

THE NATURAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEM

N E S S

In THE NATURAL, ECONOMIC SYSTEM each individual is given the possibility to obtain the necessities of life for himself and his family through his own, direct work contribution.

In THE NATURAL, SOCIAL SYSTEM each individual is willing to share with others his necessities of life if this should be required, and no one demands free aid except that it be absolutely necessary for his existence.

NESS is a simple economic and social organization in which small groups (200 persons at the most) are organized in such a manner as to make the group self-supporting when it comes to the necessities of life, at the same time as the individual members have possibilities to create incomes through industrial production, handicraft, or some other activity in accordance with the capabilities and interests of the group and the individual.

Such economic systems have been used in many places with good results. The advantages which may be caused by these systems, both from an economic as well as from a social point of view, have not, however, been fully recognized or utilized. The reason for this probably is that sufficient operating capital often has not been available and that coordination of the practical details has not correctly been effectuated.

NESS offers an alternative to both the so-called private-capitalistic system as well as to the Social-Democratic - Communistic system. It ought to be observed that in both of these social systems, the production of the necessities of life, owing to the distribution of the work in principle, as well as in practice as a rule, lies beyond the control of the individual.

This fact is probably one of the fundamental reasons for the economic and political tension which appears to prevail throughout the world.

Within NESS, contrary to this and so far as is possible, there is a guarantee against lack of food products caused by conditions beyond the control of the individual. At the same time, there are possibilities to take advantage of modern technique and modern work distribution with all of their progress when it comes to the production of what may be termed "superfluous products".

By trading with these "superfluous products" or by exchange of "superfluous services" a peaceful contact in a natural manner may be maintained with surrounding areas.

The NESS-idea - with its immediate effect if it is advocated in a suitable manner - may be able to reduce political tension and may then successively and point by point be accomplished with relatively small financial resources. The possibilities for the development of the NESS-idea are practically unlimited.

PRINCIPLES FOR PUTTING NESS INTO PRACTICE

1. In order to finance the NESS system a special, sufficiently large fund should be put at the disposition of an Executive Board.

Private individuals or organizations who own or intend to own agricultural properties and who wish to organize an activity in accordance with the principles of NESS, may be granted loans from the NESS fund against security consisting of the properties mentioned above.

The Executive Board of the NESS fund should be willing to give administrative and technical assistance to the NESS properties as required.

2. The NESS property should be regarded as a natural place in which to live and should not - as is now usually the case - be merely an economic organization for the production of agricultural and forest products for sale.

The social responsibility, which now has to be assumed by the state and by the community, is to be transferred to the NESS property.

Social fees, which at present are paid by the state and by the community and which result in enormous taxes and a riskful concentration of power with danger of misuse of power, could, thus, be avoided.

3. On the NESS property, efforts should be made to support as many persons as possible. The NESS property, however, should be restricted in size so that no more than 200 persons reside on the same property.

As an approximate world average, it may be estimated that a person can obtain all of his necessities of life from two acres of arable land. Thus, it follows that the NESS property, as regards its arable land, ought to consist of no more than 400 acres at the most.

Regarding forest regions, there are no principal reasons for any restriction.

4. Arable land, pastures, and forest region on the NESS property have to be utilized in such a manner as to maintain the natural production

potential or so as to increase the latter considering perpetual continuous operation.

This provision, among other things, is a necessity for sound financing. Regarding the production of food products it is essential to consider that a quality which furthers the health be obtained.

5. The agricultural production on the NESS property should not be specialized. Instead, it ought to be differentiated in accordance with the needs of a varying diet and the need of other necessary products.

Such a differentiated cultivation is at the same time a pre-requisite for the maintaining of a naturally productive and living soil. In so doing, one also is guaranteed that sufficient fertilization of the soil may be accomplished without the use of chemical fertilizers and that use of poisons to overcome plant diseases will not become necessary.

6. Under the assumption that the number of persons who belong to the NESS property is so balanced that neither an excess nor a lack of products produced on the property occurs, and assuming that each individual loyally participates in the agricultural work, one may estimate the time required to operate the property to about 50 working days per year.

Regarding the work in the field, the organization should be similar to a fire-brigade.

7. Those working days (about 250 per year) which are not used for the priority production of necessities of life, should be used for industrial production, handicraft, or some other activity.

Industrial production ought to be highly specialized or consist of the assembling of purchased components into a finished product. In so doing, the purchases could primarily be made from other NESS properties.

One of the most important functions of the NESS FUND ought to be to assist the NESS properties with planning, financing, and sale of this industrial production.