Savard says...

We may *not* manage to save the world in time. But, even if we don't, it does not necessarily imply the extinction of man: we might be able to pick up the pieces after. But, saving the world is of course preferable.

What does the world need to be saved from? Pollution, Nuclear war, Famine, Overpopulation, and Communism.

The world does not need to be saved from abortion: is it a scandal, and more than that, murder, but it does not threaten the world as a whole.

Energy shortage is another menace as well.

THE ENERGY CRISIS

The *current* crisis is artificial, and the fault of the Arabs. A real crisis would have come later though: some authorities say that the present crisis is a blessing in disguise, waking us up to the later one. I don't know about this: we may need Arab oil to fuel the industries to make the equipment to help the scientists to discover what we need.

And what we need is fusion power! Make no mistake about it! *Only* fusion power promises limitless energy for an endless time: endless, of course, only in terms of human experience, but still endless enough.

Nixon talked about an effort similar to Apollo or the Manhattan Project (both initiated by Democratic Administrations) to solve the energy crisis. What with his Watergate problems, that must have sounded like shallow name-dropping. Since no news of massive appropriations for fusion research were forthcoming, it sounded *more* like name-dropping.

The present crisis could be solved, if our geography texts included such picturesque geographical locations as Cairo, Israel; Mecca, Israel; and Kuwait, Israel: but, they don't--yet.

The Israelis talk about secure boundaries for Israel. I agree that giving in wouldn't help: the Arabs have time and again demonstrated themselves untrustworthy. But, the present road leads to madness: Israel needs Mecca, so that Saudi Arabia cannot incite Israeli Arabs by refusing them access; it needs Cairo and Damascus, so that their countries won't start anything again; it needs Lebanon to protect itself from terrorism, and it needs Kuwait so that foreign countries won't be pressured against it by lack of oil...at this rate, they may as well conquer the world and be done with it!

POLLUTION

Fusion power is nonpolluting. Going back to nature won't work; nor will expensive pollution controls. Either one would cost even more than pollution in the end. But, solving the overpopulation problem would: if the world's population were 1% of the present value, using 10% of the world's *current* resource production (which would give them a standard of living from 2 to 2½ times the current American standard) wouldn't make such a big dent in world recources, nor would it cause much pollution.

NUCLEAR WAR

There are two ways to avoid war: either appease your enemies, or see to it that no countries likely to fight you have any nuclear--or other--weapons. The first one didn't work for Neville Chamberlain. See my section on "Communism" later in this article.

OVERPOPULATION

To stop overpopulation, all we have to do is see to it that our country isn't overpopulated--then wait for the rest of the world to starve to death. Starving men may not sit still and die, but they don't usually possess much in the way of advanced weaponry either.

But surely, there is a better way to solve this problem. We've started right here in this country without knowing it: comic strips to TV shows, the message is often the same: babies mean diapers, tantrums, expense, and ingratitude. More of the same would be helpful, I suppose. Look at one Hi and Lois strip of a couple of years ago: "The Smiths: they live in the same kind of house as we do, they have the same number of children, yet they have a bigger car, and always travel to lots of places while we don't. I wonder why?"..."Their children's teeth grew in straight." Pathos! And also a call for better medicare, among other things.

In India, for example, there is another problem: children mean financial security. To solve this, what can we do? We would have to give them financial security from another source: to somehow raise the standard of living. But it couldn't be done on a long-range basis without first solving overpopulation. But, perhaps a temporary massive aid program might start the ball rolling. One district of India combines high education and high unemployment. Why not work out a scheme to give residents of underpriviledged countries free passage here, find them jobs and then let them send some of the money back to help their relatives. Not just educated ones either: we could allow people from very poor countries to come here and work below the minimum wage at jobs our workers don't want (not that I don't blame them for not wanting such jobs): they'd still be far richer than they were. Sure, I know it can be called "discriminatory", and that it's been tried illegally before: but it's better than letting them starve.

FAMINE

Of course, to solve this we've got to solve overpopulation. Some other solutions I've touched on under "Overpopulation" before, as well.

But, there are other things too: our governments ought to take foreign aid more seriously. By this I cannot suggest that the U.S. divert money from either space or defense: space exploration is vital (I can't take the time to explain why here: read Clarke), and so is defense, unless you'ld rather see the whole world Red.

However, we can still cut out a lot of needless spending in government: and we can also increase taxes. For example: stop spending money on being humane to animals when humans are starving to death.
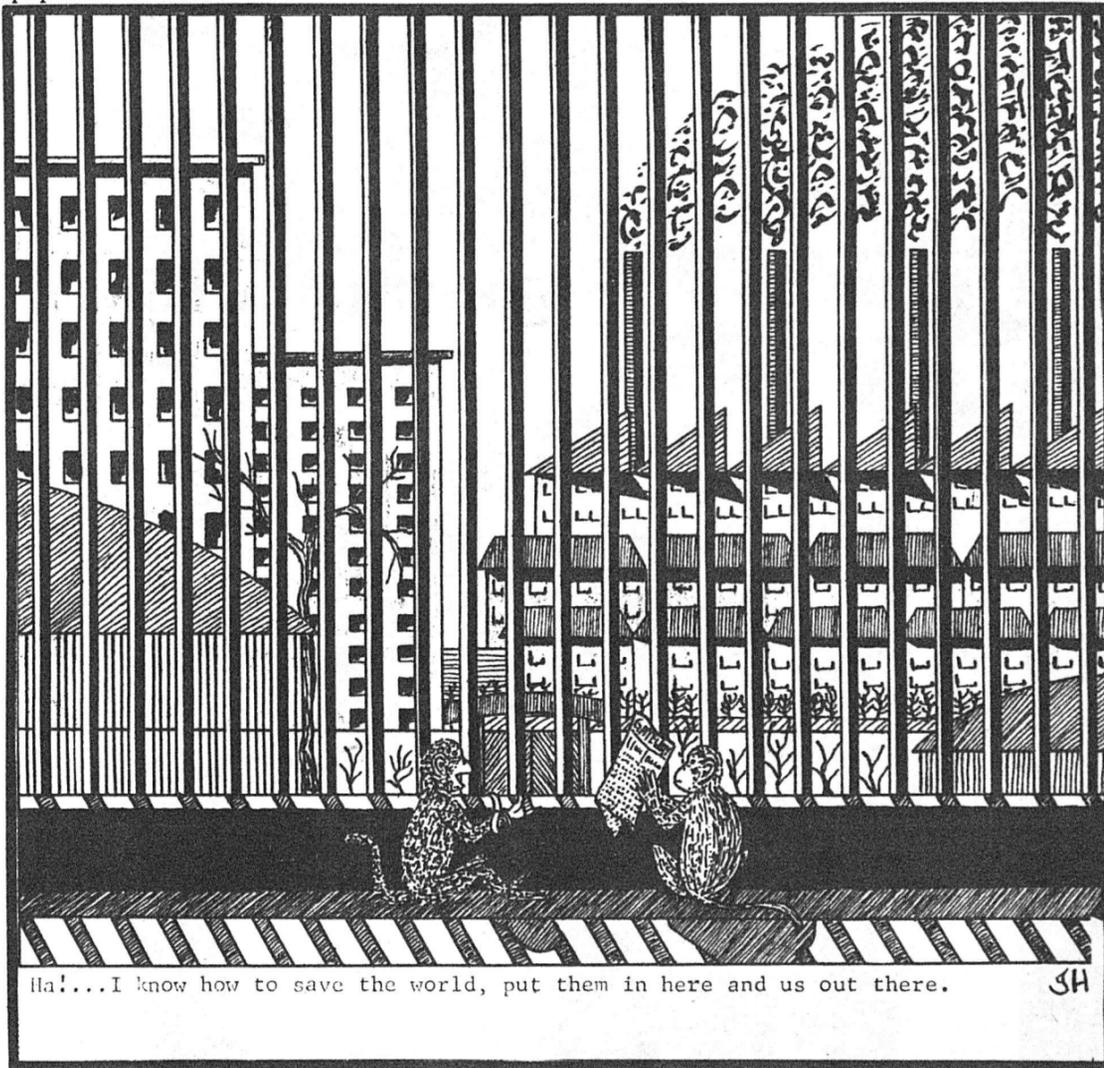
COMMUNISM

This is the one that *no-one* will take seriously. Except suggesting that the boys in the Defense Department start working fast, I don't know what to suggest.

But, I do know this: in the Soviet Union, the ruthless leaders there can take calculated risks to improve their position: but in the U.S., the people won't take kindly to any President who risks confrontation. So, through crisis after crisis, the Communists will win more and more of the world. Maybe a few thousand years after the Communists take over we could get free--but I'd rather save the world beforehand.

CONCLUSION

They should keep an eye on nuclear materials to keep them away from organized crime and terrorists: and the CRTC Canadian Content laws should be repealed. Those would be the finishing touches to the world's salvation.

John Savard

Ha!...I know how to save the world, put them in here and us out there. JH