

Socialism can't be ignored by us

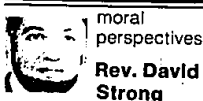
I HAVE just returned from a trip to Haiti. I have often reflected on the terrible problems that country faces. The poverty, disease and lack of education there seems overwhelming. The churches make a difference in these conditions but it is not clear if any progress has been made.

Our work team discussed these issues with several Haitian people. They believe that only a change in the government will give them hope for progress. This is unlikely for the United States supports the present government.

Our nation fears communism. Any government which opposes communism, especially within range of Cuba and the United States, will be support-

ed by our government. What will happen to people in countries like Haiti? AN ARTICLE telling about the experiments in mainland China may give us a clue to an answer. China has developed economic zones in which a capitalist style of economy and production are functioning. Now China wants professor Shu-Park Chan of the United States to help the Chinese establish a western-style university.

Why can't a country like Haiti establish the best of both competing systems, socialism and capitalism? The longer you visit and study a country like Haiti, you come to the conclusion that only socialism in some form will address the health, social and employment problems. Yet socialism in any



moral perspectives
Rev. David Strong

form is unacceptable to the United States and the present government of Haiti.

FRANCE, AND now China, seem to be moving toward a type of socialist and capitalist mix. The pressures toward joining a world market, modernizing and at the same time meeting the needs of the people may force many countries into creative combinations of both systems.

Religion must be concerned about both the social welfare and the freedom of people. Freedom is defined differently by different people. Its focus in this country is upon individual freedom. In Eastern Europe, it is defined more in terms of collective freedom from hunger, disease and class oppression. Freedom does not mean a great deal if our child is dying of malnourish-

ment and there are no jobs available.

WE SEPARATE the world in our own minds. There is no clear line which can be drawn between freedom and social welfare. Certainly a well grounded religion would not choose one at the expense of the other.

The story of the Good Samaritan raises the question, what kind of religion walks by a dying man and ignores his plight? The same religious leader, Jesus, asked whether the law served the people or simply the state.

We can hope that the all-pervasive conflict between capitalism and communism will be resolved by national experiments. These experiments will offer the world hope by pointing out that both systems have their strengths and their weaknesses. A middle ground may yet be found.

Religious people must hope for a world where the two dominant political and economic systems can not only coexist, but can interbreed to offer some yet unknown alternatives.

Either this kind of transformation will take place, or the continued polarization and posturing will end in extermination. Religious persons must seek and pray for such a transformation.



consumer mailbag

Terry Gibb

Incineration helps conserve

Today's column on incineration with energy recovery is the fifth of a series.

INCINERATION of solid waste can be done with or without energy recovery. However, while incineration without energy recovery reduces the amount of solid waste, it does not conserve any resources or energy. We shall deal with energy-recovery incineration.

Large scale burning of waste to generate energy is not a new technology. Between 1890 and 1910, energy recovery incinerators were put into operation in three European countries and New York. Today there are over 388 large-scale facilities in operation worldwide — nine in the United States.

THE BURNING of solid waste to produce energy is dependent on three variables: the amount of waste available, markets for the energy produced, and the technology used. There are two types of furnaces used to burn solid waste for energy recovery:

Refactory lined. In refactory-lined furnaces, a type of heat-resistant brick lines the furnace wall. Heat recovery occurs downstream of the furnace in waste-heat boilers. In this system, the temperature is controlled by combustion air.

Waterwall. Waterwall systems have tubes of water in the walls to control the temperature of combustion. The tubes absorb the heat and generate steam, which is of high enough quality to generate electricity.

IN MICHIGAN, incineration with energy recovery is in operation in more than 22 industries. Industry utilizes waste-to-energy facilities for two important reasons: 1) to generate a relatively cheap source of energy in place of more expensive purchased energy sources, and 2) to reduce increasing solid waste disposal costs. Both of these reasons are major components of municipal budgets.

Incineration techniques always bring forth environmental concerns. Thus far, these concerns have always

blocked incineration facilities from being constructed. The primary environmental concern involves whether waste-to-energy incineration can meet air quality standards.

THE primary air pollution is generated in the incinerator bunkers. The bunker air contains large amounts of dust and strong odors. This air, however, is drawn to the furnace as its primary air source. This prevents the dust and odors in the area surrounding the incineration facilities.

Electrostatic precipitators are also used in the U.S. to control emissions. In Europe, new units also require that a scrubber unit follow the precipitators to remove acid-forming gases from entering the atmosphere.

Another concern is conflict between recycling and incineration. Studies have indicated that after source separation recyclables are removed from the waste stream, there will still be enough solid waste generated to run incineration facilities to capacity.

The fear that citizens will need to create waste to run incinerators is groundless based on current solid waste generation figures.

THE CITIZEN participation in solid waste disposal will require little adjustment. With incineration, households will still put their garbage at the curb for the usual pickup. If incineration and recycling are combined, households will be required to separate the recyclables out for separate collection.

Incineration has several positive aspects that landfilling does not. First, incineration eliminates the potential for groundwater contamination.

Second, incineration will provide relatively low-cost energy in the form of hot water, steam, or electricity.

Finally, it should have a positive effect on Michigan economy because several Michigan businesses are involved in the manufacture of incinerators.

Next: Composting.

The Consumer Mailbag answers your questions. Address mail to The Consumer Mailbag, Concern Detroit, 1023 Shelby, Detroit, 48228.

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