoid economic collapse. MoNAD draws heavily from the Technocracy, Inc.'s seminal *Manhours and Distribution* study. This is an ongoing initiative, with continuous improvements. You can try out the simulator for yourself at: <http://monadsim.herokuapp.com/>

FOCUS ON FOOD

THE PRESENT ABUNDANCE OF FOOD IS AN ILLUSION THAT IS DESTROYING HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

As many of us turn to the Holiday season, it is a good time to think of food. On the face of it, few people in North America are starving. Yet poverty is increasing.

Poverty can lead to hunger, and oft accompanied by an unstable living situation, can lead to the temptation to succumb to junk food. (Long work hours and low wages can do so as well). Junk food leads to obesity, diabetes and many other health issues, creating to increased health care costs, lower productivity, and early deaths. So many North Americans are literally starving to death in the face of an abundant diet of fats, sugar, and salt. Legislation banning fats might be somewhat helpful, but proposed taxes on sugars will merely drive up living expenses for the poorest North Americans without helping them obtain healthier food.

JUNK FOOD: ADDICTIVE OREOS

(Connecticut College: research shows Oreos just as addictive as drugs, Oct. 2013)

Neuroscience Connecticut College senior Jamie Honohan devised experiments investigating the addictiveness of Oreo cookies, the most popular cookie in America, to study the impact of high sugar foods. Using rats, one set became addicted to morphine while the other rats were given a choice of Oreos in one cage or rice cakes in the other. The behavior of the rats on Oreos became indistinguishable from those addicted to drugs. Even more worrisome was the fact that the Oreos “activated significantly more neurons than cocaine or morphine”. **Ron Miller:** What could be better for any Price System corporation than to have addicted customers by the millions. It can, of course, be noted that the test was on rats and rats are not people. The reason rats are used in experiments is that their behavior and structure are quite similar to that of humans.

A Technate would use the best of science and technology to improve our diets and provide high quality foods for everyone.

LEARNING FROM SCIENCE: THE EATING SWITCH

(Laura Sander, “On-off switch for eating discovered,” *Science News*, November 2, 2013)

Scientists led by Joshua Jennings and Garret Struber of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill genetically tweaked mice so that a small group of neurons would respond to light. By hijacking connections between neurons deep in the brain, scientists forced full mice to keep eating and hungry mice to shun food. The results, which identify precise groups of cells that cause eating and others that curb it, began to clarify the intricate web of checks and balances in the brain that controls feeding.

“This is a really important missing piece of the puzzle,” says neuroscientist Seth Blackshaw of Johns Hopkins University. “These are cell types that weren’t even predicted to exist.” A deeper understanding of how the brain orchestrates eating behavior could lead to better treatments for disorders such as anorexia and obesity, he says.

HOPE FOR HUMANE, MORE EFFICIENT MEAT PRODUCTION

(Popular Science, November 2013)

One pound of cooked boneless chicken requires 7.5 pounds of dry feed and 30 liters of water. The same amount of manufactured meat requires only 1.1 pounds of ingredients. A pound of hamburger requires 298 sq. ft. of land, 27 lb. of feed, and 211 gallons of water. That same pound of hamburger requires more than 4000 BTU’s of energy to get it to the table. Lab grown meat would use 99.7% less land and 94% less water and it would contribute 98.8 fewer greenhouse gases. Today 78% of the world’s farmland is used to produce meat. 51% of greenhouse gases come from producing meat. This is enough to, at least, make one think a bit.

GETTING MORE FRUITS & VEGETABLES: VERTICAL FARM

(Vertical Farm.com)

A vertical farm as proposed by Dickson Despommier within a city is an intriguing concept that needs further study. There has been considerable comment both positive and negative that needs to be answered by those proposing such an idea. The November 2009 issue of Scientific American also contains an excellent article on the subject. This is basically a greenhouse in a “skyscraper” format. Different crops would be grown on different levels with a completely optimized climate. This is little more than a logical extension of what is now done in large “greenhouses” in many areas.

According to the article in the Scientific American agriculture now uses 70 percent of the world’s fresh water and contaminates much of what is left with fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and silt. Agriculture also consumes about 20 percent of all gasoline and diesel fuel in the U.S. A fair percentage of the crops grown in fields are lost due to weather and other problems. Some is also lost in storage and transportation. With food being grown near where it is needed many of these problems could be reduced if not completely eliminated. New breeds of some crops designed to be grown and harvested in compact spaces have been developed by NASA and others that could increase efficiency even more.

With global warming coming up fast, and with no attempt to solve the problem in any meaningful way, growing food could become a major problem. Once positive

feedback from the environment begins in earnest, it could overwhelm any attempts to overcome the problem humanity has created and nature will begin to solve the problem by transforming into an environment in which will be very difficult, if not impossible, for humanity to survive.

It is the operation of the Price System that has created the problem and is preventing its solution. Humanity will need all the help it can get. To say the least, food is a critical element.

COOKING

(www.Sciencedaily.com/releases/1999/08/990810064941.htm
Cooked Food Allowed Evolution Of Primates' Big Brains, Scientists Say)

The earliest evidence of cooking is a million years old but strong indirect evidence has been presented that it probably started two million years ago. Cooking food makes it much more digestible and makes it possible to get more nutrition out of it. Both by experiment and observation it appears that, if we were forced to eat all our food raw with no cooking, we would have to spend 9.3 hour per day eating just to stay alive. Our brain consumes twenty percent of the calories we eat. Humans have, on average, 86 billion brain neurons. Gorillas have about 33 billion and chimps about 28 billion.

Cooking permitted humans to have a much smaller and less complex digestive system than most primates. It also meant that we didn't need such large and powerful teeth and jaw muscles. That made room for bigger brains. The first big spurt in brain growth occurred roughly between 1.9 and 1.6 million years ago with big growth about 600,000 years ago. Humans evolved to sleep on the ground not in trees. Under all normal circumstances that would have made us very vulnerable to predators especially the ones that existed when our brains were developing. Control of fire would have made that possible as animals will not go near it. Cooking also made it possible to expand our diet making it easier to travel around.

Animals maintaining a harem of females or simply mating with whatever comes along usually exist where females are much smaller than males. During the time period when the brains were expanding both males and females increased in size but females increased more, getting closer to males. In such conditions pair bonding becomes the norm. This probably led to female sexual attraction to males.

Ron Miller commentary: It begins to appear that the development of technology is responsible for what we have become. So it continues today. The

tools we use, the technology, has forced us to move faster than our brains have developed to use that information. But, with the advent of education, human brain power has been magnified many times. One really wonders how long it will take before people realize that the social structures we live in are no more than another form of technology that should be maximized for our benefit rather than acting as an anchor dragging us down.

Money is a tool that was invented to facilitate trade and promote human endeavor. Now the tool has become the master. In the 1920's, Nobel Prize-winner Frederick Soddy defined money "as the nothing you get for something before you can get anything". Money is usually the deciding factor in all major social decisions often with very negative effects. Money has been around for thousands of years and it is past time that it be done away with. We can do better.

THE TECHNOCRACY BLUEPRINT (highlights)

(Full article at: <http://www.technocracyvan.ca/Articles/TechnocracysBlueprint.html>)

Technocracy, Inc.'s blueprint was drawn to meet the specific requirements of a problem unique to this Continent. It contains all essential ingredients for the smooth functioning of North America's social mechanism to provide a high living standard for all citizens.

A new functional calendar is another important part of the blueprint. This would smooth out the peaks and troughs existing in most phases of Price System operations, and would put all operations and services on a 24-hour daily basis throughout every year. Because such full-load operation would considerably reduce the amount of required equipment, there would also be a marked decrease in the use of irreplaceable resources. Amongst further advantages would be the elimination of rush-hour traffic snarls, and the excessive weekend and summer-time loads thrown on recreational facilities.

To obviate the possibility of stagnation in any branch of operation, the blueprint provides that the **Research Sequence** shall work constantly through all other sequences, looking for new and better ways of performing jobs. It will further make sure that optimum quality is built into all commodities. Whenever improved processes are developed that will either save materials or provide more efficient productive techniques, they will be introduced by the respective sequences. The production of goods to last instead of to sell will cut down drastically on the actual necessary volume of consumer commodities, thereby further eliminating waste.

Housing for all citizens of the Technate area is an integral part of the blueprint. The objective will be to provide everyone with living accommodations of the most comfortable and efficient type, with ready access to numerous additional facilities to remove drudgery and to enhance living. Building specifications for the type of proposed housing have been blueprinted, and are far superior to anything existing today.

A prominent blueprint feature which has been publicized for years is the **Continental Hydrology**. This would link the rivers and lakes of North America with a system of canals to provide low energy cost water transportation the length and breadth of the Continent; to provide hydro-electric power transmitted at one million volts direct current for distances up to three thousand miles; and to raise the declining water table of the Continent. The size and location of all canals are included in the blueprint, as are the specifications for the type of craft to be used and for the power lines which will transmit the high-voltage electricity.

Transportation for a Continent, taking into account both vehicles and thoroughfares, has also been planned in considerable detail.

Communications of all types have been projected on a similar scale. **Education, public health and recreational facilities** are but a few of the many other functions included in Technocracy, Inc.'s blueprint of social operation for North America. All have received a comparable attention.

Links to news stories: clicking on some of the news story titles will open up a web browser window containing the original story. If you are reading a paper copy, your local librarian may be able to get you those original news stories.

This is an official publication of:

Technocracy, Inc.

2475 Harksell Rd

Ferndale, WA 98249-9764

Voluntary donation of \$8 for 10 Issues of TrendEvents for U.S.

& Canadian hard copy subscriptions mailed by regular post.

E-Mail Subscriptions are free.

www.Technocracyinc.org / www.Technocracyvan.ca

Ron Miller, Contributing Editor & Mark Ciotola, Editor. Paul Cordsmeyer, Emeritus. TrendEvents provides critical commentary on cited articles. The commentary does not necessarily represent the opinions or contents of those articles.



York section Technocrat spreading the word!

Technocracy, Inc.

2475 Harksell Rd
Ferndale, WA 98249-9764
USA