

HUNGER: A BIG ISSUE IN A DEAD END

BY ISABELLE GARCEAU & LYNN MACKINLAY

“YOU and I are the key to ending world hunger! By your commitment for the HUNGER PROJECT, YOU can make the difference. Imagine that in the year 2000 hunger is ended and YOU can say: ‘I DID SOMETHING’. Wouldn’t that be wonderful?”

Yes it would be wonderful but, how exactly is the Hunger Project proposing to give us the opportunity to end world hunger.

Everything started in the U.S. with the foundation of the Erhard Seminar Training (EST) by Werner Erhard. It was, a positive-thinking group-support system, run on a profit.

In 1977, he also started the Hunger Project with a \$100,000 grant and a \$400,000 interest free loan from EST.

During this time, EST started to have a very bad reputation. Mind control techniques were said to be employed and people began to complain about the course. That is why two years ago, they changed their name to “THE FORUM”.

The Forum/EST and the Hunger Project don’t have an official connection (the Forum is a profit oriented organisation, H.P. is not). But their philosophies, goal, and their jargon are quite similar. Many of the Project’s key organizers are EST “graduated”.

The H.P. believes that world hunger will be solved by education and awareness alone. They think that if everybody is completely aware of the hunger, they will do

What is funny in this affirmation, is that the H.P. is doing nothing practical for the third world. They don’t give them money.

The hunger project does not advocate any particular solution to hunger. They only concern themselves with the education of western block countries. “The project doesn’t want its members to feel guilty about the deplorable situation that causes the death of some 15 million people each year all over the world. Rather, it asks them to view hunger and starvation as a “wonderful opportunity”, an opportunity to “make a difference in the world”.

All the money they are raising is put back into the project for promotion, publicity and conferences (last year, of the \$7 million they raised, only \$221,000 went for development overseas).

An essential element to promote awareness is the participation of each individual. “YOU are a grateful person and YOU can make the difference by your commitment with the H.P.”, by donation, by giving your time or whatever you consider is important.

In the H.P., they create a “context” giving appearance that something can be done. They persuade people to sign a personal commitment to end world hunger by the end of the century.

Added to the H.P.’s abuses is its use of what could be called “developmental jargon”. They define something which has no direct relation with hunger or developmental projects, as part of the process.

Without being a cult, the H.P. is using cultic techniques to get people involved.

The most common techniques they use are love bombing, guilt, peer pressure, fatigue and disinhibition to keep them in.

Everything looks very simple when they are talking and they have an answer for

The H.P. is wrong. By simply making the west aware of the situation they will not make everybody want to do something. Other factors that cannot be forgotten: the political and economic aspect. The H.P. is not talking about these issues. In fact, they try to cover up the political difficulties in an effort to make the solution appear simple.

Not all third world countries will accept this kind of help. For example, after the Live Aid concert, some African countries refused to take the money saying they did not want to beg from us.

The methods they use are manipulation. If the Project was good, they wouldn’t be obliged to use mind control to keep the people in.

The most common techniques they use are love bombing, guilt, peer pressure, fatigue and disinhibition to keep them in.

every question, but looking carefully at the content, you notice that what they are saying is not completely logical.

This might seem like an innocent mistake, but H.P. is growing at a tremendous rate. It seems to be absorbing the energy of a great number of people. Today, the Project claims an enrollment of five million worldwide.

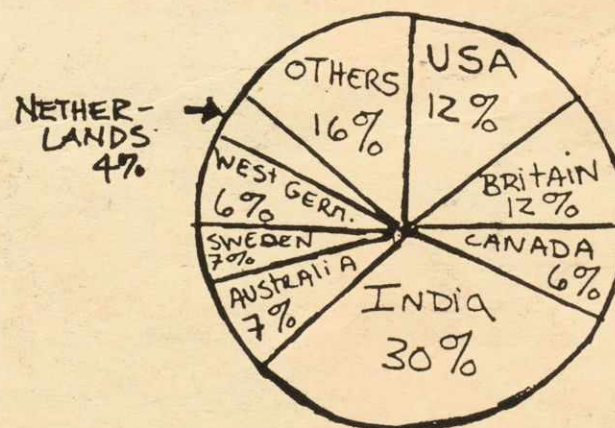
Hunger in the world is a major issue deserving our time and money. We do not need to be wasting these valuable resources on a dead end project.

It’s not that making people aware of hunger is bad, but the methods used are bad and the project is avoiding many important issues that should be considered.

In fact, they try to cover up the political difficulties in an effort to make the solution appear simple.

something about it because they will have the power to influence the government to act.

Their message is simple and direct: World hunger can be abolished by the year 2000 because already we have the technical means available to achieve this.



1985
THE H.P.
ENROLLMENT
BY COUNTRY