Assignment for Tuesday, October 12, 1999

[This class will be conducted by Bjorn Chambless.]

A. Read:  Inquiring Systems articles [Available at Smart Copy -- next to Hot Lips Pitza.]]


To be written and turned in: preparation of your choice to serve as basis for class dialogue on the five different ISs described and discussed in the readings.

Note: The focus topic for this assignment is inquiring systems, not technological forecasting -- the latter is just the context within which the focus topic was presented.

Also, read Hall, Metasystems Methodology, Chapter 4, and prepare a Cognitive Map for this chapter, BUT, the class dialogue will focus on correspondences between Hall’s topics: Systems Approach, and the Scientific Method, and the different Inquiring Systems of Churchman.

B. We will do an in-class “mini debate” on the issue of

   How best to investigate the large-scale replacement of transportation by communication in society?

The class will break up into 5 sub-groups, each to advocate a particular position based on one of the methods of inquiry studied for this class. Please think about such a context as background preparation for the debate activity.
Assignment for Thursday, October 14, 1999

[This class will be conducted by Prof. Harold Linstone.]

A. Read/study Linstone: Chapter 4.

[This and Chapter 5 are intended as a reinforcement of ideas.]

Prepare a Cognitive Map for Linstone Chapter 4, to be handed in.

As you will note, the authors have organized their presentations according to the specific topics under discussion, and within each one, present T, O & P aspects. For your Cognitive Map sections 3 + 4, I suggest that you use T, O & P as 3 separate headings, and accumulate appropriate information from each of the topic areas within these headings. You might also include a 4th heading in this section, to include items you want to include, but don't naturally fall under the T, O or P heading.

B. Read/study Linstone: Chapter 5.

Prepare a Cognitive Map for Linstone Chapter 5, to be handed in.

[Same note as for Linstone Chapter 4.]

NOTE: Dr. Linstone is not familiar with the LTD format -- so it would likely best to be as flexible as possible. Consider Dr. Linstone as a great resource on the Multiple Perspectives material, and think up questions and lines of dialogue that will make the best of this rare opportunity to interact with the “inventor” of a topic area.

Remember, the objective of the class participation is to learn the most you possibly can about the subject topic, taking maximal opportunity of whatever resources come your way.