

Dear

I."WWL", (that's yours truly), guesses that by habit, he puts phone Number, address, all but the date, following his typed name at the ending. And it suits him just fine to write in the third person as he ponders how best make the ideas leap off the page into the hearts and minds of his readers. Of course formally, they are not letters, they're 'reports'!

II.Even his diary, relegated long since to being a sort of contents page for the rest of his writing, is sadly neglected. His "EAL Desk", which he and Irene restored "X" years ago, from its role as Library Table for his Mother (*Edith Annie Weekes*) in her Delhi home, has now three panes of heavy plate glass, (salvaged;- store-sized frig door, & 2 Vauxhall rear side windows).

III.Time out, A 'bump' on the patio windows took WWL to check on the 'mob' of birds raiding the 'feederwatch' stations. These are the strips of bare patio concrete, kept free of snow by the house eaves and an old 4'x 8' plywood sheet leaned against prevailing wind.The SNOW all 3 or 4" of it packed by myriad tiny footsteps, is left from a week or so ago. These 1st 2 snowstorms dumped from 4" to 6" each.

IV.Irene had a set of vertical louvre blinds fitted to the west row (12ft) and north (14ft) windows, and just now WWL pulled the north ones across and set them at 45 degrees so the birds can't see through and attempt to fly 'through the house' !!

V.This season three Blue Jays (those with feathers) have deigned to patronize this 'bushouse' station, a 1st. Though Mourning Doves are always around this Bush lot somewhere, this time 14've been counted calmly roosting like chickens on branches, waiting their turn. The 'bump' may have come when all 14 swooped for the feed together, surprising the little birds' flock, (junco tree & song sparrow, chickadee and nuthatch etc) into a 'bomburst' in all directions including the windows.

VI."Hearts and Minds ?" surely they are reached too, with the days even weekes that WWL takes six times a year or more to compose the stacks of literature and notes he stores up from each event attended: into only a 2 (or 6 or 7 plus reprints sometimes) report to each pastoral charge of Erie Presbytery. Once a rep. or cleric asked how long the reports took, and walked away awfully quiet on hearing, "Oh, only 20 or 30 hours!"

VII.Even from the first he was amazed that nearly all of them were picked up. (the ones left are mailed out). There's never any feed back, thrice in this decade there's been a complimentary letter rec'd. It'd be lovely to have something said, say at a Mission C'ttee meeting. Maybe they don't dare or even don't care !! But then why do the stacks of letters disappear, or, now and then from Presbytery 'Court' discussion a 'too' familiar point of view will be hollered out, or, someone rushes up 'where are the letters ?'

VIII.Then when all is at hand, WWL 'lashes out' with and at all and sundry, for the usual hours of word processing and printing. Once composed, 50, (60 used to be too many) photocopies are made, folded and tucked into his Mission Map folder. No wonder WWL's "EAL desk" serves so well to be 'at', (or to be 'beside', now that there's a Computer 'cart' rolled up beside it.

IX.A tiny label says WWL took 10 hrs in October '83 to enlarge the Map of the Freshytery held under clear Mactac protecting the 20x30" hardboard covers of the four full sized bristle board pages. These carry the (48), 6"x10" 'polypockets' each labelled for the pastoral charge, presby secretary, UCW Presbyterial, Five Oaks Learning Ctr, plus "letters from overseas".

X. Then there are hand outs and extras to the Mission Committee members (from whose Meetings, WWL includes 'minutes' in reports for them). After all WWL, as 'Miss Comm Rep' is supposed to include Erie Presby's. "Mission C'ttee", as well as the Caribbean Workers Outreach, reports at Hamilton Conference World Outreach and Economic Justice Meetings etc. How to include it all? Simple, compose one report/letter/commentary/what-have-you, for everybody !! Thus the most recent letter head

REPORTS in\to\from ERIE PRESBYTERY and CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

For the meeting at Caisterville United this 23rd November 1994

XI. No doubt all word processors have this great convenience by which the above letter can be retrieved on "doc 2" of a 'split screen' from which the whole or any part can be copied, certainly not one character at a time, with only a minimum of key strokes. For your interest here's how WWL covered a one time Winnipeg resident, well known to United Church Folk.

XII. "Conference World Outreach notes have the most information, from among the more than the 16 or more 'points' WWL encircled, (After all his fingers 'might' run out of something to talk about !!) Karen Ridd's name comes up. Her well known Ctrl American Experiences, are not career enough, for she writes, "But this IS a project .."

XIII. The Thai Inter-Religious Development, International Network of engaged Buddhists (with a nominee for this years Nobel Peace Prize, Sulak Sivaraksa) would replace the military/commercial rape of the living earth, with old traditions renewed for today's Visions.. In Cambodian, Peace-niks seek to replace armed conflict with grassroot social justice. USA's non-violence activist, George Lakey is a 3rd country while Karen's the 4th, Canada !!

XIV. The Budget of \$2800 covers this itinerary:-
 11-15th Nov, "Training for grassroots villagers in N.E. Thailand."
 27th Nov, "Workshop for Thai Lesbians gays and bisexuals".
 29th Nov-3rd Dec, "Training for Trainers."
 5-9 Dec, "Anti-Nuclear Campaign Building Workshop."
 11-15 Dec, "Training for Cambodian Peace Activists."

XV. Conference World Outreach has contributed \$500 to that budget, since Karen is prepared to "go into debt," regardless, and would depend on her present freelance work to cover costs beyond what the Thailand & Cambodian sponsors will pay at that end. She asks for other sources of funding, beside which any person or group can send:- "Thailand Project" funds to Bathurst Street United Church, 427 Bloor Street West Toronto Ont. M5S1X7. 'They' will send receipts for income tax purposes"

XVI. The following excerpt, might please Jonathon Craig (JCL) over in Japan, teaching 'Canadianese' to whomever is in his classes. This is what WWL could call his "TUT TUT" exposition !!!

XVII. "Because Conference Economic Justice C'ttee, has become inactive, WWL has begun to review the role the name itself implies. Simplistically, take the word Economic, (minus the 's' which gives it a whole set of different meanings), what does a dictionary say.

XVIII. Collins' fourth of five meanings, has it, ".... having concern with, or relating to, the necessities of Life" ; "utilitarian" ??? "Collins" said it has to do with Utilitarianism. and that means ???

XIX. 1. "The Highest Good for the Greatest Number", 2. "The criterion of virtue is utility". (echoes from shop floors, "If it don't work its no damn good!") Tut! Tut! such talk! yet it's the quintessence of a Denomination's Faith !!

XX. OK, OK, next word; Justice, again Collins after the first meaning, "to be Just" are 16 meanings. From these, Conf Eco\Just Committee should flatter themselves with this one, "Conforming to high moral standards: honest".

XXI. WWL wrote out 17 boxed paragraphs of thoughts, but the 16th postulates that, "The name" is the Challenge. The 17th says it needs to be presented as rationale for challenging United Church People to get on with, "nuts and bolts preaching and teaching". Nuts & Bolts ? Sure, that's the true meaning of the Gospel by The "Tut! Tut!" rule above

XXII. His 9th paragraph, "When Conference Economic Justice Committee, accepts 'the challenge' of discovering what needs to be reformed, (go ahead and use the "Tut! Tut!" rule, if you have to), 'that' in itself would uncover the steps of reformation. Agreement on those steps, (nuts & bolts, a building gospel) would avoid endless discussion & mere sounding off !!"

XXIII. According to the Post Office, its too late for parcels to reach Japan before Christmas. But JCL says that neither Sunday nor Christmas are non-working days there. Rather New Years is the Annual Winter celebration. The parcel Irene sent off today (14th Dec) may arrive in time for JCL's New Years weeks holiday (26th Dec - 4th Jan).

XXIV. Writing later (the 19th now), MIL (Irene) & WWL did get the CBC radioworld 'phoned "CD's" order in time for inclusion in a Christmas box for JCL sent off on the 14th, costing rather less than personal delivery of course ! He's in midst of moving to a new address, (of a vacationing friend) after which he may have yet another address as he leaves the "U & I" house provided by his employer. Oddly enough the only address that is most likely to reach him now, is the 'fax number' he sent 'his folks' !! (\$9 a minute).

XXV. WWL's taping radio study programmes for his 'audio library' has the 1000's of hours all indexed in 5 different files for possible reference, to spot re-runs even ten or more years back now. So on the 14th, 'Ideas' 2nd of 3 programs taped in silence the night before, was being heard via head phones as he typed away at this word processed letter that Irene began, as her annual Xmas letter. (for the mere 6 that might get it yet this year from yours truly WWL).

XXVI. He doesn't think much of Harold Innes, that the Ivory Tower world calls a VIP Economic Historian. Born 'way back in 1894 October, his Life's Vision kept him writing until he died (1952 Nov) (pity, only 58). Though that work was post-humously published, 'Empire and Communications', it was a study of how the lost civilizations from Ancient Egypt to the present, learned how to commit suicide, few had Innes historical grasp of the failures in the past, that he would have the present understand, instead of merely repeating them.

XXVII. What drove Innes was his conviction that this present Civilization, is on the verge of extinction, its understanding of its past drowned by the distracting clamour of the media to present the **latest** news before even that latest can be understood.

XXVIII. So Innes saw from such distractions (eg) ; failed community; failed unity; (WWL would include, 'Failure of their societies' domestic economy to support themselves!) the 'suicides' of ancient civilizations. Society's guilty today, for its irresponsible 'mechanized' **ONE WAY** print & broadcast media. Limited as it is, oral communication, is the essence of 'statements answered', **TWO WAY COMMUNICATION** talk-back, the realization that there's no such thing as the 'last word' !!

XXIX. Society praised and lauded Innes into high office and after his short life have esconced him in history, maybe for his 'fur' & 'fish' market histories, and delving into lost civilizations. 'They' had not a clue of what Innes was searching for, 'the lethal cause' common to all 'lost' societies. WWL feels he never would have found it.

XXX. Oddly enough, Jehovah's advice to the Children of Israel in Egypt, is practically the same thing. Even WWL years ago expanded on that truism & taped it under that glass top of his "EAL desk". "Repetition is essential to Cultural Heritage. Even without repetition, there can never be The Last Word on any subject whether people repeat themselves or others !!!"

XXXI. So, while McLuhan admired Innes for his analysis of communications, and Canadian Marxists, for his grasp of the interrelatedness of economics, society and politics, none had answers for even WWL's teenaged questions! (if indeed WWL had ever heard of him way back then!!)

XXXII. "That's just the way it is !" (+ variations, obscurations, evasions), was the "non-answer" that WWL always got. In fact when he finally found a book detailing the work of 106 economists, no less; even Aristotle, & Aquinas, and all the 'Ivory Tower types' choices of more recent years, even John Kenneth Galbraith (*who with his 80 years of living surely has had time enough to find out !!*), had and have the same "non-answers" as above.

XXXIII. So why does WWL include all this in a letter just before Christmas. Simply that its what he's doing and thinking. Its not too far removed from the historical turmoil that marked Jesus life time. The disciples were not drawn to Him by His 'advent' but by the words and deeds of His Lifestyle.

XXXIV. In fact Ideas program tonight (the 19th) seems to be about Christianity as the Salvation of Democracy. WWL would love to find the program non status-quo, because even the most "heavenly minded" Christians can be "of no earthly use" unless they get down to the "nuts and bolts" concept of the Faith. (see page three, 2nd p'g'ph.) He sees that the timer shut it off 15 minutes ago. "head-phoning-it" over a 'supper' (dinner's at six) blendup, seems in order. (PS it was so 'status quo' as to be silly ! humph!) (to be continued)

XXXV. Why do Banks pay interest of savings accounts? (sheer good publicity) Why do consumers and producers and their governments, borrow money? (from sheer "intelligent ignorance" that money always has been created merely out of debt creators concept of potential profit? Furthermore it was "we the people", all round the globe who have legislated permission for them to become "debt creators")

XXXVI. Profits in prices, created for the distribution of goods & services both of which are Free from the Creator, cannot be profits unless they were costless !! That principle of freedom, was created from nothing long before the "Big Bang". Thus when distributed, (the consumer pays for both the costs and profits in purchase prices) goods, services and their prices, fill the purpose for which they are created, and disappear !!

XXXVII. *****