CARROLL LOUIS WILSON
MC 29 BOX 54 F 2054

Advertisement, 1972

OK

A SEMINAR ON

STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

The publication of Limits of Growth* has stimulated world-wide debate at all levels in national and international institutions. The substantiative issues raised by Limits of Growth have received little attention, however, in formal studies of possible future directions for society. Such urgent issues which deserve attention are:

- What exactly is an "equilibrium" or "steady-state" society?
- How can wasteful consumption be reduced in a post-industrial society?
- How is the transition to "dynamic equilibrium" brought about, politically and economically?
- What value structures and motivations does a "steady-state" society imply or require?
- What are the economic issues involved in a stable population, full employment, scarce resource allocation, and the allocation of public goods?
- What are the educational needs to bring about the transition and what are the goals and characteristics of education in an equilibrium society?
- What historical examples of "steady-state" societies exist and how are they relevant to a modern post-industrial society?

It is the purpose of the M.I.T. seminar to deal with the issues of an equilibrium society in an imaginative and creative way, and to make a significant contribution to the literature on the possibilities for a modern equilibrium society.

The M.I.T. seminar to be held weekly will continue through the full academic year. It will be limited to about 15 participants with preference being given to graduate students at M.I.T. and Harvard. A requirement will be demonstrated ability to write. Each term the participants will be expected to write a major paper on some aspect of the subject. This will require original work because the literature is so sparse. It is hoped that the best papers may be published together in a book in mid 1973. It is possible that a 2-3 week summer project in 1973 may be organized to bring together a number of the

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* By Meadows, Randers, Behrens, Universe Press, paperback, $2.95, 1972, available now in 9 languages.

seminar participants and others to make an assessment of the state of knowledge and the programs of research and experimentation which are needed--in the manner in which the SCEP and SMIC studies were made at Williamstown and Stockholm in 1970 and 1971.

Details are as follows:

- Grad. A - 9 units

Subject - 15.963 (Special Studies in Management)

Title - Strategies for Sustainable Growth

Time - Wednesdays 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

First meeting Wednesday, 13 September. It will be assumed that those attending will have read "LIMITS OF GROWTH."

Place - Sloan Building, 50 Memorial Drive, Room 52-365

Eligibility - Preference given to graduate students from M.I.T. and Harvard. Total number about 15.

Professor - Carroll L. Wilson

- Room E40-214, Telephone 253-1573

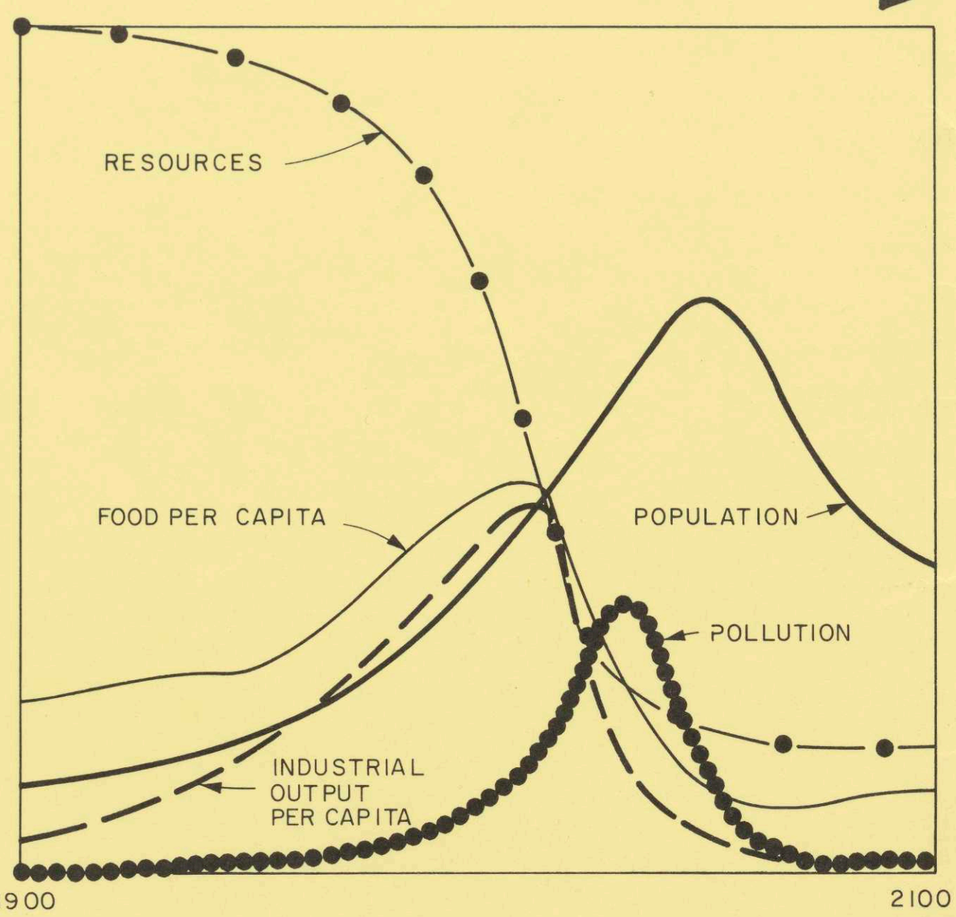
(relevant CV attached)

Information Relevant to Seminar on Sustainable Growth

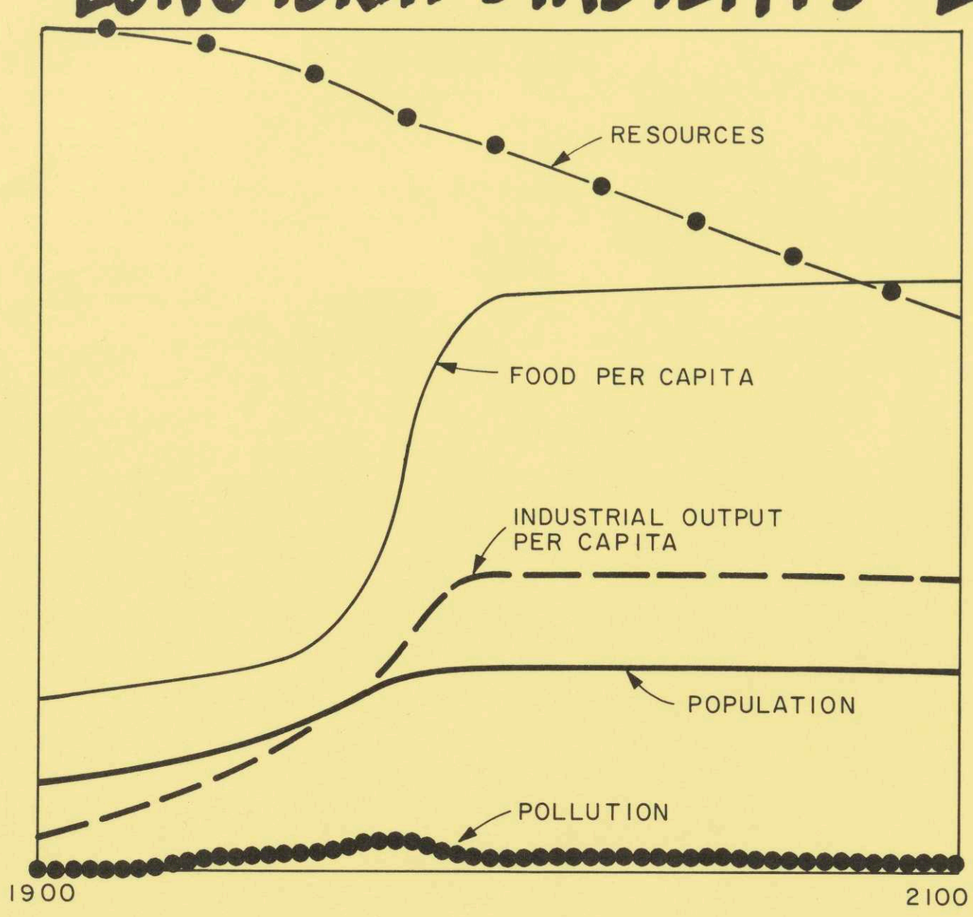
Concerning Carroll L. Wilson

- Professor, Sloan School of Management
- System Dynamics Steering Committee
- Club of Rome Executive Committee
- Senior Advisor to the Secretary General, U.N. Conference on the Human Environment
- Director
    - Study of Critical Environmental Problems (SCEP) 1970 - M.I.T. Press Paperback, October 1970
    - Study of Man's Impact on Climate (SMIC) - M.I.T. Press Paperback, September 1971
- Chairman, World Peace Foundation
- Chairman, International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (Nairobi)
- United Nations Advisory Committee on the Application of Science and Technology 1964-71
- Director - M.I.T. Fellows in Africa and Colombia Programs 1960-67
- Formerly in mining and manufacturing and General Manager, U.S. Atomic Energy Commission

IF THIS IS WHERE PRESENT SOCIETAL POLICIES WILL LEAD!



THEN HOW CAN WE START PLANNING OUR ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE LONG-TERM STABILITY?



Seminar for '72-'73 INNOVATIVE THINKING
Strategies for Sustainable Growth

A DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE STRATEGIES WHICH COULD BE USED IN PLANNING SIGNIFICANT SOCIETAL REORIENTATION FROM A STATE OF UNMANAGED GROWTH TO A STATE OF DYNAMIC EQUILIBRIUM

The principal conditions of a stable society—one that can be sustained indefinitely while giving optimum satisfaction to its members—are: (1) minimum disruption of ecological processes; (2) maximum conservation of materials and energy—or an economy of stock rather than flow; (3) a population in which recruitment equals loss; and (4) a social system in which the individual can enjoy, rather than feel restricted by, the first three conditions. From "Blueprint"

The principal defect of the industrial way of life with its ethos of expansion is that it is not sustainable. Its termination within the lifetime of someone born today is inevitable—unless it continues to be sustained for a while longer by an entrenched minority at the cost of imposing great suffering on the rest of mankind. We can be certain, however, that sooner or later it will end (only the precise time and circumstances are in doubt), and that it will do so in one of two ways: either against our will, in a succession of famines, epidemics, social crises and wars; or because we want it to—because we wish to create a society which will not impose hardship and cruelty upon our children—in a succession of thoughtful, humane and measured changes. From "Blueprint"

THE CURRENT SITUATION

---The graphs above illustrate one interpretation of how the "world system", as we know it, is reacting to our present values as they are expressed by the policies we practice as a society, and we are offered a set of alternatives to change these policies.
---No one individual or group is responsible for the world, and few of us ever think on such a large scale. But modern civilization is having an impact on many parts of Spaceship Earth.
---More and bigger are not always better, and in order to get more and bigger we recklessly strive to maximize short-term benefits at a growing risk to our long-term survival.
---Humanistic cultural values are far more enduring than resource-wasteful status symbols, and are in harmony with the commons.
---If we have an obligation to ourselves and those who follow us, we have an obligation to determine what kinds of growth are harmful and must be adjusted in order to maximize our chances for a dynamic and challenging global equilibrium.

THE CHALLENGE

It is time that we do serious creative thinking about how mankind can reach a dynamic equilibrium with his environment and himself.
How can we act to restore our environmental "commons", and then keep it intact?
And as we do this, what are the realistic implications of a world which is in transition from unmanaged growth to dynamic equilibrium—

—ethically? **—socially?** **—politically?**
—institutionally? **—agriculturally?** **—industrially?**
—technologically? **—culturally?**

THE RESPONSE

- A SEMINAR CONTINUING THROUGH THE ACADEMIC YEAR 1972-73 (15.965 in fall semester)
- PARTICIPATION LIMITED TO ABOUT 15 WITH PREFERENCE FROM MIT AND HARVARD
- TIME — 3:00 to 5:00 PM WEDNESDAYS
- PLACE — ROOM 52-365, SLOAN BUILDING, 50 MEMORIAL DRIVE
- PROFESSOR — CARROLL L. WILSON