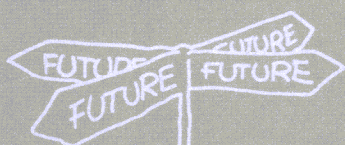


COMMISSION FOR THE FUTURE: A CASE STUDY

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THE COMMISSION FOR THE FUTURE:
A CASE STUDY

by

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The views expressed in this paper are those of the author
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For the Future.

THE COMMISSION FOR THE FUTURE : A CASE STUDY

THE NEED

The National Party Manifesto for the 1975 General Election stated, "A National Government, recognising the need for long-term thinking and planning, will establish a Commission for the Future." The necessity for long term thinking was brought home to the public and government alike by the events of the time. The 1970's brought challenges not faced before by New Zealanders. An increasingly turbulent world undermined our secure economic position. Almost overnight oil-fuelled technologies which had played a large part in New Zealand's development experienced a price revolution. In 1972 oil imports cost New Zealand \$66 million; in 1977 they cost about \$550 million. Our 'standard of living' fell from fourth place in 1960 to twentieth in 1977. At the same time, new technologies were changing the face of New Zealand society and social divisions were increasingly apparent. Considerable effort was being spent in prospecting future options in economic, social and environmental fields to try to reduce uncertainties but these efforts were largely uncoordinated. The need for a more distant look to the future was being recognised (see Appendix A). Indeed, the importance of future studies is even more evident now than it was in 1975, as economic and social difficulties have escalated in the intervening years.

LEGISLATION

Thus, in recognition of the need to create a focus for future studies, the Commission for the Future (CFF) was established by legislation on 1 December 1977. The New Zealand Planning Act 1977 states that the general functions of the Commission shall be:-

- (a) To study the possibilities for the long-term economic and social development of New Zealand.
- (b) To make information on those possibilities available to all members of Parliament, and to publish such information for wider dissemination.
- (c) To promote discussion on those possibilities and information relating to them.
- (d) To report to the Minister on those possibilities.

In carrying out its general functions the commission shall:-

- (a) Give special attention to the long-term implications for New Zealand of new or prospective developments in science and technology; and

- (b) Have regard to prospective trends, policies, and events in New Zealand and overseas which could have important consequences for the country's future.

Members of the Commission, appointed for a three-year term, were to include a Cabinet member, a member of the Opposition, a member of the New Zealand Planning Council, the Director-General of the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research and up to 7 members chosen for their personal ability rather than as representatives of particular interest groups.

The New Zealand Planning Council was established by the same Act, although the two bodies have different roles. The Planning Council is a focal point for consultation about trends, strategic issues and policy options in New Zealand's medium term development. It advises Government on the co-ordination of planning and on choices of priorities in development. The Commission is not a planning body, nor does it have an advisory role to Government. It is concerned with long-term possibilities, a thirty year time frame, and with setting an agenda for public discussion and debate on possible futures for New Zealand.

As far as is known, the CFF is unique in being established and entirely funded by Government, with a statutory responsibility to keep all members of Parliament informed, whilst at the same time having a responsibility to promote and encourage public debate. These twin requirements of research and education have guided the work programme of the Commission throughout its existence.

STAFFING AND FUNDING

It was never envisaged that the Commission would carry out the necessary research entirely within its own organisation. By contracting out research projects it is possible to utilise the expertise available throughout New Zealand. The budget (\$230,000 in 1978/79, \$261,000 in 1980/81) on vote Treasury, was accordingly apportioned between administration (including staff salaries) and project finance.

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The permanent secretariat, a Director and two investigating officers, began work at the beginning of 1978. Part-time professional staff have also been employed both on a temporary and permanent basis. The nature of the work has meant that while staff members have come with their own specialist expertise, they have necessarily had to become generalists. The flow of ideas and debate within the secretariat has been an important factor in the shaping of the Commission's work.

After the first year, Commission members (with the exception of the Chairman) have been progressively less involved in the work of the Commission but have continued to set policy and directions and to monitor the standard and style of publications. The parliamentary members of the Commission have not been regular attenders at CFF meetings - perhaps an indication of the way in which futures thinking tends to take second place to pressing concerns of the present.

The Chairman, although not holding a full-time appointment as such, has continued to have almost daily contact with the secretariat and has been influential in both intellectual and administrative matters. He has also maintained regular contact with the Minister of National Development to whom the Commission reports.

THE FIRST YEAR OF WORK

The first problem the Commission faced was how to begin the hugely complex task of thinking about the future. The first unconscious response to the task was to approach it from within the security of the present. Future changes were not ignored but future studies were seen in terms of problems and issues that were topical.

Ten priority areas of study were identified. Within these areas, issues of importance were defined and within these issues, specific projects requiring study were selected. Research projects were then contracted to specialists.

(See Appendix B)

WORKING PARTIES

In order to achieve as wide a view as possible of research work being done in selected areas of study, and to identify gaps in that research which could lead to possible projects, the CFF set up three working parties. Each had a limited tenure and a specific task. The Technological Working Party was to identify those areas of technology likely to have a significant impact on New Zealand. The Systems and Modelling Working Party was to identify those

areas where systems and modelling are likely to have significant impact on thinking about New Zealand's long-term future and to maintain contact with groups already modelling e.g. the economic model of Professor Philpott at Victoria University. The individual in the Future Working Party was to advise the Commission on the effects of possible new developments on the individual.

The working parties served a useful purpose in focussing on specific issues and the reports produced were important resource papers for the major study of New Zealand in the future world. Overall, however, the working parties were not a success. In some cases the terms of reference were misleading or inadequate. Partly, too, they were overtaken by events as the work of the Commission was directed to its major study. There was not sufficient co-ordination and liaison between the working parties or between them and the Commission; a factor which may have been overcome if the Chairman of each had been a Commission member. Thinking about the future in terms of future studies requires a different approach from that which is necessary for solving immediate problems or even for short term planning. Given the calibre of the working party members, the best use was not made of their potential contributions. However, a number of these people have continued to make valuable contributions to the Commission on a more informal basis.

MAJOR STUDY

The Commission decided that the priority for study in 1978 should be the likely shape of the future world and New Zealand's place in it. This study was designed to bring home to New Zealanders the choices which are available to us, in the belief that each limitation we have can be viewed constructively and used as a way to define opportunities and focus energies, rather than as a constraint upon choices.

International relations, economics, trade, energy resources, agriculture, industry, technology, social services, institutions and lifestyles were examined, looking first at the world scene and then at New Zealand's opportunities and choices. The complex interrelationship of all these aspects was also explored. This integrative approach is an important aspect of CFF work as it can complement the work of single issue departments and agencies and synthesise in-depth studies.

Method

Contributions on specific areas were called for from specialists in the field; from State departments, statutory bodies, universities, professional associations and private enterprise. There were drawbacks in using this method, mainly in gathering material that was sufficiently futures oriented. Therefore the contributions were used as resource material for the secretariat members responsible for writing the report, rather than as direct contributions as was initially envisaged. Some were later published as supporting monographs.

This problem of how best to involve others in the work of the commission has been a continuing one (c.f. the working parties). The CFF has not always been able to successfully communicate its requirements, nor to enable people who are normally deeply involved in immediate matters to 'think futures'. Thus the results from the CFF's point of view have been varied. As for the contributors, some were enthusiastic about the exercise, more were frustrated and questioned the relevance of their involvement and indeed of the CFF.

The study was published in 1979 as a series of three booklets. As an overview study designed to clarify options for future development and to promote public discussion it was generally well received. Radio and television were used quite extensively to involve the public and a study guide and supporting monographs were also published.

Some sections of the public were disappointed that the CFF was not presenting blueprints for development. The Commission had in fact been careful not to do so, but this reaction demonstrates the continuing need to educate the public as to the role of future studies.

CONTEXTS FOR DEVELOPMENT

The Commission is now developing a set of four alternative contexts within which New Zealand could develop. Believing that the best future for New Zealand will result from the expressed desires of well informed New Zealanders, the CFF will present the contexts as an analytical tool. The contexts can be used to help people clarify their opinions, values and aspirations and to match them with resources and forecasts in order to allow consistent sets of decisions to emerge.

Although most New Zealanders are becoming aware of the changes of the last 30 years, we continue to be surprised by their effects on our lives and therefore react to them often hastily and blindly. Some short-term measures are, of course, necessary to alleviate the problems of the present but they do not help to avoid future surprises. To do this our normal reactive approach must be replaced by anticipatory thinking.

One of the few things certain about the future is that it will contain unwelcome surprises. Such things as genetic engineering, nuclear war, global depression, climatic change could dramatically alter our world. Moreover, the full effects of surprises from the immediate past are still to be felt. Unless we examine the assumptions which underlie our personal decision making, we could face a future in which we are incapable of surviving a never ending hail of surprises. People need an analytical tool which allows them to make decisions today; reasonably confident that their decisions can anticipate whatever the future may bring.

Such a tool does not need to predict the future. By definition, the future does not exist and any attempt to anticipate it must be imaginative. However, to imagine just one future is as useless an exercise as trying to predict one. In a time of change many different images are possible. The existence of such images is one reason why conflict about New Zealand's development is so heated. Imagination is a very personal thing. We do not see things as they are; we see them from our point of view. In imagining energy futures, for example, some consider only the resources needed to achieve their objectives. The ends justify the means: New Zealand must become energy self-sufficient. Others may wish to achieve the same objectives, but to them the ends don't justify the means: gas and coal are not sustainable resources; it is wrong to sacrifice long term success to achieve short term goals; therefore we must find other means of becoming energy self-sufficient. This simple example illustrates that different values and perceptions lead to a chain of logic which underlies each image in people's minds. Each chain becomes a context for development. A society which seeks to develop the art of anticipation is one which considers many contexts, before it makes decisions.

Method

The contexts have been prepared by a core group within the secretariat - one full time and four part-time members. The work has involved imaginative and creative thinking combined with quantitative research including the use of computer models.

Although many contexts are possible, four suggested themselves as being particularly appropriate for New Zealand. Not only do they feature in the debates of the world futurist movement, but they have roots in our own past and take account of present opinion. All imagine a changed New Zealand in which either our values or our methods of achieving objectives have been transformed. All are feasible. Each context contains a short development of a 'world view' derived from two fundamental beliefs; one about the nature of relationships between human beings; the other about human relationships with nature. One view of human nature is that humans are individualistic and competitive, another that they are co-operative. One view of relationships with nature is that humans can dominate nature at will; another that they must live in harmony with it.

Each context investigates how a philosophy based on such contrasting values would develop New Zealand. The basic assumptions of the four philosophies are:

- A: Humans are individualistic and competitive and can dominate nature.
- B: Humans are individualistic and competitive but must live in harmony with nature.
- C: Humans are social and co-operative and can dominate nature.
- D: Humans are social and co-operative but must live in harmony with nature.

Each context should be read from the point of view of a person who holds that particular philosophical position, since what seems to be a logical chain based on one philosophy does not always seem logical from another point of view. The question to be answered in each context is "If this philosophy guided the actions of most New Zealanders what kind of future would they have?"

The contexts will be published during 1981 as an aid to clarification of development philosophies, a pre-requisite for informed public discussion of contentious development issues.

POLICY RESEARCH GROUPS (PRG's)

As the overview studies near completion, specific issues raised by the initial phase of work are being analysed in more detail by policy research groups. The two areas presently being studied are communications and future crises. A third group on 'work' is to be established during the year.

The function of the PRG's is to carry out research into policy issues of importance to New Zealand and to offer contributions to the improvement of policy-making on those issues by means of: redefinition of issues, a search for new alternatives, better consideration of the future and a fuller examination of consequences.

Method

In general each PRG consists of one permanent staff co-ordinator and about four consultants chosen for their specialist or generalist expertise in the area to be analysed. A PRG may become semi-permanent, or recallable at a later time.

The CFF Director is responsible for the establishment, overall direction and co-ordination of and between groups. However, the methods and direction of the research carried out remain within the initiative of the research group itself. The method of working in general terms will be to:-

- Identify past, present and future policies and policy making areas.
- Identify by cross-impact analysis, other closely linked policy areas.
- Appraise current policy and machinery in those areas.
- Analyse the future options in relation to current national and international boundaries; New Zealand scenario contexts; future consequences and socio-technological assessment.
- Redefine issues, examine alternatives for the future.
- Produce recommendations for public and institutional dissemination.

It is expected that much information will be selectively drawn from state departments and other institutions, both in New Zealand and overseas.

The output from each group is likely to vary in its format but in each case will be widely disseminated.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Commission takes seriously its statutory obligation to inform the public and promote discussion on future possibilities. It has encouraged genuine two-way communication with the public by providing information and by seeking to discover what goals New Zealanders aspire to.

An effective educational programme needs to be directed both at decision-makers and the public at large since there are social and political dangers inherent in raising the consciousness of one of these groups only. Improved foresight requires more knowledge about the present and the future, and practice in anticipating possible events and a range of responses to them. Traditional beliefs, professional attitudes, customary roles, inherited symbols and sectional interests make it difficult for most people to break away from conventional patterns of thought. The CFF educational programme has aimed at providing tools which people can use to sharpen their perception of the present and improve their ability to anticipate possible futures.

A variety of methods have been used to disseminate information. These include published reports (some written for the general public, others as professional papers for a more specialist audience), television programmes, radio programmes and talk-backs, seminars and public speaking (Appendix C).

As part of the educative process of this public participation programme, the CFF worked closely with the Department of Education, the Ministry of Energy, the Commission for the Environment, and the Joint Centre for Environmental Sciences to produce a futures game for schools. The game had a successful trial in 1978 and is now available in all secondary schools for use in the fourth form social studies curriculum. It has also gone to tertiary education institutions such as community colleges, technical institutes, training colleges, and to overseas groups including the International Energy Agency and the University of the South Pacific which is now producing a Solomon Islands futures game.

The game is about the interaction of population and use of resources (particularly energy) in New Zealand during the next 50 years. It is based on the NZERDC energy scenarios for New Zealand. When students have made their own decisions involving life-style choices and population factors such as family size and immigration, they receive a description of their future New Zealand, which describes what New Zealand would be like if many people made the same sort of decisions.

An evaluation of the game carried out by post has shown it to be a useful introduction to future studies, and further resource material has been distributed to schools. This has included stories about young people in the future, cartoons highlighting future issues, information pamphlets and has suggested tasks and projects simulating future situations.

The Commission has a mailing list of over 600 respondents who are kept informed of the current work of the Commission by newsletter.

At the invitation of the Chairman, specialists in 45 different fields of importance to New Zealand have prepared brief summaries of their view of the present situation, problems and opportunities and prognostications for the future. Some have also used the CFF contexts to determine how different futures may affect developments in their area of interest. These papers will be made available to members of Parliament and disseminated through the press throughout the year.

In a debate about the future, the most enthusiastic participants tend to be those who are seeking change. The Commission has therefore provided a focus for the ideas of many minority groups and individuals who aspire to a future very different from the one which they see developing from present policies. While this has sometimes made the Commission suspect amongst those who support the status quo, it is nevertheless seen by the Commission as a means of encouraging a healthy democracy.

Since 1978, the CFF has conducted a number of investigations into the goals and aspirations of New Zealanders. Different techniques have been used including personal in-depth interviews, a widely distributed kitset for group workshops on goals and a national survey by the National Research Bureau of a randomly selected sample of 2000 people. (See Appendix D). From these investigations have emerged a number of national priorities. However, although the results have been published and made available to all members of Parliament they do not appear to have been influential in determining government policies.

POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Inherent in the strengths of the organisation of the Commission are also its weaknesses. A bi-partisan group closely connected to government, would be expected to be more influential in decision-making than an entirely independent

group. Yet this very closeness causes embarrassment to government when alternative paths for development are suggested.

When options and alternatives for development are presented, some will necessarily differ from present government policy. This would apply whatever government was in power and, in the nature of politics, opposition parties and the media are likely to highlight and make capital from those areas where differences are apparent. This was presumably foreseen when the CFF was set up as a bi-partisan organisation, but having Commission members from both government and opposition has not resolved the dilemma.

The situation has been aggravated when the Commission has become involved in debate on matters of policy which are part of the current political debate, in particular New Zealand's involvement in ANZUS and energy policies. In many areas, policy decisions which are made in the present will have long-term effects. In such cases the Commission has attempted to show the long-term implications of current decisions, together with alternative possibilities. When there is uncertainty, the CFF has emphasised the need to retain flexibility so that future options will not be unnecessarily restricted.

An alternative method of organisation, though in the opinion of the CFF a second best one, could be to have a futures unit within the government planning mechanism, as part of the Planning Council, plus an independent unit or institute of futures studies. Observation of overseas futures groups would seem to indicate, however, that such a separation of functions reduces the impact of futures studies both on governments and on the public.

Many decision-makers, including members of Parliament, have expected to be presented with more 'factual' material such as long-term extrapolations of current trends and quantitative predictions. While futures thinking must be based on the best information available at the time, it is these very 'future facts' which are most often proved to be in error. The CFF has therefore, whilst publicising the results of its research, put equal emphasis on educating people in how to use the information wisely, that is by encouraging anticipatory thinking and planning.

"It is not the task of futurists to predict what people will do in the future, but rather to help people to understand the possibilities of the future so that a better world can be created."

- Edward Cornish, President, the World Future Society.

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THE DOMINION

Incorporating the N.Z. Times

THURSDAY

NOVEMBER 3, 1977

Mapping the future

LABOUR MP Mr David Lange makes an important point when he says we are substituting analysis for action. About the only growth industry over the last few years has been the compilation-of-reports industry. While research is crucial, it is possible to over-research or indeed use the process of collecting facts as an excuse for not starting anything. The delays over upgrading the refinery at Marsden Point, which are costing the country millions of dollars a month, are but one example of this. Yet the process of report-making continues apace in all sectors of government. The latest addition to the ranks is the Commission for the Future, an organisation which is now beginning to put down its executive roots.

The idea behind all these commissions and committees seems always good enough. But something happens to them and they take on a life of their own. The over-rapid expansion of the Accident Compensation Commission is a case in point. There is no really good reason why the work this particular commission does should not be handled by the Department of Social Welfare. Instead we have the unnecessary growth of a bureaucratic machine. The Commission for the Future will have to be careful it does not develop along similar expansionary lines.

There is another reservation about the setting up of a Commission for the Future. Is it possible to look to the year 2000 with any degree of validity? This is a philosophical question that has not been faced up to. Historians differ widely about the past; how much harder it is to be accurate about something that hasn't yet happened? Herein lies the dilemma of futurologists. They do not find out whether they are right or wrong till it is too late to do much to change their responses.

To take a couple of examples: what sort of future for this country would a futurologist have predicted in 1945? Would he have foreseen the massive hike in oil prices that has taken place over the last few years? Would this transformation from cheap energy to expensive energy, for every country in the world, have altered the basis of the 1945 scenario? Just posing these questions gives an indication of how difficult mapping the future can be. Another example: the doyen of futurologists, Herman Kahn, only a few years ago foresaw that by the end of the century Greece would be a wealthier country than the United Kingdom. The development of the North Sea oilfields has demolished this forecast.

If all this is true, it might be asked whether it is a waste of everyone's time and money to continue with the commission. We already have the Holmes Task Force working within a time span of five to 10 years. This sort of time-frame reference seems to be right. It is near enough for a reasonably accurate forecast to be made, while distant enough for new initiatives to be put into place in time. It could be a longer view is needed as well, but so far the case for it, other than promoting it as a "good idea", has not been made.

Can we plan for the year 2000?

IN AN editorial on November 3 about futures and the Commission for the Future, The Dominion performed a useful public service.

The Dominion asked a number of questions, perhaps the most important of which were:

● Is it possible to look to the year 2000 with any degree of validity? and

● Is it a waste of time and money to continue with the Commission for the Future?

These questions require answers.

If "to look to 2000 with any degree of validity" means "is it possible to predict the timing of those events which we would expect would interest us in that period", the answer is clearly no.

The problem here, however, is that there is a fundamental misunderstanding as to what futurists are trying to do.

Futurists do not claim to know what lies ahead and they are not trying to predict. They are not prophets.

● Two objects

For most researchers the future field has two main objects:

● To provide estimates of future possibilities, and

● To help society generally to recognise the longer-term (over 10 years) prospects and the potential for

change at the period up to which the futurist is trying to

By SAM PENTECOST

describe, for example, what is likely, if present trends continue; and to show society the range of feasible alternative futures from which we may, if we so wish, choose.

"There is a vast difference between letting changes occur and choosing the changes we actually want," de Jouvenal observed.

The futurist can help in the formulation of goals, and by describing the cost benefits of the various alternatives.

● Not sufficient

The editorial also argued that because Sir Frank Holmes's New Zealand Planning Council is studying the period 5-10 years ahead there is no need for the Commission for the Future.

The editorial assumes that it is sufficient to look ahead only 5-10 years. The fact is quite simply that it is not.

As the EEC's Europe Plus Thirty Report has stressed — "if decisions or actions taken now or in the near future can produce important consequences in the long term, the forecasts for a correspondingly long period are useful."

New Zealand needs 10-15 year forecasts if it is to be able to develop a coherent system of goals and strategies.

The Maiden committee's research team found it necessary to consider the period

up to 2025. But energy planning in New Zealand is hampered by the lack of other long-term sectorial forecasts, let alone a clear indication of the goals of New Zealanders and this country's most likely futures.

As well as energy, urban and rural development, transport and education all involve major infrastructural investment, with consequences that can continue well over the 50-year mark.

Recent work in systems theory — a field in which the Commission for the Future is sponsoring New Zealand-related research — has demonstrated that complex systems often react to short and medium-term policies in the direction opposite to their long-term response.

A small nation like New Zealand needs, in fact, to pay particular attention to long-term planning, not only at home but also abroad.

In the face of dire necessity we are at present attempting to shift our trading partners on to a more sound base.

● Focal point

But if we do not study as closely as possible the long-term goals, aspirations, and plans of our major present and potential trading partners, how are we to decide that what we produce they will want to buy?

Can we really afford to look only 5-10 years ahead?

The Planning Council and the Commission for the Future have distinctly different sets of functions. It would not be sound administrative practice to have one body combining both roles.

The Planning Council advises the Government on the co-ordination of planning and on choices of priorities for development.

It serves as a focal point for consultation about trends, strategic issues and policy options for New Zealand's medium-term development.

The commission is less closely linked to the Government. It is not a planning agency.

The commission can best be seen as a look-out organisation and advisory body.

● Key task

It will among other things, monitor short and medium term planning to ensure that the long-term consequences are fully understood.

Exploration of possible alternative futures will be one of its key tasks, and it is charged with encouraging widespread public debate about them.

The Planning Council and the commission complement each other. Communication and co-operation between them will be strengthened by the Government's recognition of their complementarity, by the presence of Dr Robin Irvine (Vice Chancellor of Otago University) on the boards of both bodies, and by the planned co-location of both organisations' secretariats.

AGREED AND COMMISSIONED WORK

(These projects relate to C.F.F. focus and interests, but some have to be commissioned independently by other agencies. These are marked with an asterisk.)

<u>Area</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Respondent</u>	<u>Action</u>
1. New Zealand in the World Society	1.1	New Zealand in the world in the year 2000	P. Rankin	Report presented
	1.2	Modelling		Systems and Modelling Working Party
	1.3	N.Z. Alternative Futures	D. Cappon	Report requested
2. Economic Growth	2.1	The possible place of N.Z. in the prospective world food market around the year 2000	E. Ojala	This relates to 2.2 Project Commissioned
	*2.2	Economic and social implications of alternative strategies of land-use, with special reference to production, in New Zealand	New Zealand Club of Rome	This relates closely to Projects 2.1, 2.3 and 2.4
	*2.3	Biological and physical constraints to food production in New Zealand and their implications for a population policy	Joint Centre for Environmental Sciences at Lincoln College	Administered by P.S. Corbet under a D.S.I.R. contract beginning in 1977
	*2.4	Energy costs of crop production in New Zealand	Joint Centre for Environmental Sciences at Lincoln College	Administered by P.S. Corbet under a contract from the New Zealand Energy Research and Development Committee; begun in 1975
	2.5	The shape of world trade in the year 2000 and the place of N.Z. in it	Manufacturers' Federation	Manufacturers' Federation approached.

AGREED AND COMMISSIONED WORK (cont.)

<u>Area</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Respondent</u>	<u>Action</u>
3. Technological Development	3.1	The effects of new technology on New Zealand		Technology Working Party to consider
4. Distribution of Wealth				
5. Population	5.1	Population: Current issues and state of research	J. Johnston	Report presented
6. Distribution of Functions and Power within New Zealand				Planning Council to consider
7. The Individual in Society				I.S. Working Party to consider
8. Human Relations	8.1	Attitudes and N.Z.'s future		D. Pitt to review literature, discuss with overseas workers and report to C.F.F.
9. Natural Resources	9.1	Major options in land use	D. Lands, D. Works, C. Environment	Study approved in principle
	9.2	Shortage of minerals and their relations to markets in the year 2000	Mineral Resources Council	Invitation to study
10. Energy	10.1	Household energy conservation strategies	P. Phillips	Project funded by N.Z.E.R.D.C.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

SOME EXAMPLES OF CFF INVOLVEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

The following is a select list of groups with whom the CFF has communicated since late 1977. Listings fall under three major headings:

1. Talking TO the public.
2. Receiving ideas FROM the public.
3. Co-operating with others on Participation Projects.

Numerous informal contacts with nearly all government departments and universities have not been listed.

1. TALKING TO THE PUBLIC

1.1 MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CONFERENCES, SEMINARS OR COURSES

- * ANZAAS (Major Symposium)
- * Auckland Anglican Clergy Conference, 1980
- * Auckland University, Engineering Faculty, General Studies (five lectures) 1980
- * CFF Forecasting Seminar
- * Christchurch Teachers College, Division A Course Evaluation
- * Expo 1979 (Hawkes Bay Year of our Future)
- * International Relations Committee, Churches of New Zealand
- * Kelloggs Young Farmers Course, 1980
- * Land Use Advisory Council Seminars
- * New Zealand Federation of Parent-Teachers Association, 1980 Conference
- * New Zealand Federation of Young Farmers Clubs, 1989 Conference
- * New Zealand Institute of Engineers, Conference 1979
- * New Zealand Medical Students Association, 1980 Conference
- * New Zealand National Physics Conference, 1980
- * New Zealand Nutrition Society, 1980 Conference
- * New Zealand Values Party Energy and Employment Seminar
- * Nutritech 1978
- * Rotaract District 993 Conference 1979
- * Rotary International, Conference 1980
- * Rotary Leisure Time Seminar
- * RNZEME Annual Conference, 1980
- * Scion Conference, 1980
- * Seminar on Public Participation, 1979
- * Towards Rural Equality of Citizenship Seminar
- * UNESCO Seminar on Social Indicators, 1978
- * WEA (Wellington) Summer School, 1978/79
- * Women in Public Office Seminar, November 1979

1.2 SPECIFIC, "ONE-OFF" SPEECHES AND TALKS TO:

- * Amity Club of New Zealand
- * ANZAAS Agriculture Symposium
- * Aroha Trust
- * Association for the Study of Childhood
- * Association of Home Science Alumnae
- * British Trade Association of New Zealand
- * Canterbury Employers Association
- * Canterbury Engineering School
- *
- * Catholic Seminary at Greenmeadows
- * Catholic Pastoral Centre
- * Consumer Council
- * Dairy Manufacturers Association
- * Education Administrative Society
- * Environmental Studies, Auckland University
- * Family Life Education Council
- * Federated Farmers (Waikato)
- * Federation of University Women
- * Guidance Councillors, Massey University
- * Hutt Valley Primary Principals Association
- * Home Science Alumnae
- * IBM
- * Institute of Surveyors
- * Interchurch Council on Public Affairs
- * Jaycees, Wellington Region
- * Joint Committee of Bank Officers Union and FOL
- * Lions Clubs (Upper Hutt, Hutt Valley, Waikanae)
- * Maori Womens Welfare League
- * Massey University Counsellors Course
- * Motor Vehicle Dealers Institute
- * Micro Computer Society
- * National Advisory Council on Employment of Women
- * National Council of Women (Hutt Valley, New Plymouth, Wellington)
- * National Farmers Union
- * National Party (Auckland Young Nationals)
- * New Zealand Catchment Association
- * New Zealand Geographical Society (Canterbury)
- * New Zealand Institute of Architects
- * New Zealand Institute of Engineers (Christchurch, Wanganui)
- * New Zealand Institute of International Affairs

- * New Zealand Institute of Management
- * New Zealand Interchurch Council on Public Affairs
- * New Zealand Retailers Federation Annual Conference
- * New Zealand Society of Accountants
- * Palmerston North City Council Public Meeting
- * Parent Teachers Associations (Hutt Valley Memorial, St Patricks College, Wellington Girls College, Stratford High School)
- * Presbyterian Futures Group
- * Productivity Centres (Whangarei, Auckland, Wellington, Timaru)
- * Rotary Clubs (Tawa, Hutt, Petone, Otaki, Wellington)
- * Rotary Youth Leadership Awardees
- * St Albans Progressive Society
- * St Andrews Church Congregation, Wellington
- * School Pupils (Tawa College, St Patricks College, St Marys College, Heretaunga College)
- * Social Credit Political League Annual Conference 1978
- * Soroptimist International of New Zealand
- * South Auckland Principals Association
- * South Pacific Hotel and Catering Institute
- * Taranaki Clean Sea Action Group
- * Tree Crops Association
- * UNESCO, New Zealand Commission for
- * University of Auckland Town Planning Students Association
- * Urban Training Centre for Christian Ministry (Inc)
- * Wellington Area Secondary Principals Association
- * Wellington Junior Chamber of Commerce
- * Wellington Social Studies Association
- * Wellington Polytechnic Staff
- * Values Party Annual Conference, 1978
- * Victoria University Students Association

1.3 PUBLISHED MATERIAL

1.31 Staff Work Published by the Commission

J.F. Duncan (et al), Some Economic Implications of Social Change
In New Zealand

Interfutures: Summary and Comments

M. Hunn, CFF Newsletter, (three have been published to date)

G.F. Preddey, Futurewatch

Occasional Papers

1. Oil Markets, Liquid Fuel
2. Carbon Dioxide - Climate Problems
3. Fast Track Self-Sufficiency

N. Zepke (with J. Robinson), Goals of New Zealanders

M. Harpham Towards a Communications and Information Policy for NZ

New Zealand in the Future World series

1. D.M. Hunt, Resources and Technology - Sustainability
2. N. Zepke, Societies in Change - A Question of Scale
3. A. Parker, International Relations - Opportunities

1.32 CFF Sponsored Publications

- P.J. Rankin, New Zealand in World Society: Towards the Year 2000
Report on the Commissions Seminar on Forecasting Techniques(1977)
Submission to the Royal Commission on Nuclear Power(1977)
Report on the First Year of Work(1977)
A Programme of Future Studies
Annual Report to Parliament(1978/79/80)
- D. Pitt, Social Processes in New Zealand's Future - The Relevance of European Models(1978)
- W.R. Williams, The Electronic Age(1979)
 Technological Working Party and DSIR(1979), Future Technology
- J. Stephen Hoadley(1979), Improving New Zealand's Democracy
- W.L. Renwick(1979), Towards the Year 2000 in Education
- J.L. Robinson(1979), Some Visions of the Future World
Trends into the Future
- Graeme Scott, New Zealand Futures Game
- E.M. Ojala(1980), New Zealand in the Future World Food Economy

1.33 Staff Work Published by Outside Journals, Agencies and Publishers

- J.F. Duncan, Redeployment of the Workforce Consequent on the Introduction of the Microprocessor, Victoria University Chemistry Department, Report no.20
- "Newnham Lecture", New Zealand Engineering, (34,9) 15 September 1979
- M. Harpham, "A Futures Perspective on the Womens Movement in New Zealand", The 1980 Papers, Committee on Women, Wellington 1980
- "A Communications and Information Policy for New Zealand", International Review, November/December 1980
- "The Status of Women - Will Recent Improvements Continue?" Employment Survey, National Council of Women, January 1980
- "Evolution of a Network Nation 1980-2010", in M. Harpham, P. Wilkins, N. Zepke, Pictures of the Future, Mallinson-Rendell Publishers 1980
- D.M. Hunt, "Employment Patterns for the Future" Employment AUSA (Inc.)
 "Creating Alternative Futures for New Zealand"
Canterbury Environmental Journal, Vol.4, No.1 February 1979
- "New Zealand's Future: Where Does it Lie?"
New Zealand Environment, 24 (Winter 1979) pp. 22-24
- "New Zealand's Energy Futures", Automation and Control, 10 May 1979
- "Farming and Forestry in New Zealand's Future"
New Zealand Agricultural Science

- R.F. Ryan, "A Nuclear Free South Pacific", New Zealand International Review, March 1980
- P. Wilkins, "A Commission for the What?", Habitat Australia
 "Apocalypse 1989", in M. Harpham, P. Wilkins, N. Zepke,
Pictures of the Future, Mallinson-Rendel Publishers 1980
- N. Zepke, Hawkes Bay Profile, Year of our Future Programme,
 Hawkes Bay Community College, 1978
- "Towards 2000", National Education, December 1979,
 February 1980
- "Visions of the Future: Identifying Some Aspirations of
 New Zealanders", in G. Bryant (ed), New Zealand 2001,
 Cassell New Zealand 1980
- "New Zealand's Economic Development", Environmental
 Perspectives, Environment Groups, Auckland University, 1980
- "The Events of 2004 had a Profound Effect on New Zealand",
Listener, May 3 1980
- "The Transformation Era"
 "People Come First"
 "The Path We Tread ..."
 in M. Harpham, P. Wilkins, N. Zepke, Pictures of the Future,
 Mallinson-Rendell Publishers, 1980
- "Educational Directions for 2000", Occasional Paper No.17,
 Christchurch Teachers College, 1980
- "The Family in the Future", Parents Centre Bulletin,
 November 1980

2. RECEIVING IDEAS FROM THE PUBLIC

2.1 GOALS OF NEW ZEALANDERS PROGRAMME

2.11 SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED THROUGH ORGANISATIONS

- *Aestheticians Society, Auckland
- * Baradene College
- * Christchurch Diocesan Pastoral Council, Social Issues Subcommittee
- * Committee on Women
- * Hamilton Council of Churches, Womens Committee
- * Hamilton Teachers College, Year Two History Students
- * International Confederation of Christian Family Movements,
 Christchurch
- * Joint Centre for Environmental Studies, Graduate Students,
 Christchurch
- * Mensa, Wellington
- * Methodist Churches (New Lynn(four submissions), Riccarton, Mt Roskill)
- * Methodist International Affairs Committee
- * Ministry of Cultural Integrity, Invincibility and World Harmony,
 (Transcendental Meditation), Wellington
- * Moral Re-armament Association, Wellington
- * National Council of Women (Christchurch, Auckland, Wairarapa,
 South Canterbury, Hutt Valley)

- * New Zealand Association of Social Workers, Hawkes Bay Branch
- * New Zealand Clothing Institute, Auckland Branch
- * New Zealand Federation of Parent Centres, Hamilton
- * New Zealand Federation of University Women (Auckland, Wellington, Waikato, Hutt Valley (three submissions))
- * New Zealand Society for the Intellectually Handicapped
- * New Zealand Student Christian Movement, General Committee
- * Society of Friends (Quakers), Public Questions Committee
- * Student Teachers Association of New Zealand
- * St Marys College
- * Upper Hutt College
- * Workers Educational Association, Wider Horizons Programme, Wellington (two submissions)

2.12 SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED FROM GROUPS WHOSE MEMBERS WERE NOT AFFILIATED TO ANY ORGANISATION - Names of Conveners

- * H. Barr, Hamilton
- * I.C. Blair, Blenheim¹
- * J.R. Caughley, Christchurch²
- * M.J. Donald, Hamilton¹
- * B. Hager, Levin¹
- * A.H. Kirton, Hamilton²
- * E. Laan, Glen Eden, Auckland
- * H.A. Nation, Waipawa
- * D.F.G. Orwin, Christchurch²
- * L. Ritchie, Whangarei²
- * S. Rind, Christchurch²
- * J.T. Salmon, Waikanae²
- * D. Small, Christchurch
- * L. Tauroa, Hawera
- * R. Tattersfield, Auckland
- * Towntalk Seminar, Oamaru

Notes: 1. Contacted through New Zealand Values Party
2. Contacted through New Zealand Association of Scientists

2.13 108 ANONYMOUS CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CFF'S PUBLICATION

Peter Phillips author, A Question of Priorities, CFF 1979

2.14 SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED FROM MEETINGS AT

- * Omahu Marae (Napier)
- * Taihoa Marae (Wairoa)
- * Ahuriri Maori Committee (Napier)
- * Aotea Marae (Dannevirke)

2.15 SURVEY RESPONSES FROM NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN EMPLOYMENT SURVEY

2.2 RADIO INVOLVEMENT

- * Radio I (Auckland)
- * Radio New Zealand Commercial Network (Talkbacks)
 - Whangarei
 - Hamilton
 - Gisborne
 - Wanganui
 - Rotorua
 - Masterton
 - Wellington
 - Nelson
 - Blenheim
 - Christchurch
 - Westport
 - Timaru
- * Radio New Zealand Concert Programme, The Way We Are
- * Radio New Zealand National Programme, Morning Report
Midday Report
Viewpoint
- * Radio Pacific (Auckland)
- * Radio Windy (Wellington)

2.3 LETTERS

Letters arrive at the rate of about twenty per week. A peak of forty per week has been reached after the publication of each booklet.

The CFF corresponds with many organisations. These include:

- * Building Institute Advisory Council
- * Committee on Women
- * Communications Advisory Council
- * CORSO
- * Databank
- * Development Finance Corporation
- * ECO
- * Fishing Industry Board
- * Friends of the Earth
- * Human Rights Commission
- * Institute of International Affairs
- * Insurance Council of New Zealand
- * Japan Advisory Committee
- * Joint Centre for Environmental Science
- * Liquid Fuels Trust Board
- * Mobil Oil
- * National Commission for UNESCO
- * National Council of Churches
- * National Council of Women
- * National Housing Commission
- * National Research Advisory Council

- * National Research Bureau
- * New Zealand Council for Educational Research
- * New Zealand Ecological Society
- * New Zealand Educational Institute
- * New Zealand Energy Research and Development Council
- * New Zealand Maori Council
- * New Zealand Medical Association
- * New Zealand Planning Council
- * New Zealand Steel Limited
- * Overseas Development Committee
- * Philips Electrical Industries
- * Price Waterhouse & Company
- * Qell Arts Council
- * Real Estate Institute
- * Womens Electoral Lobby

3. WORKING CO-OPERATIVELY WITH OTHERS

3.1 SPECIFIC PROJECTS

- * Hawkes Bay Year of our Future (with Hawkes Bay Community College and Commission for the Environment)
- * New Zealand in the Future World (with research workers in governmental departments, universities and private enterprise)
- * National Council of Women (with Employment Survey)
- * Consumer Institute (CFI Technological Investigator acts as referee for Consumer magazine)
- * Schools Futures Game (with Department of Education, Ministry of Energy, Commission for the Environment, Joint Centre for Environmental Studies)

3.2 AUDIO-VISUAL MEDIA

- * An audio-visual slide sound presentation (with Radio New Zealand)
- * Newspaper version of Futures Game (with Otago Daily Times)
- * Television Films (with TV1 and 2) Titles include
 - Chance for Change (TV2)
 - Eyewitness (TV2)
 - Futures Choice (three programmes) (TV1)
 - Now the Chips are Down (TV2)
 - Paths to the Future (TV2)
 - Trial Run (TV1)
 - Work: Public Enemy Number One (TV2)
 - Video Dispatch (TV1)

3.3 ONGOING CO-OPERATION

- * BP NZ Limited
- * Community Training Resource Unit
- * Computer Society
- * Development Finance Corporation (Forestry, Tourism, Small Business projects)
- * Environmental Defence Society Scenario Team
- * Federated Farmers of New Zealand Inc
- * ICI NZ Limited
- * National Youth Council
- * New Zealand Energy Research and Development Committee
- * New Zealand Institute of Management
- * New Zealand Manufacturers Federation
- * Philips Electrical Industries (Science Fair)
- * Rural Development Seminars (e.g. Eketahuna, Rangitikei)
- * Science Fairs (Blenheim, Kaitaia, Wellington)
- * Shell - BP - Todd
- * Tu Tangata Polynesia
- * Waikato Social Studies Association (resource material for future studies)
- * WEA Courses (Wellington, Canterbury, Hutt)

International and other nation agencies
co-operated with on exchange of information and liaison basis

<u>Australia</u>	Department of Science and the Environment Australian Resources and Environmental Assessment Model
<u>USA</u>	Worldwatch East-West Center, Honolulu Stanford Research Institute World Future Society Resources for the Future Inc Brookings Institute The Rand Corporation Center for Futures Research
<u>UK</u>	The Open University Turning Point Ashridge Management College Science Policy Research Unit
<u>Canada</u>	National Research Council of Canada
<u>International</u>	United Nations Organisations World Future Studies Federation Club of Rome Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs Planetary Citizens Institute of Cultural Affairs Independent Bureau for International Development Issues International Institute for Environment and Society
<u>Sweden</u>	Secretariat for Futures Studies
<u>Israel</u>	Policy Analysis and Planning, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
<u>Germany</u>	Wetenschappelijke Raad Von Het Regeungsbelaid Gesellschaft fur Zukunftsfragen e. V.
<u>France</u>	Association Internationale Futuribles International Energy Agency DATAR
<u>Denmark</u>	Danish Committee on Futures Studies Medie Uddannelsen
<u>Holland</u>	Dutch Scientific Council for Government Policy
<u>Austria</u>	Co-ordination Centre for Research and Documentation International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Social Sciences
<u>Belgium</u>	Commission of European Communities
<u>Switzerland</u>	UN Research Institute for Social Development

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Choices for the future becoming defined

THE POINTS in common of the latest release by the Commission for the Future and Labour's policy plank on regional development will give New Zealanders more food for serious thought than all the petty political manoeuvring of the past decade.

All at once, it seems, the divergent pathways ahead are coming into focus and the distance to the point of decision is pictured as disturbingly short. That the survey by the Commission for the Future is clearly in the terms of its brief non-political, can and must be accepted. Not to grant that Mr Rowling has considerable concern for the future of his country would not only be ungenerous but totally misguided. So the first essay at trying to discover what direction the community seriously wishes for its future, the work of Mr B D Murphy, senior lecturer in economics on behalf of Auckland University and presented by the Commission, must be looked at carefully. And so must last night's release of Labour's economic strategy team insofar as it signposts the path the party hopes to be allowed to take.

It must be seldom that a nation, already aware of threats and uncertainties that are largely not of its own making, has been presented with such a basically simple choice and given just on a year to examine its own wishes and conscience, to endeavour to judge wisely on behalf of the next generation, and to determine whether its efforts and aspirations shall be directed into one path or another.

It is no easy choice. In the minds of most of us there is probably a vision of the future as we would like to see it. But in what proportions would we favour the scenario of the young, vigorous, technically adept Kiwi walking on equal terms with the giants of technology through his intelligent use of the new skills of a new energy age; or of the quietly-contented country, out of the mainstream, living an unruffled existence in an unspoiled environment?

Mr Murphy took a randomly-selected base of 2000 New Zealanders aged 15 and upwards in 19 main urban areas plus the surrounding rural area of each. He sought a choice of four hypothetical views of New Zealand society in which there were (1) strong emphasis in growth of economic living standards and no emphasis on the growth in social-environmental standards; (2) moderate economic emphasis and limited social-environmental emphasis; (3) limited economic growth emphasis and moderate growth socially-environmentally; and (4) no emphasis on growth in economic living standards and strong emphasis on growth in social-environmental living standards. Perhaps predictably, and perhaps influenced by the hard-to-assess compulsion of some to answer pollsters with the kind of an-

swer people think is wanted, the choice showed as the middle line, a little of both.

Though the chairman of the Commission, Professor Duncan, hopes that the survey should be regarded as an input to research and further thinking, and not to make an impact on the political scene, the coincidence of its publication just 24 hours before Labour launched the second of its major policy releases assured that its contents, perhaps in many cases misunderstood or misapplied, will become political ammunition.

What is to be hoped is that both statements will become the subject of deep thought by the country as a whole, even if the decisions based on that thinking must be expressed politically if the voice of the many is to be combined in a single decision. And it is a sobering thought that this is a matter where the decision, involving where to apply uncounted billions of dollars, can sensibly be taken just once.

One of the early reactions to the survey, with the greatest of respect to the integrity and expertise of Mr Murphy, is whether the sample of perhaps 100 people in each of 19 areas is enough to use on its own for a major decision, and of course that was in no way intended.

The four main centres, for instance, roughly supported both extremes of the option, views one and four; but Wellington alone stood out in view three; the Maori opted out of the economic race and plumped for social and environmental standards; and both the bigger earners and the more highly educated leaned more to economic progress than social advance.

Which is not to say all the people in these samples were correctly assessing what the country needs. There could be more than a thought that the groupings spelled a confidence that, given an economic advantage, one could buy or travel to the social or environmental ideals.

Mr Rowling follows his "small is beautiful" star without overlooking the need for economic growth and export development, so it would be unfair to associate Labour policy too closely with the fact that the people surveyed for the Commission can be said to have shunned the "fast track" of development. In place of giant schemes he proposes a spread of resources and development regionally on a basis that will give particular assistance to areas at present deemed disadvantaged.

The difference in outlook shown by the survey, Labour's employment aims and planned spread of opportunity, and the present Government's exciting "think big" philosophy must now be considered long and hard. Somewhere in it all is the pattern of the future, and soon will come the time to stand up and be counted.