steam has driven the last low pressure turbine and been condensed. Disposing of this has always been a problem, but it can be turned into an asset. Use that water to warm Long Island Sound. Fertilize it with the sterilized sewage of the city itself. Seed it with some kind of food crop—mussels are a good candidate; and Long Island Sound alone can grow enough protein a year to meet the needs of the whole population of the United States.

All this is a major effort, to be sure, but not one that is out of reach. The entire program, timely begun and spread out over a period of years, would cost not a great deal more than we now spend in building and rebuilding cities like New York as a matter of regular routine. And the benefits would be considerable. The dollar saving would be great. The energy saving greater still. And the amenities of the city would be once and for all restored.

In fact, it is not unreasonable to imagine that the city could become more attractive than the countryside, so that suburbanites would yearn to remigrate, leaving the paved and intemperate communities of Connecticut and Westchester for the clean air and verdant greenery of Times Square and Harlem.

Low-energy technology does not have to be bad technology. The transistorized stereo playing in the background as I write costs no more than the Atwater-Kent I listened to as a child, draws far less current and produces an incomparably richer sound. Do you want gadgets?—personalized computers, 3-D TV recordings, instant communications to anywhere in the world from wherever you happen to be? I promise you all of them long before the tricentennial, along with a thousand other inventions it has not yet occurred to us to want.

I promise you a great deal more than that, whether we be energy-poor or not. What I do not promise is that all of the new things we will find we can’t live without will be for our good—either in material ways, or in moral.

What would you think, for example, of a little gadget that you could carry in your pocket, no bigger than a pocket watch, that could give you the equivalent of a shot of heroin, just by pushing a button?

That is not a century away. The technology already exists. There are certain areas of the brain called “pleasure centers”. If you insert a fine platinum electrode into the pleasure center and stimulate it with a tiny electric current—a few milliamperes—the subject receives a sensation of pure pleasure. If you wire a laboratory animal in this way, a white rat or a guinea pig, and put it in a cage with a switch the animal can operate to give him the jolt of joy, he will learn to push that