

## INNOVATIVE THINKING IS THE CONNECTION TO THE FUTURE

There would seem to be two related, deep seated reasons for intellectual apathy. One might be called the step ladder effect in the acceptance of new ideas. Suppose our present understanding of the world about us is thought of as one of the rungs of the ladder. When something new comes along which is just a step or two above this rung, it is not difficult for us to make the small transition upward. But let something come along which is many rungs above our present level of understanding, then the human mind rebels at the transition, the jump to the higher rung is just too great. That would be like asking the best minds of Galileo's day too seriously consider nuclear energy

Asking us today to accept the illusive presents and pursuit of even a higher form of intelligence is asking us to jump to a precariously higher rung on the ladder. It is not a matter of lack of evidence. It is a lack of the kind of tangible evidence our present position on the ladder demands. Lacking this type of evidence it is dismissed as inadmissible on the present playing field of science.

A second reason for intellectual apathy is the fear of the unknown our minds feel safe and comfortable on the lower rung of the ladder. Let us not be disturbed from our cozy, comfortable intellectual position. Let us not think about things, deep down disturb and frighten us. The power the human mind to close its doors to the unwanted, unknown and the fear of the "two strange" has been attested to all through history, especially in the history of science.

To carry the analogy of the ladder and our resistance to improvable facts a step further, how many of our grandparents would have embraced the idea that within their own lifetime's men would walk on the moon? Yet our astronauts landed July 20, 1969 and by means of television that was beamed into our living rooms called it "One giant leap for mankind." Man also once clung to the lower rungs of the ladder and persisted in believing the earth was not only flat, but also the center of the universe.

Knowledge and sources are accumulating so fast that the future emphasis will be not so exclusively individuals who have stored information in their own minds, but also persons who know how to find what is available. Reliance thus will be more and more on using the fantastic new communication technologies to produce answers and information references.

This trend will mean a mark shift in people's behavioral patterns and educational experience. There will be much less emphasis on knowing a great deal yourself and much greater emphasis on knowing how to structure logical, efficient search for information, using the latest technological aids.