

# ONE HELP TO ECONOMIC SANITY

by Aitch Emm

"What isna' sense," wrote Burns, "maun be nonsense." His line being so oft wuoted might indicate a general disdain for nonsense as such. Yet nonsense, as such, is a vital human need. One of Life's seasonings, it is also a safety-valve for tension and, in skilled hands, a deflator of pretense and pomposity. Personally, we enjoy it.

But we do NOT enjoy -- we resent -- having our intelligence, such as it is, insulted by nonsense served up as truth, insight or profundity! Such insulting seems rife mostly in the economics field. There, the public is 'taught' what far, far too often is mere brainwash on schemes, plans and ideas which, wholly out of line with economic truth, can never be part of Economics -- merely Eco-nonsense! . . .

Econonsense, lik any other cancer, tends to spread. Tied to no fixed, natural law premise, its conclusions have no limits save its devotees' imaginations. True; its ideas, when applied, must expose its fallacies eventually. But 'eventually' can be far off and terrific damage can occur in the meantime. To fully realize the fallacies, Man may have to suffer a long series of painful lessons.

One of these already looms ahead: The slave -- or 'welfare' -- state where, in exchange (?) for 'cradle-to-grave' physical needs, one will forego all rights on the emotive, mental and spiritual levels. For, today, Eco-nonsense is influencing people

to regard finance and economics as identical; money as wealth; 'security' as the aim of all living, and any six econom -- God help us! 'Economists'! -- given enough graph-paper, as able to out-wisdom THAT which IS wisdom itself! . . . As such influence spreads, the slave-state comes nearer. If it does arrive, which is by no means unlikely, its horrors and duration will be to exactly what degree eco-nonsense goes unchallenged and unfought, now. So, what can be used to defer, lessen or, with luck, prevent such catastrophe? . . .

We have hinted at ridicule; but that two-edged weapon takes special skill; We could mention use of, and appeals to, Common-sense: That is -- ideas which satisfy, in common, heart, reason and conscience. Instead, we state one elementary but not commonly heeded fact: That to each of us, individually, all knowledge falls into four classes: What we know, what we assume to know; What we merely believe and what of which we are completely ignorant.

To elaborate on these would take too long; but you will find it easy, any time, on any subject, to see from which class you draw which part of any statement you might make. Any difficulty could be in admitting (even to yourself) what you see. We all have a tendency to say 'I know' when we merely assume, believe, opine -- or guess! And the first step against eco-nonsense is to stop, in oneself, that type of thought-nonsense and, at all times, be clear, to ourselves at least, on whether we speak from what we know, what we assume to know, some grade of belief, or from utter ignorance.

Once fixed, that habit would yield benefits. First: You would be immune to all 'brainwashing' -- on anything. That might not be obvious but we think reflection will make it clear. Second! Your own habit would set up a demand for others to be similarly explicit and, in time, even the eco-nonsensers would have to distinguish, at least to themselves and each other, whether they spoke from knowledge, assumption, belief, or mere imagination on the spree! From then on, Eco-nonsense would begin to die.

Easy? . . . Would that it were! It is anything but that! And if you are after any 'glory' for helping restore Sanity, look elsewhere. For, once eco-nonsense had been halted, its former high priests and their sycophants would convince themselves, somehow, and would claim, that they had been cruelly misunderstood and that scientific economics, based upon and aligned to Nature's economic truths, had been taught by them all along, -- and first!

They could be let think so. To the immature, face-saving is so important. That they had reached sanity only by being herded to it; would not really matter. The truly important point would be that they had reached it at all!

What matters right now, however, is: How and when to start the herding? . . . We have tried, here, to at least hint part of a sound reply. ☒

---

"

---