

Individuals, who want to run society in the same way that they run their factories and armies. But now, instead of having to worry about personnel incentive programmes, for any or fly individuals whose brains would remain entirely untouched. On their orders, however, everyone else would have varying numbers of electrodes implanted in his or her skull and brain, and so on, they need only push buttons and transmit the appropriate stimuli to achieve every general, manager's, president's, premier's dream of the efficient society. These Electrogearchs might comprise, say, forty or fifty individuals whose brains would remain entirely untouched. On their orders, however, everyone else would have varying numbers of electrodes implanted in his or her skull and brain, and so on, they need only push buttons

to comprise to per cent of the population with fully implanted electrodes each. Remotely programmed and controlled by the Electrogearchs, they would exhibit unwavering allegiance to their masters'. The Electrons, however, would be society's most creative components. The Electrogearchs would be clever enough, in a corporate way, to give the Electrons their heads – at least to the extent that they could still come up with innovations and discoveries with which to enrich society, such as it would. The Electrons would be drawn from the society's reserve of scientists, economists, scholars, poets and other thinkers. They would not be so controlled that they could no longer experience unhappiness or some of the other emotions that often goad individuals on to do creative things. But their potential for hostility and rebellion would be considerably reduced. And, of course, like all the members of the Electrohierarchy, they would be programmed to 'forget' that they had been partially robotised.

Electrons might occupy the next rung down the ladder, posturing comprising 30 per cent of the population. Each would possess some two hundred embedded electrodes. These individuals would make up the white-collar support contingent. The Positions would help put the theories, plans and protocols of the Electrons into practice. They would be less imaginative and less intelligent than the Electrons, hence more closely controlled and regimented. They would be characterised by dedication driven by the desire to implement the goals set by the Electrons. Emotionally, they would be wholly positive.

thinkers. Enthusiastic components of the Electrons, the more they accomplished, the more pleasure they would receive electrically. They would possess none of the Electrons' negativity, but they would maintain minimal personal control, only to make them more pliable. On their orders, they would have to make frequent contact with the Electrons with whom they would have to make frequent contact.

At the lowest level would come the Electrons, 60 per cent of the population, with five hundred electrodes each. These would be the blue-collar people, the factory workers, the soldiers, secretaries, bus drivers, all those

involved in menial tasks. They would be

isolated in temples, if

they would have to make frequent contact.

They would in fact be completely lobotomised, so that they

could die dutifully all day and night, with no need

to eat, drink, sleep or mate.

The Electrons, the generalised computer of sufficient

complexity and sophistication to effect such a system is

possible, implementation would still remain a major obstacle.

It would almost certainly be a mistake, however,

to assume that the

Electrons are bound to become less and less 'foreign' and repugnant. And to push the campaign along, our Electrogearchs might offer a number of incentives, perhaps even cash 'rewards'. Possibly the implant programme could be ballooned into a master of instant security so that

electrical to participate would call one's attention, inno-

vement, and whether they were in danger or engaging in

youngster, and whether that turns out to be in a

antisocial behaviour, whatever that turns out to be in a

fully computerised society. Very possibly, Big Brothers of

order, police in some areas may soon be equipped with

two-way radios installed in their helmets, through which

they can instantaneously tap into a centralised computer that

keeps in its continuously updated memory detailed dossier

on every criminal and criminal suspect in the country.

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