

from consideration of the painful social and economic changes necessary to achieve fertility control. The common but mystical notion that family planning "provides its own dynamic" does nothing to lessen this impression.

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How Many Smokes per Flight?

I concur with Abelson's editorial (22 Dec., p. 1527), in which he expressed concern over the effects of smoking on air pollution and the infringement of the rights of nonsmokers. As a frequent airline passenger, I have experienced the initial stages of acute asphyxia resulting from too many people smoking in a poorly ventilated aircraft. I wonder whether the automatic devices to provide oxygen used in airplanes are sensitive to these environmental conditions as well as problems of altitude.

It may be necessary to provide special smoking sections, or smoking flights similar to the railroads' use of smoking cars. Certainly if individuals are unable to regulate their own activities, it may one day be necessary for the industry or government to regulate the number of smokes per flight.

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... The situation that most irks me, I think, is the airplane at meal time. Pressurized aircraft cabin ventilating systems are good. No matter how good they are, however, I have yet to experience one that can stay ahead of the smokers. When I am finishing a good airline meal and enjoying it, I frequently have to hold my breath for the last several bites because some nervous smoker close by has lighted a cigarette before finishing his or her meal, and spews smoke out into the restricted confines of the cabin. Ugh! ...

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... Would someone explain to me the validity of my government using my tax money to support tobacco farmers whose product is detrimental to my health?

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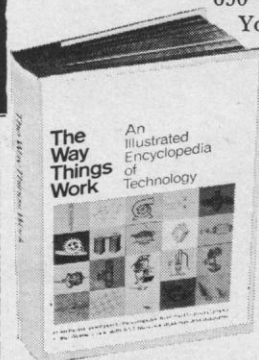
How it works

How is color television transmitted? (See page 166 of THE WAY THINGS WORK.) How is electronic data processing done? (See page 302.) How does a helicopter fly? (See page 560.) How does "dry cleaning" clean? (See page 407.) Why does a record player play? (See page 314.) How does the simple switch operate? (See page 96.) Why do vending machines reject counterfeit coins? (See page 324.) What happens at the telephone exchange? (See page 112.) How does a Polaroid camera produce pictures? (See page 172.) What makes gunpowder explode? (See page 448.) What does a nuclear reactor do? (See page 54.) What happens in "supersonic speed"? (See page 556.)

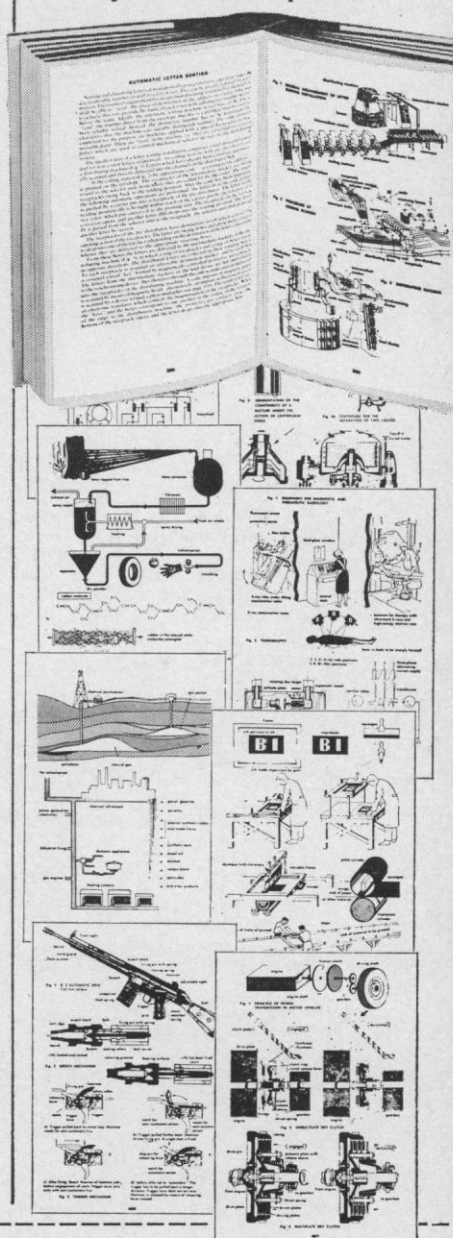
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