it requires great restraint"

(Continued from page 6)

Furthermore, we did something else, inadvertently, and didn't do much to cause the farmer, or anyone else, to take care of the displaced worker. 

In Japan, you can't be fired.

was just sent to the city. That social cost was borne by somebody else, it wasn't borne by the farmer. It was borne by the individual worker and the rest of the society.

I don't mean to imply that exactly the same techniques work in some other area. One of the important aspects of introduction of change, either of new products which displaces other products, or new techniques that displace other techniques, is that people are displaced. That is, you lose your job, because the plant becomes obsolete; either to help re-train you, or to take care of the displaced worker. He can't be fired.

Holloman says our wealth came before our R&D.

Yes. Both Sweden and Germany, for example, have national programs to aid the re-training and movement of displaced workers. The programs are substantially different, but of course they are smaller countries.

Germany, though imports workers so the situation is even better where you have a growing economy, and a demand for more and more workers. Their rate of growth has been much higher than ours for several decades.

In Japan, you can't be fired. It's a social value in their society. You go to work in a large company in Japan, and you have a job for life. Here's a highly competitive society, and if you look that kind of stand in the US, people would think you were some kind of fool. The essential value structure there is that the company is paternalistic, and you work for them for life.

Their growth rate is 10%, ours is 2%.

Sure, we have pressure to grow [in this country]. It's clear technology, getting a larger share of the market, or increasing volume increases profitability. But the pressure to keep those workers working is nowhere near as great as in Japan.

What is big industry in the US? The biggest single factor in the American economy, I think, is the construction industry. Something a little less than 20% of the industrial output of the US. I don't think anybody would claim that advances in construction technique depend very markedly on advanced research and development carried on today.

In what kind of industry hard is it to do R&D for? [Nature of the industry is such that] it is difficult to both support the R&D and it is difficult to use the results of new technology.

First, it is a local industry. In house building, for example, there are very few firms, like three or four, that build more than fifteen of 10,000 units. So, they can't get economies of scale.

Secondly, it is an industry that has great fluctuations, from year to year, and season to season. There is great resistance to change on the part of the labor element in the industry, because they clearly, as you and I would want to protect their jobs against yearly economic or industrial fluctuations.

Thirdly, there are a wide variety of housing and building codes to protect local interests; sometimes to protect the people, sometimes to protect the profession, and sometimes to protect the people.

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