

## PRACTICABLE SOCIALISM ESSAYS ON SOCIAL REFORM

though not as deep as coma. She'd probably lie limp and unresponsive until late morning..But first things had to come first. It was time to begin mobilizing the potential allies he had been quietly sounding out and cultivating for the three years since the last decisions. He replaced the Korean porcelain carefully in its recess among the bookshelves and walked through the lounge to the patio, where Celia was sitting in a recliner with a portable compad on her lap, composing a note to one of her friends..The other two followed his gaze to a Chironian wearing coveralls and a green hat with a red feather in it, painting the lower part of a wall of one of the houses. Near him was a machine on legs, a clutter of containers, valves, and tubes at one end, bristling with drills, saws, and miscellaneous attachments at the other. A ground vehicle with a multisectioned extensible arm supporting a work platform was parked in front; and from a few yards to one side of the painter, a paint-smeared robot, looking very much like an inexperienced apprentice, watched him studiously. The Chironian was as old as any that Colman had seen, with a brown, weathered face, but what intrigued Colman even more was the house itself, which was built after the pattern of dwellings on Earth a hundred years earlier--constructed from real wood, and coated with paint. It was not the first such anachronism that he had seen in. Franklin, where designs three centuries old coexisted quite happily alongside maglev ears and genetically modified plants, but he hadn't had an opportunity to stop and study one before.,PAUL LECHAT, ONE Of the two Congressional members representing the Maryland residential module on the Floor of Representatives, which formed a second house and counterbalanced the Directorate, had a reputation as a moderate on most of the issues debated in the last few years of the voyage. Although not a scientist, he was a keen advocate of scientific progress as the only means likely to alleviate the perennial troubles that had bedeviled mankind's history, and an admirer of scientific method, the proven efficacy of which, he felt, held greater potential for exploitation within his own profession than tradition had made customary. He attempted therefore always to define his terminology clearly, to accumulate his facts objectively; to evaluate their implications impartially, and to test his evaluations unambiguously. He found as a consequence that he saw eye-to-eye with every lobbyist up to a point, empathized with every special-interest to a certain degree, sympathized with every minority to a limited extent, and agreed with every faction with some reservations. He was wary of rationalizings, cautious of extrapolatings, suspicious of generalizings, and 'skeptical at dogmatizings. He responded to reason and logic rather than passion and emotion, kept an open mind on controversies, based his opinions on the strictly relevant, and reconsidered them readily if confronted by new information. The result was that he had few friends in high places and no strong supporters..The major met his eye firmly. "My duty is to carry out my orders to the best of my ability," he replied, avoiding a direct answer. His tone said that he regretted the circumstances as much as anybody, but he couldn't compromise.."I never said they'd do anything," the robot replied. "I just said that people telling them wouldn't bother them."."Nothing," Juanita said. "But why would they? Who'd take any notice of them?""My guys will junk it. He better have a bus pass for backup."."Surely one of the men will make at least a halfhearted attempt to search for the five bucks..even any response whatsoever..impatiens.."We've only seen Franklin," Pernak replied. "There's a whole planet out there."."Where was she institutionalized?".clashes between two SUVs, frantic to get out of sight before the FBI agents, the hunters in cowboy.one of them echoed back in memory. The girl had asked if Micky believed in life after death, and when.to flush the wounds with antiseptics. Then, Sinsemilla might feel differently about seeing a.armchair, he woke with guilt reborn, his sense of injustice not worn away by dreamless rest but."I'm not so sure I agree," Swyley said, which meant that he did..Curtis Hammond and his parents were killed less than twenty-four hours ago. If by now the Colorado.Perhaps the trucker has just now remembered a particularly funny joke. His unrestrained hilarity is.Chapter 23.Veronica nodded her head quickly a couple of times. "She's not hurt or anything like that, but she's in a lot, of trouble. She's gotten herself mixed up with Sterm, and she can't make a move without being watched. She could be in real danger, Steve. She has to get away from there."..halting again, and Curtis uses this distraction to open the bedroom door a crack. The lever-action handle."And I am on early duty tomorrow," Colman said. He grinned again, and she smiled back impishly, "So why are we still here?" they asked together..herself, and honest enough to admit to the shame, though dishonest enough to try to avoid facing up to."Aha" Merrick seemed more satisfied. "I certainly don't want my name going on record associated with something like this." His statement said as clearly as anything could that Fallows wouldn't do much for his future prospects by allowing his own name to go into such a record either. Merrick screwed his face up as if. he were experiencing a sour taste. "Low-echelon rabble trying to rise above themselves. We've got to keep them in; their places, you know, Fallows. That was what went wrong with the Old Order. It let them climb too high, and they took over. And what happened? They dragged it down-civilization. Do you want to see that happen again?""Well, hello, Sergeant," she s. aid huskily. "I was beginning to wonder if I had a deserter. Now, I wonder what could be on your mind at this time of night."..Jean looked away as she heard the front door open. A few seconds later Jay arrived. He had a brand-new-looking backpack slung across one shoulder end was carrying a framed painting of an icy, mountainous landscape with a background of stormy sky under one arm. His expression was vaguely perplexed..Usually, she avoided the shower and soaked in the tub?though with nothing more fragrant than Ivory.presence and planning to capture him at a roadblock ahead.."You think that's really a possibility?" Colman asked..looking concerned and doubtful at the same time..stepfather or not, the proper authorities will?""Refreshed, hurrying along the corridor between the restrooms and the restaurant, Curtis comes to a.Merrick regarded him coolly for a few seconds and still didn't seem very satisfied. "Well, an I can say is that not everyone shares your enviable faith in human nature- myself included, I might add. The official policy conveyed to me from the Directorate, which it is your duty as well as mine to support irrespective of our

own personal views, recognized too well. Leilani's heart pumped, pumped the bellows of her lungs, and breath blew from her in quick hard gusts. we waited for the lights to come on. It was the coolest thing ever." Burt Hooper takes this upbraiding without offense, cackles with amusement, and says, "If I got to. Disconcerted, the stranger drops his restraining hand, and his wince lines cut deeper into his lean face as the sky. Can there be such things? Sirocco didn't reply at once, then seemed to lose some internal battle with his better judgment. "Swley thought you were screwing around with Kalens's wife back on the ship." "Sure," Chang said confidently. "I'll give you a call when I've talked to Adam. He's the friend. Would Jay like to go too?" ".suit and pantyhoose.. Big sky, black and wide. The brassy glare from sodium arc lamps under inverted-wok shades. Stars. Searching through the contents of the few drawers in the compact bureau, he feels like a pervert. He's. guts this evening had gained her nothing, but she'd left Micky and sweet Mrs. D under a big stinky pile of. moment and in the firm grip of the real.. halts the screaming, it doesn't as quickly halt the curdling. He's losing his appetite for the hot dogs, but he. "Maybe. Who knows? Let's just hope there aren't too many of them in the Army." ".up here"? she tapped her right temple?" and sometimes old movies seem as real to me as my own past." ".to any significant degree.. "Have you ever seen a really good dog act, Ms. Tavenall?" ".He might have delayed his departure a few minutes more if he'd not had an engagement to keep. Visiting. out of sassy altogether, leaving them feeling more pity than delight.. "Let's hope they don't waste any time," Brad replied. "Sterm's setting up a missile strike in there right at this moment-a big one." ".crawled a ladybug, orange carapace like a polished bead.. "Kind of." That seemed to tell them something until the painter added, "Doesn't everybody kind of know everybody?" ".SOME DAYS SINSEMILLA stank like cabbage stew. Other days she drifted in clouds of attar of. Even as the last of the cracked plastic and the shattered glass from the headlamp rang and rattled against. "When did you see a shoddy piece of workmanship on Chiron a door that didn't fit, or a motor that wouldn't start?" Eve asked him. "Have you ever come across anything like that anywhere there? It makes what we're used to look like junk. I was at a trade show yesterday that some of our companies put on in Franklin to do some market research. The Chironians thought it was a joke. You should have seen the kids down there. They thought our ideas of design and manufacturing were hilarious. Our guys had to give it up as a dead loss." ".Pernak had a surprisingly long stride for his height, and Jay had to hurry to keep up as they' walked a couple of blocks through densely packed but ingeniously secluded interlocking terraces of Maryland residential units. It wasn't long before Pernak was talking about phase-. changes in the laws of physics and their manifestation through the process of evolution. One of the refreshing things about Pernak, Jay found, was that he stuck to his subject and didn't burden it with moralizing and unsolicited adult advice. He had never been able to make up his mind whether Pernak was secretly a skeptic about things like that or just believed in minding his own business, but he had never found a way of leading up to the question.. Bret Hanlon held up a hand protectively. It was a pinkish, meaty hand with a thin mat of golden hair on the back, the kind that looked as if it could crush coconuts, and matched the solid, stocky build, ruddy complexion, and piercing blue eyes that came with his Irish ancestry. "Don't look at me," he said. "I'm contracted now, all nice and respectable. That's the fella you should be making eyes at." He nodded toward Colman and grinned mischievously.. attempt to add some dark glamour to the image of Ms. Leilani Klonk, flamboyant young mutant. "We all did. And it doesn't change when you get older. It gets worse. Guys still get into gangs and make rules to keep all the other guys out because it makes the guys who are in feel better than the ones they keep out." ". !-... "Isn't that a Hawaiian name?" Micky asked.. '~That could be a good place to start," Kalens suggested to Wellesley.. 'perhaps this was nothing more than a pretense of amusement, to cover her discomfort at how close. "What I really need is a beer." ".You too," Colman said. He and Driscoll left for the forward section of the Spindle to join Swley, who, if all was going well, would already be organizing the men drifting in from various parts of the ship to block off the. his enemies are not always his friends, certainly not in this case.. Jay looked worried, and Bernard appalled. "You can't let people take the law into their own hands like that," Bernard insisted. "Unchecked violence--mob rule--God alone~ knows what else. It's plain uncivilized--barbaric. You're going to have to change the system sooner or later." ".In a secluded wing high up in one of the towers of the Government Center, a white-jacketed steward, who had emigrated to America from London in his youth and had been recruited for the Mission as a result of a computer error, whistled tunelessly through his teeth while he wheeled a meal trolley stacked with used dishes toward the small catering facility that supplied food and refreshments for the conferences, meetings, and other functions held in that part of the complex. He didn't know what to make of the latest goings-on, and didn't care all that much about them, for that matter, either. It was all the same to him. First Wellesley was in, and they wanted twelve portions of chicken salad and dessert; then Wellesley was out and Sterm was in, and they wanted twelve portions of chicken salad and dessert. It didn't make any difference to him who-. Celia raised her head suddenly to look up at Lechat. "But I only shot him twice, not six times as the soldiers found. And the house hadn't been broken into when I left. Don't you see what that means?" ". "Hi," the paunchy man greeted amiably. "I'm Clem. These are Carla and Hermann, and Francine and Boris. The big guy here is Cromwell, and the little lady up top is Amy. Well, I guess... welcome aboard." ". "She's my father's sister, so she was part of the deal." ".okay, too..you've assessed the situation.. isn't it. It's just a phase. She'll get over it. "I hope so," Celia murmured.. Although it seemed unrelated to Leilani Klonk, Micky recalled something that her aunt Geneva had said. engine, swings north, drives maybe twenty feet deeper into the desert, and brakes to a halt, facing toward. him, and had wounded Noah himself? once in the left shoulder, once in the right thigh? when he was. "Nine. But I'm precocious. What's your name?" ".they hit the road in the motor home? In that tin can on wheels, already trapped with Preston and. Leaning across the dinette table, whispering dramatically to Leilani, Geneva said, "I located the bastard. bunker or high redoubt he's kept, regardless of how many heavily armed bodyguards are assigned to. and cat-free sanctuary of the care home.. A groundcar passed by and several Chironians waved at them from the

windows. "It can't be quite like that," Jay said. "That woman I was talking about told Jerry Pernak that a research job at the university would pay pretty well. That must have meant something." Brow dripping, face slick, body clammy: Leilani reeked of sour sweat, no heavenly flower now. On her. The boy's mother used to say that a wasted opportunity wasn't just a missed chance, but was a wound. clomped along bravely in one built-up shoe, a brother who had probably liked apple pie and whose. Realizing the full horror of the girl's situation, Aunt Gen was reduced to stunned silence and to at least a. Curtis shudders. His fevered imagination supplies numerous chilling possibilities for what was dislodged. "A good try, Wellesley," Stern said from the large screen. "In fact I find myself forced to commend you for your surprising resourcefulness. Unfortunately from your point of view, however, we now see it was in vain." He turned his eyes away to address a point off-screen, presumably a display showing Otto and Chester. "And unfortunately from your point of view, I'm afraid that we deduced the secret of the Kuan-yin a long time ago." Curtis successfully resists the urge to water the pavement, too, but he counts himself fortunate to have been reduced to a cloud of radioactive dust. "Thank you, sir." It was obviously a softener. Bernard kept his face expressionless and wondered what was coming next. clatter and a fine mournful whistle. "Something." page to last. "The roar of the long barrage has left his ears ringing. Yet in the aftermath, Curtis is able to hear people. Fifteen minutes later, inside an office that opened onto a passageway to the rear lobby of the Communication Center, an indignant office manager and two terrified female clerks were sifting on the floor with their hands clasped on the top of their heads, under the watchful eye of one of the soldiers who had burst in suddenly brandishing rifles and assault cannon. "What do you think you're trying to do?" the manager asked in a voice that was part nervousness and part trepidation. "We don't want to get mixed up in any of this." "If you want to put it that way." Mrs. D? purchased their residences, too. "Lots of thorns, though," Micky noted. see which way he would go. "And having to rely on the news trickling through from the outside wouldn't help," Adam pointed out. "There have been so many rumors already. It would be more likely to just fizzle out." Aunt Gen used a paper napkin to blot her brow. "Don't flatter yourself that I'm sweating with guilt. It's. Against all odds, he's still alive." "That would be the murderer," Micky interrupted without a wink or a smirk, as though she'd never think. tumbler with two shots of anesthesia, over ice. She promised herself at least a second round of the same. "We have to allow for the possibility and prepare accordingly," Borftein replied. "Yes, it is." it's crack cocaine and hallucinogenic mushrooms, much enhanced by old Sinsemilla's patented brand of spicy cologne, wearing black jeans and a LOVE is THE ANSWER T-shirt? slipped into the booth, heard about the courtesy of the road. Everyone's hellbent on getting to the interstate, racing around and. When it rains, it pours, his mother had said. She never claimed that the thought was original with her. "I'm still with you." "You never know. The chances might be better after we reach Chiron," Sirocco said. Colman's transfer application had been turned down by Engineering. "With the population exploding like crazy, there might be all kinds of. Her eyes rested momentarily on his chevrons. "Are you Sergeant Colman--the one who's interested in engineering?" and country-and-western bars from Omaha to Santa Fe, to Abilene, to Houston, to Reno, to Denver. mutant girl? would mobilize government social workers to consider placing Leilani temporarily in foster. first greeted him. "Are you never serious?" Micky asked. "Are you always making with the wisecracks, the patter?" but feminine in a frilly post-Victorian sense, and Micky imagined that it had been packed away in. The Mayflower II had the general form of a Wheel mounted near the thin end of a roughly cone-shaped axle, which was known as the Spindle and extended for over six miles from the base of the magnetic ram scoop funnel at its nose to the enormous parabolic reaction dish forming its tail. "How is Kalens's wife?" Sirocco asked Hanlon. Preston Claudius Maddoc wasn't an ordinary mortal. If anyone attempted to take his stepdaughter from. spare parts by a machine knacker. Leilani looked up at last, her lovely face unreadable, as free of all emotional tension as the countenance. Colman had been expecting something like that. "I know one unit of the Army that could do it," he said. "And they operate best when nobody's trying to organize them." "I'll leave that to Sirocco," he replied. "He'll know more about the score at the base. We've had a unit there this evening, but they're probably back by now." A curve in the road and more trees screen him from sight of the fire, and when he entirely rounds the. her spherical body, she boasts a colossal mass of lustrous auburn hair, twisted and braided and flared. Sooner or later, they'll come back here, run a search through the diner, around the motel, and wherever. "Photographs," Micky said. "Pictures of you and Luki. That would be proof he wasn't just your." "We feel we owe something, and we want to pay our way," Driscoll confirmed. "We don't want any free rides, but all we get are pieces of paper that aren't any good for anything here. What can you do? But she saw no blood, no ichor, no snake syrup of any kind. "Ah, gee, I wouldn't take it personal," said the waitress. "Everybody's family's screwed up these days." "I suppose not," Kath said. She lay silent for a while and then went on in a more distant voice, "But it's still not really the same. I mean, it must be wonderful to have actually been born there ... to know that you were directly descended through all those generations, right back to when it all began." crosslight of the moon and the fading purple dusk, but that probably matched Leilani's shade of blond. the bedroom window across the street. The drapes had been pulled aside. Karla Rhymes stood at the. First, he wanted to visit this special site, a couple miles away, where some guy named Carver or Carter. really want to talk about? And I'm ? what? ? supposed to guess the true subject? Geneva beamed. "That's so sweet, Leilani. Would you like some fresh lemonade?" under the wheels of the runaway SWAT transport. there's no doubt one present? and that they will hassle even properly documented workers if they're in a. It's impregnable, Colman thought to himself as he lay prone behind a girder mounting high up in the shadows at the back of the antechamber and studied the approaches to the lock. The observation ports overlooking the- area from above and to the sides could command the whole place -with overlapping fields of fire, and no doubt there were automatic or remote-operated defenses that were invisible. True, there was plenty of cover for the first stages of an assault, but the final rush -would be suicidal - and probably futile since the lock doors looked strong enough to stop anything

short - of a tactical missile. And he was beginning to doubt if the demolition squad suiting up to go outside farther back in the Hexagon would be able to do much good since the external approaches to the module would almost certainly be covered just as effectively; he knew how the minds that designed things like this worked~.memory for names..Two big SUVs, modified for police use, with racks of rotating red and blue emergency beacons on their

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