

# A possible (future) organization of city life

*Cities in the future are envisioned as "too crowded", with the root cause identified in the synchronous commuting time-tables of citizens. A proposal to profoundly change these time-tables is illustrated.*

*Huge benefits would ensue in the utilization of the available resources.*

## PROPOSAL CONTENTS

"8-day week", capable of largely increasing the usage of urban and suburban structures.

The basic idea is to work 10 hours/day for 4 weekdays and then to enjoy a 4 day rest. Weekdays and holidays would be attributed to citizens in groups: respectively for *small, medium* and *large* urban centers, citizens would be divided into 2, 4 or 8 different groups, which work or rest displaced in time by 4, 2 or 1 *only* day from one another.

The practical implementation would entail significant advantages, with the possibility for a *larger utilization of the available resources, without any significant investment:*

- Working time would last 40 hours in 8 days, instead of 7. And commuting would happen 4 days out of 8 instead of 5 days out of 7;
- Activities and services would work uninterruptedly. Plants and offices would work 70 hours, instead of 40, in 7 days (employing twice as much personnel);
- The daily commuting load on urban and suburban roads, underground and trains would be halved, with the "holiday" users using the same resources in different ways and with different time-tables;
- The holiday resources, as beaches, ski fields, hotels and restaurants would be used 7 days out of 7 instead of only 2 days, and by half as much clients at the same time;
- The roads to reach the holiday resorts would be used 7 days out of 7 in *both* directions and not 1 day only out of 7 in *either* direction; the number of users would be reduced by 8 times (for the largest cities);
- The basic rest time would last twice than the present week-end; 4 days off would be enough to enjoy a 12 day vacation; 4+4 days off would allow a 20 day vacation;
- If the 10 hour working period starts in echelons between 8 and 10 a.m., there would be time to access urgent services before or after work; the weekly bulk shopping might use the first or last of the 4 holidays of each citizen group, thereby avoiding the traditional overload of the-same-Saturday-for-everybody;
- With 10 hour daytime work, the night shifts could last 8½ and 7 hours only, with less stress and a useful shift overlap of half an hour. The daytime shift might be 07.00-17.00, with night shifts 16.30-01.00 and 00.30-07.30 (useful to further displace in time the commuting load in the morning and in the evening).

*Nothing, except tradition, prevents the implementation of the idea.*



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