

EFFECT ON THE STRUCTURE OF SOCIETY

the structure of society. I have of course attempted only the barest and baldest outline. Its purpose is merely to serve as stimulus for thought and inquiry. I can only record my own conviction that it is along some such line of development that we must seek the solution of the fundamental problem of our day.

It may be of course that we shall fail; that our resources of constructive intelligence will prove inadequate; that the individualistic and competitive instincts bred in our race by many centuries of scarcity and the inevitable struggle for existence may prove too strong and too disruptive; and that we shall lapse into chaos or be brought out of it only by some autocracy incompatible with freedom.

But let me, for the moment, assume the best; let me assume that we shall so refashion our system that we combine order with liberty; and succeed in utilizing our increased productive capacity and in enjoying the full heritage with which nature's resources and our own skill and knowledge have now endowed us. Let me assume that we have passed not only, as we have, from the period of inescapable scarcity, but also from our present period of potential and precarious plenty to one of assured plenty and a realizable superfluity for all our needs. And on that assumption let us glance briefly in