

Are you prepared or preparing to meet the challenges of the future?

There are over 250 thousand robots working US factories now. What is frightening is the technology has developed to where we can build a robot that can do almost anything a person can do including making judgments. Many business leaders have projected that most jobs will be done by robots. Remember business primary objective is to make money and if using robots to do the job is cheaper and more efficient they will use them. There is no question that this will create some terrific social problems. I saw this coming many years ago and I don't think that I was too far off. I just read about robots that make hamburgers and saw a huge automatic farm tractor that could plow, harvest grain and many other things without an operator. Everything they wanted the tractor to do was programmed into a computer. From that point on the tractor did the job.

I first wrote an article, The Social Time Bomb, for my Sociology class in 1949 predicting what was coming and the problems it would cause. At that time computers were just being developed and most of the technical technology we have today was science fiction.

What does all of this mean? How will it affect me is a question you need to ask. The reason it is important is that it is and going to have a real impact on your way of life and future. The technical technology is changing so fast that it is eliminating the way things are done and produced. At the same time it is creating many great opportunities for those with the knowledge and skills. Manufacturing and other manual jobs will be done by robots. While the demand for scientist, all types of computer specialist, engineers, electricians and other technical personnel will increase. The following are some other areas that will be expanding and offering great opportunities for those with the skills. Here are a few examples; all types of mechanics, plumbers, general maintenance people, air conditions technicians , all types of service people and of course people that can service the various equipment that most industries and people will have. While all this is great for those with the knowledge and skills it's going to be a night-mare for those that aren't prepared.

Politicians will promise all kinds of things which they can't deliver but they can make it possible for all type business to compete. They can't bring back all of the manufacturing jobs even if they want to so you had better look at the real world and plan accordingly. Now is the time for you to evaluate the type of education you are getting and ask is this preparing for the future. Those that are working now had better think about their knowledge and skills. You need to ask yourself is my knowledge and skills sufficient to meet any technical change in my job or would they enable me to get a new job.