

On Privacy, Overpopulation and Technology

Draft Letter to the Editor of the Saturday Review

Ted Kaczynski

1970(?)

I have read the articles on privacy in the April 17 issue of the Saturday Review and it seems to me that they all suffer from the same fault: They view the [crossed out] as an isolated problem rather than as an inevitable outcome of the kind of society we live in. They seem to assume that the problem has been created by [crossed out] and that it can be solved by passing a few laws and establishing “safeguards”. This out-of-date approach fails to recognize that the [crossed out] and individual liberty is a result of the fundamental changes in our society that are being brought about by overpopulation, by an [crossed out], and most of all, by technological “progress”. It is naive to imagine that the truly godlike powers that technology will put into human hands within the next few-decades [crossed out] will not be used [crossed out] for surveillance and manipulation of individuals — all “for the good of society”, of course.

There is no-hope of *permanently* arresting the erosion of privacy and liberty unless we attack the root causes involved. We must take vigorous measures to reverse the growth of our population and, most important, we must bring scientific progress in many areas to a halt by ceasing to provide research funds. If this can be done, there will be a realistic possibility of stopping the increase in the complexity of our social organization [crossed out] that actually makes *necessary* the [crossed out]. We will be sacrificing some of the materialstic benefits of technology, but there just isn’t any other way. [crossed out: We can’t just eat our cake and have it too.]

Maybe you think my views are extreme. Okay. Wait thirty years and we’ll see. But by then, of course, it will be too late to do anything about it.

7-137

018-030

I have read the articles on privacy in the April 17 issue of the Saturday Review and it seems to me that ~~articles in the April 17 issue of the Saturday Review~~ they all suffer from the same fault: They view the ~~problem~~ as an isolated problem rather than as an inevitable outcome of the kind of society we live in. They seem to ~~assume~~ that the problem has been created by ~~some gods and goddesses~~ and that it can be solved by passing a few laws and establishing "safeguards". This out-of-date approach fails to recognize that the ~~loss of privacy~~ ¹³² and individual liberty is a ¹⁰⁰ result of the fundamental changes in our society that are being brought about by overpopulation, by an ~~increasingly complex social organization~~, and, most of all, by technological "progress". It is naive to imagine that the truly godlike powers that technology will put into human hands within the next few decades & computers with ~~superhuman intellectual capacities, control over human thought, etc.~~ will not be used ~~to manipulate and watch over~~ for surveillance and manipulation of individuals — all "for the good of society", of course.

There is no hope of permanently arresting the erosion of privacy and liberty unless we attack the root causes involved. We must take vigorous

measures to reverse the growth of our population and, more important, we must bring scientific progress in many areas to a halt by ceasing to provide research funds. If this can be done, there will be a realistic possibility of stopping the increase in the complexity of our social organization ~~and that~~ ^{that} actually makes necessary the ~~massive pouring of funds~~ ¹³⁰⁰. We will be sacrificing some of the materialistic benefits of technology, but there just isn't any other way ~~that we can eat our cake and have it too.~~

Maybe you think my views are extreme. Oka Wait thirty years and well see. But by then, of course, it will be ³⁰⁰ too late to do anything about it. ³⁰⁸

The Ted K Archive

Ted Kaczynski
On Privacy, Overpopulation and Technology
Draft Letter to the Editor of the Saturday Review
1970(?)

<<https://harbor.klnpa.org/california/islandora/object/cali%3A1002>> [now dead]
“Appears to be Teds’ draft of an editorial response to an article on privacy featured
in Saturday Review.”

This letter draft contains the crossed-out phrase “We can’t just eat our cake and have it too” which is a rarely used phrase that was also found in Ted’s manifesto. So, it was an important moment in the FBI attempt to make a text comparison of the ‘T’ (Ted) Documents and the ‘U’ (Unabom) documents. It was then mentioned as an important point in FBI agent Terry Turchie’s Affidavit in support of a search warrant on Ted Kaczynski’s cabin.

The letter was found in Ted’s mother Wanda’s home by his brother David, a few months after David’s wife Linda Patrick raised her suspicions that Ted may be the Unabomber.

www.thetedkarchive.com