

intense as that from the naturally occurring mineral pitchblende, so it will be easy to handle. The plutonium and other actinides can then be easily separated out and used as a reactor fuel.

The critics say that it is unfair for us to burden future generations with our waste. But isn't it much more unfair for us to use up in 100 years or so the fossil fuels that have accumulated over hundreds of millions of years? Moreover, in exchange for watching a few buildings for 500 years, future generations will receive from us the technology for powering their civilization. That would seem to be a very fair exchange.

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Inter-American Relations

In his article "The future of the Americas" (7 Sept. 1973, p. 916) Sol M. Linowitz looks at the problems of the Americas. He expects a better life for all Americans through international cooperation and investment on the part of the developed nations. For the last 15 years I have been considering the problems of a small region of "underdeveloped" rural Latin America. I come to conclusions which are in complete opposition to those of Linowitz. Development aid given by the United States has done little to bring a better life to the Latin American urban worker or unemployed person or to the peasant. It has simply made possible the survival of considerably more people at the same mean level of existence. Moreover, antagonisms toward the United States have been constantly increasing.

During the mid-1950's, crop failures and livestock deaths in the Titicaca Altiplano [highland] in Peru brought the people of this region close to famine. The United States sent food, and catastrophe was averted. No one that I know has acknowledged that U.S. aid saved many lives. Meanwhile, the continuing high birth rate and disbursement of food donated by the United States ensure that the next drought cycle will require even more prodigious efforts on the part of the United States to avoid catastrophe in the Titicaca Altiplano.

The United States should follow a laissez-faire policy with regard to development in Latin America. The U.S. tax dollar should not be frittered away on development schemes, many of which appear to border on fraud. Technical and scientific advice should be available to those countries who ask for it and who are prepared to make reasonable payment for it. Cooperative research efforts involving scientists from various countries should be facilitated. Latin America should stand on its own feet. Latin Americans should work out their own future.

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Widmer's experience in his "small region of 'underdeveloped' rural Latin America" has led him to some very broad generalizations. I can only say that his own recipe for a "laissez-faire policy" on the part of the United States has been tried during the past several years and found to be dismally wanting, as Secretary of State Kissinger's new approach clearly indicates.

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Schistosomiasis Research Projects

The Edna McConnell Clark Foundation announces a program of support for research projects on schistosomiasis. Research projects will be supported in three major areas: (i) investigating immunity and immunopathology in animals and man; (ii) increasing the effectiveness of control measures that prevent development of clinical disease; and (iii) determining the medical, economic, and social impact of schistosomiasis.

Proposals from indigenous scientists working in lesser developed countries are encouraged, but the program is open to all applicants. The deadline for receiving materials is 15 July 1974 for a September 1974 decision. Grants will not generally be made for scholarships, fellowships, endowments, or for capital expenses. Interested parties who desire further program information, the proposal format, and proposal requirements should address requests to me.

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