OMNI
NOTES ON GROWTH
June 17, 2016

http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/2016/06/growth-watch.html

Compiled by Dick Bennett for a Culture of Peace, Justice, and ECOLOGY

For more on growth see the many OMNI newsletters on US Capitalism and related topics. http://omnicenter.org/dick-bennetts-peace-justice-and-ecology-newsletters/ And see at end.

Blog:  http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/

That is, Growth is a sub-topic of Capitalism. See Chamber of Commerce.

Contents Growth Watch June 17, 2016
OMNI’s Book Forum June 5, 2016, Klein’s The Changes Everything, Film

Boostering Growth Has No Boundaries
US Chamber of Commerce
Water District (population growing)
Census: Fayetteville and NWA Best in State
To AD-G Easter Sunday Good Day to Drum Up Sales!
   XNA, Whataburger, Cargill, Wall-Mart, U of Arkansas! JB Hunt, Editorial
Progress
Ford’s New F-Series Trucks

Global
Tourism: Disney
Air Travel: Delta
OMNI’s BOOK FORUM June 5, 2016, presented a film based on Klein’s *This Changes Everything*.

Like the book, the film tracks unsustainable growth generated by our capitalistic economic system. “Growth is the modern deity.” The film and much more the book suggests many courses of action our committee might follow, particularly direct action.

No one book (and certainly no single film) can encompass all or even the most significant topics in such an enormously complex subject. For example, Klein has little to say about overpopulation or the militarism-wars-imperialism complex as powerful sources of growth within capitalism.

Part I gives growth boosterism from the AD-G. Part II, emphatically bringing up the rear,
scarcely mentioned in the AD-G: opposition to growth.

BOOSTERING GROWTH

Growth is to our economic system what blood or lungs is to the human body.

OMNI


http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/2014/12/us-chamber-of-commerce-newsletter-2.html

Compiled by Dick Bennett for a Culture of Peace, Justice, and Environmental Care. (#1 March 3, 2013).

(Note: AD-G refers to the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette)

NWA AND ARKANSAS GROWTH, Reports in Chronological Order 2015-16:

BOOSTERISM AND HUCKSTERISM FOR GROWTH

“Water District Updates Plans” by Amye Buckley. NWA Democrat-Gazette (5-17-15).

“The updated plan anticipates the need for a pipeline to supply more water to Fayetteville. . . .” [population!]

CENSUS CONFIRMS FAYETTEVILLE'S REMARKABLE GROWTH, BEST IN STATE >From Maylon Rice 5-26-15. ]

The Northwest Arkansas cities of Fayetteville, Bentonville, Centerton, Goshen and Cave Springs were among the most remarkable growth stories in the most recent year, new U.S. Census Bureau estimates show. . . . (Email 5-26-15)

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2016, the AD-G thinks it a GOOD
DAY TO BEAT THE DRUM FOR GROWTH AND PROGRESS (five of the many examples this one day)

Large ad “FLY XNA”: “Almost 40 Flights a Day to 14 Destinations.” XNA has a new runway and concourse too.

“Second Fayetteville Whataburger Opens.” “The company has grown to more than 790 restaurants in 10 states.” EAT MEAT FAYETTEVILLE, GO USA. See studies OF THE FORESTS CUT DOWN for BEEF AND FUEL CONSUMED for transportation.

Full-page Ad for Cargill (plant in Springdale). “We help people thrive” by “feeding the world in a responsible way, reducing environmental impact, and improving the communities where we live and work.” Whata? Cargill is Increasing meat production for the increasing population while reducing CO2?

“Making Connections: Economic Connections.” Special Section. Praising growth of Wal-Mart of course, University of Arkansas (26,754 Fall 2015 enrollment), JB Hunt Transport Service (467,461 intermodal loads moved, new six-story bldng under construction, year-long advertising logo on No. 9 car during NASCAR Sprint Cup Series), and so on.


Resisting growth is up against one of the USA’s most powerful myths—Progress through growth. It appears everywhere in our blood stream. A local example: “Making Connections,” AD-G (March 27, 2016), 1A. To read the entire article we are told to “See PROGRESS, P. 10A.” There we are regaled with news of NWA’s expanding cities and towns. --D

Regulatory Agencies, one arm bound and mouth partly gagged by the Republicans and Libertarians, struggle to Stop Growth by Curbing Its Effects


Ford spent “six years and…more than $1 billion” in “overhauling the crown jewel of their empire, the F-150” truck. But some versions don’t meet government’s 2016 mandates, and for fuel economy infractions Ford must pay a fine and for greenhouse gas the government us stricter, and “by 2015, the targets will be much more stringent.” Like so many articles in the
smaller and smaller AD-G news reporting, the title does not epitomize the whole. Read the whole article to discover for example that in fact “average greenhouse-gas emissions from new models were six percentage points higher in March than in August 2014 because of low gasoline prices encouraging suv and similar purchases.

GLOBAL GROWTH: USA, THE WORLD

[This section is arranged topically.]

TOURISM: THE WORLD DISNEYIZED

Jon Gambrell, “Dubai Amusement Park to Add Six Flags.” AD-G (March 29, 2016). “A sprawling Dubai amusement park project still under construction plans a $454-million addition to include a Six Flags” (my italics). The park “already includes Bollywood and movie-themed parks, as well as a Legoland.” The cost of the entire project will be “well over $3 billion.” Planned in connection is the Maktoum International Airport at Dubai World Central, “which officials hope someday will handle over 200 million passengers a year, and the 2020 World Expo, or world’s fair. [Tourism travel must be a high priority concern for anybody seeking to reduce growth. Perhaps OMNICCL fee-dividend campaign strikes at the heart of transportation of all kinds. --D]

Paul Traynor and Joe McDonald (AP). “Disneyland Debut in Shanghai.” AD-G (June 17, 2016). Cost: $5.5 billion, shared with Disney’s state-owned Chinese partner, the Shanghai Shendi Group, which owns 57 percent of the park. Revenue should be “as much as $4.5 billion a year.” “Analysts expect Shanghai Disneyland to become the world’s most-visited theme park, attracting at least 15 million guests a year.” [Travel to see Goofy anybody?]

AIR TRAVEL

“Delta Bets on Ocean Flights for Growth.” AD-G (6-17-16).

“You can’t have a big international presence without a big domestic presence, and the international piece makes the domestic piece more profitable,” said a spokesman of MIT’s International Center for Air Transportation. The article’s scope is much larger than Delta, with information about global air travel expansion.
ON THE OTHER HAND

COUNTER-GROWTH (also arranged more by subject matter)

From Fran: My favorite rejoinder to the growth-is-good cheerleaders is, “Growth is the working philosophy of a cancer cell.”


STOP SUBSIDIZING CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

RICHARD MASON, “How to Grow a City.” AD-G (5-24-15, 1H)

“The premise to grow, grow and continue to grow permeates not only Arkansas society but flourishes nationwide. . . . Almost all the chambers of commerce in our state have the same goal: unbridled growth with jobs, jobs, jobs at any cost.” Mason urges cities to stop giving tax money to chambers of commerce to encourage industrial growth and to convert the money to creating a decent place to live, many features of which he specifies. This article is a manifesto for our cities’ Quality of Life. [And it complements parallel contraceptive efforts by family planning organizations to enable people to reduce their family sizes, water use, crowded roads. If you know Richard Mason, invite him to our forums. –D]

WLF vs AIRPLANES

Dear Dick, 3-27-16

... reduce airline emissions!

If global emissions from airplanes remain unchecked, the industry’s CO2 emissions are expected to triple by 2050.

Fighting for a global cap on international aviation emissions would show the world that the US is serious about meeting its commitments to the Paris climate agreement.
Tell others about this important action!

Thank you for your continued support.
Sincerely,
Sara Thomas  ecomments@wwfus.org via mta-poolnonydk.cluster2.convio.net
Manager, Online Advocacy
DEVELOPMENT OF CITIES: LOS ANGELES

“Smog-befouled Los Angeles, the Eden that paved over its garden, is a symbol of the patterns of development that have led to rising seas, intense droughts, and furious storms. The late-1930s decision to euthanize the [Los Angeles] river rather than revive it represents the more general choice that the United States took in the 20th century: growth over sustainability, industry over ecology.” Richard Kreitner, “LA Lost, and Found.”  The Nation (March 28/April 4, 2016).

THE COMMONS CONCEPT AND PRACTICE RESIST UNBRIDLED GROWTH

“The destruction of the commons is fundamental to climate change, and it is integral to the bullying of animals and the bludgeoning of all of nature.” Derber and Magrass, Bully Nation (77).

[PDF] Commons and Growth: The Essential Role of Open Commons in ...

https://lawreview.uchicago.edu/.../12__...

University of Chicago Law Review
by Y Benkler - Cited by 15 - Related articles

question of property versus commons as institutional forms for managing the .... See Yochai Benkler, Growth-Oriented Law for the Networked Information Econ-.

[PDF] Growth, Degrowth, and the Commons - LSE

www.lse.ac.uk/.../Gro...

London School of Economics and Political Science

US Forest Service

AP. “US Deals Blow to Development Plans.” AD-G (March 29, 2016). The U.S. Forest Service stopped a company’s plan to build hundreds of homes, boutiques, and five-star hotels “just outside Grand Canyon National Park.” Environmentalists “said the growth would mar the beauty of the region and stress resources.” [The history of the Forest Service shows generally cooperation with economic exploitation of resources. –Dick]

National Park Service

Jill Rohrbach. “National Parks to Celebrate Sites.” AD-G (March 29, 2016). “This year marks the centennial of the National Park Service with celebrations and special events planned across the U.S. to honor the agency.” Arkansas has 8 Park Service sites, including the Buffalo National River.

(see OMNI Service Newsletters http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/2016/02/service-how-did-you-serve.html)

SCHOLARLY AND SCIENTIFIC REPORTS/BOOKS versus GROWTH in Chronological Order

NO GROWTH DEBATE FORTY YEARS AGO

Recently I looked over a book (acquired at OMNI’s sale of Rev. Dave Hunter’s and Rev. Kerry Mueller’s books given to OMNI) published in 1972 in which the pre-climate change positives and negatives of zero growth are discussed. The book will interest and perhaps assist us, since possibly the same arguments apply today in regard to stopping population growth in order to reduce the harms of climate change.


*The Limits to Growth, 1972*

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

For the entire article go to: search
The Limits to Growth is a 1972 book modeling the consequences of a rapidly growing world population and finite resource supplies, commissioned by the Club of Rome. Its authors were Donella H. Meadows, Dennis L. Meadows, Jørgen Randers, and William W. Behrens III. The book used the World3 model to simulate the consequence of interactions between the Earth's and human systems. The book echoes some of the concerns and predictions of the Reverend Thomas Robert Malthus in An Essay on the Principle of Population (1798).

Five variables were examined in the original model, on the assumptions that exponential growth accurately described their patterns of increase, and that the ability of technology to increase the availability of resources grows only linearly. These variables are: world population, industrialization, pollution, food production and resource depletion. The authors intended to explore the possibility of a sustainable feedback pattern that would be achieved by altering growth trends among the five variables.

The most recent updated version was published on June 1, 2004 by Chelsea Green Publishing Company and Earthscan under the name Limits to Growth: The 30-Year Update. Donnella Meadows, Jørgen Randers, and Dennis Meadows have updated and expanded the original version. They had previously published Beyond the Limits in 1993 as a 20 year update on the original material. [2][3][4]

In 2008 Graham Turner at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) in Australia published a paper called "A Comparison of `The Limits to Growth` with Thirty Years of Reality". [5][6] It examined the past thirty years of reality with the predictions
made in 1972 and found that changes in industrial production, food production and pollution are all in line with the book's predictions of economic and societal collapse in the 21st century. In 2010, Peet, Nørgård, and Ragnarsdóttir called the book a "pioneering report", but said that, "unfortunately the report has been largely dismissed by critics as a doomsday prophecy that has not held up to scrutiny."[8]

For the entire article go to: search

BILL MCKIBBEN, EAARTH (2010)

Pp. 90-97 McKibben praises the Club of Rome and its 1973 book, Limits to Growth. The early ’70s were an optimistic spurt of service to the earth: the first Earth Day, the EPA established, first fuel economy cars, 55-mile per-hour speed limit, Schumacher’s Small Is Beautiful, Pres. Carter’s White House reception for him, Carter’s WH solar panels, and Limits to Growth—transl. into 30 languages and 30 million copies sold. The researchers of this book saw the likelihood of our planet overwhelmed by growth and development. “They foresaw this planet Eaarth [growth and all of its consequences], and if we’d heeded them we might have prevented its birth” (91).


The End of Growth describes what policymakers, communities, and families can do to build a new economy that operates within Earth’s budget of energy and resources. We can thrive during the transition if we set goals that promote human and environmental well-being, rather than continuing to pursue the now-unattainable prize of ever-expanding GDP. [OMNI has a “transition” study group, contact Gladys, Jean.]

Rethinking the Growth Imperative
Kenneth Rogoff, Op-Ed, NationofChange, January 3, 2012: Modern macroeconomics often seems to treat rapid and stable economic growth as the be-all and end-all of policy. That message is echoed in political debates, central-bank boardrooms, and front-page headlines. But does it really make sense to take growth as the main social objective in perpetuity, as economics textbooks implicitly assume? But there might be a problem even deeper than statistical narrowness: the failure of modern growth theory to emphasize adequately that people are fundamentally social creatures.


The first value of the capitalist system is private property.

“The second specific value in capitalist systems is growth.” Regarding the environment, “this means humans dominating and exploiting nonhuman animal species and all of nature.”

“Unlimited growth will foster climate change, at least as growth is conceived today. More and more production means extracting and using more and more finite resources, leading toward more energy use and increased emission of greenhouse gases.”

Solutions: 1) replacing the growth of private commodities by growth of public goods (e.g., education). This is “extremely difficult to accomplish” in the US because “wealth is conceived as created only through private markets.” The US lacks a “robust concept of public goods” and “does not recognize the public goods deficit that is the true deficit in American society.” 2) “growth that is not environmentally destructive, involving neither bludgeoning nor bullying, would require regenerative rather than extractive production processes.”

“Growth, as conceived in the US model, and bullying are closely connected.”

PP. 77-8. –Dick
US CAPITALISM NEWSLETTER #22,  April 2, 2015.


END GROWTH WATCH JUNE 17, 2016

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Dick Bennett

Blog: http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/

For research purposes, specific subjects can be located in the following alphabetized index, and searched on the blog using the search box. The search box is located in the upper left corner of the webpage.

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