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# State Should Plan for 'Eco-Spasm'

A NEW word for your inflation vocabulary is "eco-spasm." it was coined by Alvin Toffler, author of the book "Future Shock."

Eco-spasm refers to what is happening right now. That, Toffler says, is an economic shakeup in the midst of an ecological crisis, technological and political upsets, and revolutionary changes in family structure, values, sexual attitudes, military and geopolitical power balances.

With all of that, it is a wonder we don't have something worse. We may have yet, because it appears we are not even headed toward workable solutions to our problems.

The popular remedy is to send delegations to Washington to ask for new laws, federal hand-outs, new guidelines, new bureaus to administer them, and more controls.

Toffler says that these things won't work, and that we must turn toward "new, anti-bureaucratic forms of organization," including a new ecological consciousness and a decline of the nation-state. A lot of people would agree with that goal.

His reasoning is based upon the observation that in a superindustrial society, the economy and the society itself are extremely heterogeneous, broken into constantly changing mini-economies, mini-cultures, and mini-markets.

Folks can live quite well in a small town, but people can live only in parts of large cities. In order to exist, they carve out routes including no more than home, employment, shopping centers, schools, churches, entertainment and selected friends.

We have just about reached that stage of complexity with our country. Government has grown so large that segments of the population are

grabbing for whatever they need or want, often with no regard for the rest of the country.

Most of these demands involve money, but Toffler says every time we try to fix something with economics alone, we make matters worse.

"A single, nationwide dose of credit or tax relief—or the reverse—is like giving adrenalin or barbituates to every patient in the hospital, regardless of whether he has a broken leg, a heart attack, brain tumor, or hypertrophic gastritis," Toffler said.

The alternative that he suggests for centralized national economic planning is "anticipatory democracy," which turns out to be a fancy name for planning our future in our

own backyards.

Iowa, Washington and Hawaii have started doing this. For example, an organization called "Hawaii 2000," composed of housewives, students, doctors, truck drivers, business people and teachers, are deciding what they want Hawaii to be like in the year 2000. Hawaiians know better than Washington bureaucrats what that state needs and wants.

As the Sooner State, Oklahoma ought to try to get a job like this done — sooner! The centennial of "The Run" comes up in 1989, just 14 years away. It wouldn't be a bad idea to get something started to calm down our own eco-spasm now. It will be better than waiting for Washington to plan it all for us.