

## Editorial

by Nora Hamerman

# An evil omen

Any schoolboy knows that it has been a longtime favorite pastime of the British oligarchy to study the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire... as a *model*. And therefore it is of great importance, not only for any remaining American patriots who understand why the American War of Independence was fought, but for our international friends who know the British imperial method first-hand, to take note of the fact that ancient Roman superstitious practices are being revived on the Capitol Hill of Washington, D.C.

When the Roman priests examined the entrails of birds and animals to determine their auguries, the activity was called "haruspicating." These days, when U.S. congressmen and senators gather—as they frequently do—for meetings of the Congressional Clearinghouse for the Future, they are urged by their discussion leader to "haruspicate." Instead of entrails, they are told to "haruspicate with science fiction."

And for several hours they intently analyze the prophecies of Hal Clement, Ray Bradbury, and Isaac Asimov. Asimov assures them that "if science fiction is the literature of escape, it escapes to reality."

The Clearinghouse was founded four years ago—and is now directed by—Ann Cheatham, a member of the Club of Rome—the organization dedicated to promoting zero growth. Cofounder of the group was Alvin Toffler, author of two diatribes against scientific progress, *Future Shock* and *The Third Wave*. A frequent speaker at Clearinghouse meetings, Toffler recently demanded on national television that such advanced programs as the U.S. space effort be cancelled because "What right do advanced countries have to have technology not available to Third World countries?"

Close to 200 senators and representatives are

members of the Clearinghouse, which includes on its advisory committee Rep. Henry Reuss of Wisconsin. The Clearinghouse shapes congressional thinking through seminars, dinners and discussion groups, and publishes two newsletters on Capitol Hill. They are now getting up an institute to do in-depth research.

The Clearinghouse brainwashes congressmen on behalf of the perspectives of the Club of Rome. Speakers at their meetings bombard participants with talk of mind-body awareness, new consciousness, and changing lifestyles. Last month Marilyn Ferguson, author of *The Aquarian Conspiracy*, briefed the group on why their new states of consciousness will make them victims of the conspiracy.

As a recent Clearinghouse newsletter reported, one meeting discussed how "the world transition and transformation from abundance to scarcity is global and more than ever before, the inhabitants of the earth must share its wealth. ... It is probable that the problems are manageable with an exceptional exercise of will." And to make sure that this zero-growth outlook prevails, against the explicit mandate of the U.S. Constitution for progress, we have learned that the Clearinghouse plans to campaign to do away with the outmoded U.S. Constitution.

Perhaps some *EIR* readers are disgusted by this little operation to subordinate the American Republic to the Club of Rome. We suggest you ask Rep. Albert Gore, Democrat of Tennessee what he intends by chairing such a body. Or find out if your congressman attends its meetings. Or, if you are not American, you would do well to brief your government on the fact that if U.S. congressional actions don't seem sane, the cause may be "haruspication."