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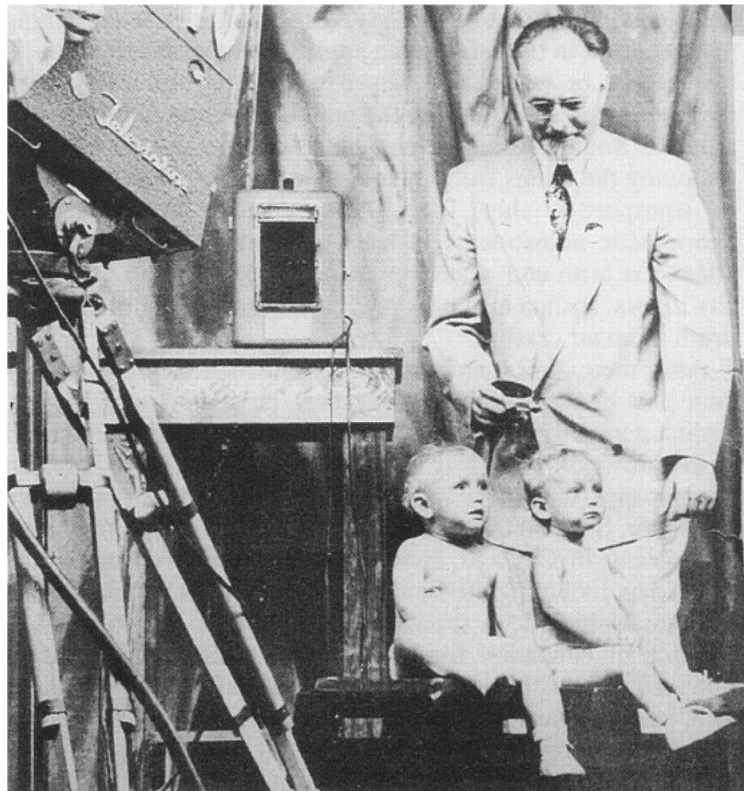


Figure 9 Photo from the *ICA International Review of Chiropractic* 1949 (Oct); 4(4):13; original caption reads: “Television Plays a Part Too! Kaye and Maye Haldeman (or is it Maye and Kay), twin daughters of Dr. J.N. Haldeman, Regina, Saskatchewan, are shown with their father, as he demonstrates nerve pressure reading during special pre-Lyceum classes”; courtesy of the Los Angeles College of Chiropractic.

[Maye Haldeman is Elon Musk's mother.]

Joshua N Haldeman, DC: the Canadian Years, 1926-1950

Joseph C Keating, Jr., PhD*
Scott Haldeman, DC, PhD, MD, FCCS(C)**

Born in 1902 to the earliest chiropractor known to practice in Canada, Joshua Norman Haldeman would develop national and international stature as a political economist, provincial and national professional leader, and sportsman/adventurer. A 1926 graduate of the Palmer School of Chiropractic, he would maintain a lifelong friendship with B.J. Palmer, and served in the late 1940s as Canada's representative to the Board of Control of the International Chiropractors' Association. Yet, he would also maintain strong alliances with broad-scope leaders in Canada and the United States, including the administrators of the National and Lincoln chiropractic schools. Haldeman, who would practice chiropractic in Regina for at least 15 years, was instrumental in obtaining, and is credited with composing the wording of, Saskatchewan's 1943 Chiropractic Act. He served on the province's first board of examiners and the provincial society's first executive board. The following year Dr. Haldeman represented Saskatchewan in the deliberations organized by Walter Sturdy, D.C. that gave rise to the Dominion Council of Canadian Chiropractors, forerunner of today's Canadian Chiropractic Association. As a member of the Dominion Council he fought for inclusion of chiropractors as commissioned officers during World War II, and participated in the formation of the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College, which he subsequently served as a member of the first board of directors. Dr. Haldeman also earned a place in the political history of Canada, owing to his service as research director for Technocracy, Inc. of Canada, his national chairmanship of the Social Credit Party during the second world war, and his unsuccessful bid for the national parliament. His vocal opposition to Communism during the war briefly landed him in jail. His 1950 relocation of his family and practice to Pretoria, South Africa would open a new page in his career: once again as professional pioneer, but also as aviator and explorer. Although he died in 1974, the values he instilled in his son, Scott Haldeman, D.C., Ph.D., M.D. continue to influence the profession. (JCCA 1995; 39(3):172-186)

KEY WORDS: chiropractic, manipulation, Canada.

Fils du premier chiropraticien connu au Canada, Joshua Haldeman est connu mondialement pour ses qualités de politicien économique, à l'échelle nationale pour son apport à la profession ainsi que pour son amour du plein-air et de l'aventure. Né en 1902 et diplômé du Collège Chiropratique Palmer en 1926, il se lie d'une amitié durable avec B.J. Palmer. Il fut le représentant canadien au conseil de réglementation de l'association internationale vers la fin des années 1940. Durant cette même période, il entretient aussi de très bonnes relations avec les dirigeants chiropratiques au Canada et aux États-Unis, dont les administrateurs des Collèges Lincoln et National. Le Docteur Haldeman, qui exerça pendant au moins quinze ans à Régina, fut aussi l'instigateur de l'adoption de la loi sur la chiropratique de Saskatchewan en 1945. On lui attribue même le contenu de cette loi. En chiropratique à l'échelle provinciale, il servit sur le premier comité d'examen et sur le premier conseil d'administration. L'année suivante, le Docteur Walter Sturdy, chiropraticien, organisa des réunions qui menèrent à la formation du Conseil chiropratique Canada Dominion, précurseur de l'Association chiropratique canadienne actuelle. Le Docteur Haldeman y participa en tant que représentant de la Saskatchewan. Étant membre du Conseil Canadien, il mit beaucoup d'énergie pour que les chiropraticiens soient reconnus comme officiers durant la deuxième guerre mondiale, puis à la formation du Collège chiropratique canadien (CMCC) où il siégea au premier conseil d'administration. Le Docteur Haldeman marqua aussi l'histoire politique du Canada grâce à son poste de directeur de recherche chez Technocracy Inc., à sa présidence nationale du parti Crédit Social et à son infructueuse tentative de se faire élire à Ottawa. Durant la guerre, son opposition au communisme lui valut aussi un court séjour en prison. En 1950, sa vie familiale et professionnelle prirent un nouveau tournant alors qu'ils déménagèrent à Prétoria, en Afrique du Sud. Là aussi, il fut pionnier de la chiropratique, mais aussi aviateur et explorateur. Malgré sa mort en 1974, ses valeurs continuent d'influencer la profession, tout particulièrement grâce à son fils Scott Haldeman, D.C. PhD. MD. (JCCA 1995; 39(3):172-186)

MOTS-CLÉS: chiropratique, manipulation, Canada

The early years

Joshua Norman Haldeman was born in a log cabin in Pequot, Minnesota on November 25, 1902 to John Elon Haldeman and Almeda Jane (Norman) Haldeman.¹ His father developed diabetes when Joshua was age two, and was given no more than six months to live. The benefit that the senior Haldeman apparently received from chiropractic care enabled him to survive for several years. Nurse-schoolteacher Almeda Haldeman elected to study chiropractic in order to care for her husband, and earned her DC degree from E.W. Lynch, D.C.'s Chiropractic School and Cure in Minneapolis on January 20, 1905.² The family relocated to Herbert, Saskatchewan in 1906 or 1907, and Dr. Almeda Haldeman seems to be the earliest chiropractor known to practice in Canada.

Life on the prairie was very hard in those days, and tragedy was no stranger. Joshua's father died on August 9, 1909, and on March 2, 1915 Almeda married Mr. Heseltine Wilson, described as a "Yorkshire Englishman," who taught school, developed a very large farm and served as "Reeve of Excelsior Municipality" for over three decades.³ Mrs. Haldeman-Wilson established a restaurant, and later attended the Normal School in Moose Jaw. She then taught the first classes in the Donnellyville School Division in 1910. Young Joshua Haldeman was raised on his step-father's "stock farm," and was always active in athletics, including bronco horseback riding, "boxing, wrestling, [and] exhibition rope spinning" (see Figure 1).³ Joshua developed considerable self-reliance. He noted in later years that he had attended nine colleges and universities; he presumably included in this list the many postgraduate programs he would attend at several chiropractic schools (see Table 1). Relatively little is known of his pre-college studies, but they did include attendance at schools in Donnellyville, Spenst, Waldeck and Swift Current. With two teachers as parents, it is likely that he received a well rounded educational experience. At various times he later studied at Moose Jaw College, Regina College, Winnipeg Agricultural College and the University of Chicago,^{4,5} but apparently did not earn an academic degree.

Josh grew up in a chiropractic home where medicine was all but non-existent, and healthy living was the norm. In an autobiographical sketch¹ he reported that:

During his college years the author's eyes failed him several times and he could get no relief except through Chiropractic, so he attended the Palmer School from 1922–1926. While obtaining his professional training his eye trouble cleared up so that even with intensive studying he did not require the use of glasses or other aids for over twenty years.

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Figure 1 Joshua Haldeman spinning rope circa 1926 (Haldeman papers).

Haldeman commenced his chiropractic studies in Davenport, Iowa¹ during one of the Palmer School of Chiropractic's (PSC's) most turbulent periods. In the early 1920s B.J. Palmer had already antagonized a significant portion of the profession with his attempts to enforce straight standards of education, practice and legislation through the vehicle of the protective association he had co-founded in 1906, the Universal Chiropractors' Association.⁶ When Palmer unveiled the neurocalometer (NCM) and his 10-year, \$2,200 leasing plan for the heat-sensing, subluxation-detecting instrument,⁷ many of his stalwart supporters fell away. Joshua Haldeman, D.C., however, would remain a lifelong Palmer supporter, and in his practice always made use of his NCM. However, he also maintained his ties with his major professors at the PSC, who formed the Lincoln Chiropractic College in Indianapolis in 1926,⁸ the year that Haldeman earned his doctorate. Haldeman also established friendships with several prominent osteopaths, including J.V. McManis, D.O.,⁹ inventor of the McManis table, and H.G. Swanson, A.M., D.O.,¹⁰ Dean of the Kirksville College of Osteopathy and Surgery in Missouri.

The young chiropractor apparently engaged in regular clini-

Table 1
Joshua N. Haldeman, D.C.'s
professional and educational credits, as of 1950*

Member of the Executive Board of the Saskatchewan Chiropractors' Association, set up by an Act of the Saskatchewan Legislature, 1943.
Member of the Examining Board of the Saskatchewan Chiropractors' Association, 1943–1950.
Director of the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College, Toronto, 1944–1950, one of the original sponsors.
Saskatchewan representative on the Dominion Council of the Canadian Chiropractors' Association, 1942–1950.
Vice-President of the Dominion Council, Canadian Chiropractors' Association, 1947.
Canadian representative on the Board of Control of the International Chiropractors' Association, 1948–1950.
Holds a license to practice in Saskatchewan under the Chiropractic Act.

Has the following diplomas and certificates:

1. Diploma – Palmer School of Chiropractic, Davenport, Iowa
Degree – Doctor of Chiropractic, 1926.
2. Diploma – X-ray and Spinography, P.S.C., 1926.
3. Certificate – St. John's Ambulance, First Aid, 1927.
4. Post Graduate Certificate, P.S.C., 1935.
5. Post Graduate Certificate, National College of Chiropractic, Chicago, Illinois, 1935.
6. Post Graduate Certificate, National College of Chiropractic, Indianapolis, Indiana, 1936.
7. Post Graduate Certificate, P.S.C., 1937.
8. Post Graduate Certificate, N.C.C., 1938.
9. Post Graduate Certificate, P.S.C., 1938.
10. Certificate of Competency in Use of X-rays – Saskatchewan Chiropractors' Association, 1943.
11. Post Graduate Certificate, Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College, Toronto, Ontario, 1947.
12. Post Graduate Certificate, P.S.C., 1949.

*from Haldeman (1950)

cal practice for only a few years following his graduation from the PSC, and then returned to farming in the Waldeck, Lienan and Ardill-Vantage areas for the next six years.⁵ Since he sought licensure in Iowa,¹¹ he may have considered a return to the United States. In the dust bowl conditions of the 1920s and 1930s farming was difficult, and with the economic depression of the period Haldeman lost his farm when he was unable to maintain payments on equipment purchased on credit extended by local banks during more favorable times. He would remain leery of financial institutions and other bureaucracies throughout his life, a sentiment which would shape his political philosophy. He followed his family's lead and became active in

various "cooperative and farm movements",³ including the Saskatchewan Farmer's Political Association and the United Farmers of Canada-Saskatchewan Section, Ltd. On December 28, 1927 Haldeman married Eve Peters. On December 12, 1934 the first Mrs. J.N. Haldeman would give birth to a son, Joshua Jerry Noel Haldeman, who later owned and operated his own local airline company. However, the marriage did not survive the financial difficulties of the depression and Joshua's intense political commitment, and the couple had separated by 1937.

Following loss of the farm circa 1934, Joshua worked at various jobs, including that of construction worker, cowboy and rodeo performer. A biographical sketch provided during his bid for the federal parliament in 1945 described a "Colorful Life":

He has traveled extensively in Canada; and during the depression by freight and passenger coal tender from Vancouver to Halifax.

He has lived with the homesteaders in the bush country, trappers in the lower Peace River, farmed in the heart of the dust bowl when it was 100% on relief, been a stowaway on an ocean-going boat, and lived in the hobo jungles outside of most of the cities of Canada.³

By the early 1930s Joshua Haldeman was settled once again in Saskatchewan, where he directed a "Research and Open Forum Debating Society" on political science and economics. During 1934–36, he located in Assiniboia¹² and served as chairman of the Assiniboia Federal Constituency for "the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation, which later became the Government of Saskatchewan".^{13, p.323} In this period also he established a chiropractic office, first in Assiniboia during 1935–36, and then in Regina from 1936 to 1950.^{3,12} In July and August 1935 Haldeman returned to the United States for post-graduate coursework at the National College of Chiropractic in Chicago and then at his alma mater. Although he was always a Palmer-straight chiropractor, he prided himself in maintaining a thorough knowledge of broad-scope chiropractic. His studies at National included "Principles and Practice of Chiropractic, Unitary Technique, Physio-Therapy, Colonic Therapy, Dissection, Laboratory Diagnosis, Physical Diagnosis, Gynecology, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat, X-Ray and First Aid and Minor Surgery". In a one page letter to his patients in 1938, Haldeman related "NEWS CONCERNING MY TRIP THIS SUMMER":

In your interest it has always been my policy in practice to keep myself up to date and thoroughly acquainted with any new developments. With this purpose in mind, I attended the National Chiropractic Association convention in Toronto, the National College of Chiropractic in Chicago, and the Palmer School of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa.

The National Chiropractic Association, which is the largest organization of drugless practitioners in the world, held its convention this year in the Royal York Hotel, Toronto. The twelve hundred

delegates in attendance considered this to be one of their most successful meetings. Addresses were delivered by outstanding men in the profession. Faculty members from many of our leading schools taking part. Dr. Steinbach, Dean of the Universal College of Chiropractic at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, gave a report of their research in the field of body imbalance. In careful examinations on ten thousand people, they found that over forty percent had an anatomical short leg which made good body balance impossible, and often affected the individual's health. Dr. Dintenfass, Editor of *Science Sidelights*, gave the results of his investigation of Chiropractic in Infantile Paralysis cases. He had found that Chiropractors were obtaining complete recoveries in 76% of those that came to them in the early stages of this disease, and that some improvement was made in nearly every case. In spite of the outstanding results by Chiropractors in Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis), he gave the reasons why governmental agencies did not employ them. During the week, a trip was made to Port Perry, the birthplace of D.D. Palmer, the discoverer of Chiropractic. In conjunction with the village of Port Perry, the Chiropractors dedicated a park in honor of this great man.¹⁴

At this same 1938 convention in Toronto, Dr. Haldeman was awarded a certificate of membership in the National Chiropractic Association's (NCA's) National Council of Chiropractic Roentgenologists. In addition to the visit to D.D. Palmer's hometown of Port Perry, the conventioners also visited Niagara Falls (See Figure 2).

Depression-era political activist

During 1936–1941 J.N. Haldeman became involved with Technocracy, Inc., an international political group which advocated economic reform through changes in the monetary system. The young chiropractor became leader of the Canadian branch of Technocracy, in which capacity he functioned as Director of Research and as an "Authorized Instructor"; the program of instruction was considered equivalent to university training.⁴ He apparently ran afoul of the authorities, as evidenced by the following signed statement from a Police Magistrate's Clerk:

The following is a true copy of the advertisement appearing in the Leader-Post, Regina, Wednesday, June 26, 1940, out of which the three charges against Joshua Norman Haldeman arose:

"STATEMENT OF PATRIOTISM BY THOSE WHO WERE TECHNOCRATS

"The political Government of Canada by Order-in-Council has declared Technocracy Inc. to be an illegal organization. This action was unjustified and unwarranted and can be classified as a tactical, political blunder. Technocracy Inc. from its inception has been unequivocally opposed to Nazism, Fascism, and Communism. On Sept. 5 1939, Technocrats all over Canada wired Prime Minister Mackenzie King that they stood ready to defend Canada from any alien attack. Following the issue of Technocracy's General Regulations on Home Defence on June 1, which was published in most

newspapers, Technocrats all over Canada contacted the R.C.M.P., the city police, and the military authorities offering their services in any capacity required for the Defence of Canada.

Those who were members of Technocracy Inc. as loyal Canadian citizens will continue to render full support to the defence program of the Dominion of Canada.

Technocracy Inc. was the outstanding patriotic organization in Canada, therefore those who were its members must view the present action of the political government as an attempt at subversive sabotage of a national patriotic organization, unless this action is immediately rescinded."

At this time, Haldeman may have toyed with the idea of returning to the country of his birth, as suggested by a letter from John F.L. Hughes, D.C. of Vancouver to the American Vice-Consul in British Columbia. The letter attested to the Saskatchewan chiropractor's education, character and likelihood of Dr. Haldeman's success in practice "in any place he judges to be a promising location".¹⁵ However, nothing more seems to have come of it. Haldeman resigned from Technocracy, Inc. sometime in 1941, when its New York-based central office changed its policies from "unequivocally opposed to Communism, Fascism, Nazism and Socialism" to "complete economic and military collaboration with Soviet Russia" following Hitler's invasion of the USSR.⁴ Always a man of strong convictions and principles, Joshua Haldeman could find no justification for any alliance with Stalin's godless dictatorship.

For a brief period (1941–1943) the iconoclastic chiropractor sought to establish his own political party within Saskatchewan, and to this end published a regular newsletter, *Total War & Defence*. This effort was less successful than hoped for,¹² and Dr. Haldeman redirected his loyalties to the Social Credit Party (SCP). The SCP had been in power in Alberta for several years, and was seeking to expand its influence in Saskatchewan. It would be recalled that Haldeman had been "a member of the original Douglas Social Credit League".³ In 1944 he served as Provincial Co-ordinator of the Saskatchewan Social Credit League, and by May, 1945 was the Vice-President and Provincial Secretary of the party, at which time he ran unsuccessfully as the Social Credit Candidate For Prince Albert Federal Constituency.³ The *Canadian Social Crediter* of Edmonton, Alberta (see Figure 3) suggested of Dr. Haldeman that:

Your Social Credit Candidate did not have to read about the deplorable conditions that have existed in Canada nor observe them from his private car; he actually lived under and experienced these conditions and vowed that he would spend the rest of his life with the main purpose in mind of correcting their causes. He has never wavered from that purpose ... He is entering the campaign with the sole purpose of carrying on the fight for the people of Canada for maximum freedom and maximum security in accordance with the Christian concept of life.³

Although not elected to public office, Haldeman would stay



Figure 2 The annual convention of the National Chiropractic Association was held in Toronto in 1938. The conventioners made two side trips, one to Port Perry, and the other, depicted here, to Niagara Falls. The arrow indicates Joshua Haldeman, D.C.'s location in the group; photo from the collection of C.O. Watkins, D.C.

active in the Social Credit Association on the provincial and national levels until his departure for South Africa in 1950. It was recalled that he directed economic research for the national organization.⁴ The International Chiropractors' Association's (ICA's) *International Review of Chiropractic* noted Dr. Haldeman's position as "Chairman of the National Council of the Canadian Social Credit Association" in its September, 1948 issue.

Chiropractic politician

The war years also saw an intensification of Haldeman's activities on behalf of organized chiropractic in Saskatchewan and the nation. Chiropractors in the province had begun to organize as early as 1915, when a Chiropractic Association of Saskatchewan was organized at a meeting in Moose Jaw.¹⁶ Efforts to obtain a licensing law in the province can be traced at least to 1917, when an apparently short-lived legislative recognition provided some degree of legal protection from prosecution for the province's few DCs.¹⁷ A Drugless Practitioners' Act was passed in Saskatchewan circa 1929, which was recalled as "a complete fizzle but did protect the Chiropractors and Osteopaths from prosecution" for a time, but resulted in much contentiousness among the chiropractors, naturopaths and osteopaths in the province.¹⁸

By the middle of the Second World War and with some 30–43 chiropractors in practice in the province,^{19-21a} Haldeman and others sought a chiropractic law. His colleagues in this effort included A.W. Johnstone, D.C. and J.J. Bramham, D.C. of Regina, and Cecil J. L'Amis, D.C.^{13,p.288} and F.E. Roluf, D.C. from Saskatoon.^{21b} A "vigorous campaign" to establish a chiropractic law ensued.¹⁸ The PSC's monthly journal, *The Chiropractor*, mentioned Dr. Haldeman's regular Wednesday afternoon chiropractic talks over radio station CKCK in Regina,²² which were presumably part of this campaign to promote the political cause of the profession. He is credited

with drafting the wording of the act approved by the provincial government in 1943,⁴ although attorney John S. Burton of British Columbia also claimed credit for drafting the law, getting it through the provincial government and for organizing the Saskatchewan Association.²³ Josh Haldeman claimed only that he had "assisted" in obtaining the Saskatchewan Chiropractic Act.⁵ He was appointed to the first Examining Board and the first Executive Board of the resulting Saskatchewan Chiropractors' Association, where he served until 1950.¹

Joshua Haldeman also participated in the creation of the Dominion Council of Canadian Chiropractors (DCCC; forerunner of the Canadian Chiropractic Association). Formation of this national body is generally credited to 1919 Palmer graduate Walter T. Sturdy, D.C. of British Columbia,^{21a} although Herbert K. Lee, D.C., an early observer of and soon-to-be participant in these deliberations, recalls that the activities of John S. Clubine, D.C. of Ontario and others were no less instrumental in the DCCC's formation.²⁴ McNeil^{25,pp.24-7} has recorded that the campaign to create the DCCC began with the efforts of John S. Burton, legal counsel for the British Columbia Chiropractors Association (BCCA), who in 1942:

... wrote the other provinces suggesting the formation of a Dominion Chiropractic Association and the response he received was most encouraging and enthusiastic. On September 30th, 1942 the B.C. Board went on record as adopting the form of Constitution submitted by Mr. Burton as a basis to negotiate with the other provinces before a definite and approved Constitution could be adopted.

As Saskatchewan's representative, Haldeman attended the inaugural meeting of the DCCC in Ottawa on January 10–11, 1943 (see Figure 4), along with BCCA past-president Walter T. Sturdy, D.C. and attorney Burton, John S. Clubine, D.C. of



Toronto, Jean M. Gaudet, D.C. of Montreal, F.B. McElrea, D.C. of Winnipeg, C.E. Messenger, D.C. of Calgary, John A. Schnick, D.C. of Hamilton, Ontario, and F.L. Wallace, DC. of Halifax.^{26,27} Herbert K. Lee, D.C. credits Sturdy and Clubine as “the driving forces behind the creation of this national organization,” of which the primary goal was “to gain inclusion in Medicare, a national health scheme about to be introduced in Parliament”.²⁸ There would be additional motivations for the formation of the Council.

In March, 1943 Haldeman accompanied Sturdy and a delegation from the DCCC who met with military authorities to seek commissions for chiropractors in the armed forces; his discouraging report was published in the NCA’s *Journal*:

CANADIAN ARMY SAYS NO CHIROS

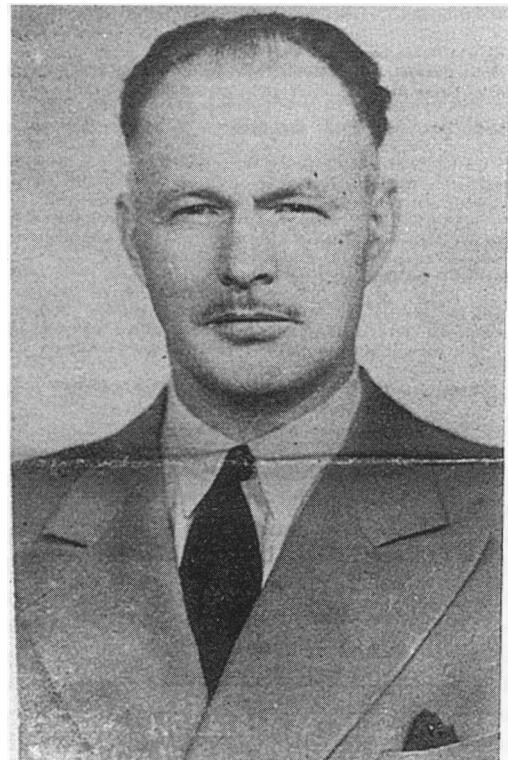
Canadian army authorities are not sympathetic towards the granting of Chiropractic attention to the armed services, according to Dr. J.N. Haldeman, Regina, who returned recently from Ottawa, where he had attended the first annual meeting of the Dominion Council of Canadian Chiropractors.

A delegation headed by Dr. Walter Sturdy, Vancouver, conferred with Hon. J.L. Ralston, minister of national defense, and Brigadier Meakins, assistant director general of medical services. Following the interview, Dr. Haldeman said Dr. Sturdy and his delegation reported that “chiropractors could not hope to be better than orderlies under the military medical organization.”

Hardly Recognized

Brig. Meakins told the delegation, Dr. Haldeman said, that in the South African war, even dentists were hardly recognized, but that in the last war they made a large contribution, which was followed by the formation of a dental corps in this war.

The idea was conveyed that in the next war chiropractors may have a separate classification, Dr. Haldeman said in his report on the interview with the brigadier and Col. Ralston.



DR. JOSHUA N. HALDEMAN,
Social Credit Candidate
For Prince Albert Federal Constituency

*Make This Man Your Representative
In the Next Parliament*

Figure 3 Cover of the *The Canadian Social Crediter* for May, 1945 depicts Joshua N. Haldeman, D.C., candidate for the federal Parliament (Haldeman papers).



Figure 4 Photo taken on January 11, 1943 in Ottawa; from the *National Chiropractic Journal* 1943 (March); 12(3):27; original caption read: "Pictured above are Directors of the recently organized Dominion Chiropractic council, representing all Provinces in Canada. (Left to Right) Dr. Gaudet, Montreal; Dr. Haldeman, Regina; J.S. Burton, Vancouver; Dr. J.A. Schnick, Hamilton; Dr. Sturdy, Vancouver; Dr. J.S. Clubine, Toronto; Dr. McElrea, Winnipeg; Dr. Messenger, Calgary"; courtesy of the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College.

Dr. Haldeman said the chiropractors were despondent because this feeling on the part of military authorities would not allow them to enter the army in the post to which they were best suited. Instead, they had to enlist as combatants. This was particularly disappointing, the chiropractors stated, because the Dominion is short 300 doctors.

In Russia, it was pointed out, chiropractors and medical doctors are placed on a par.²⁶

The DCCC's formation of the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College (CMCC) appears to have been an afterthought. Burton, who was Dr. Sturdy's son-in-law, would recall in later years that:

It is well known that the Canadian Chiropractic Association, and the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College, owe their joint organization to his wisdom. It was in October, 1943, that Dr. Sturdy roused from their lethargy, the leaders of the profession from British Columbia to Quebec, and in the space of four or five days, on October 10, 1943, all met under his leadership in Ottawa.

After two days of intensive conferences, the Chiropractors of Canada emerged with a newborn National Organization and consciousness. From this has stemmed, in large part, the unity, outlook, and purpose of Canadian Chiropractic as we now know it.

After long hours of strenuous meetings, Dr. Sturdy awakened me at 6:00 o'clock on the final morning with the startling announcement that we must start a college in Canada, and without delay. Now without delay means, in Dr. Sturdy's language, a matter of hours, and while I attempted to catch up on long lost sleep I was forced to listen for one hour or more while Dr. Sturdy outlined his plans for a future college.

Even at this moment, the profession of Chiropractic, as a Canadian Institution, had barely opened its sleepy eyes. This was typical of Dr. Sturdy. Those present at this historic occasion caught the vision and worked with all their might towards the fulfillment of Dr. Sturdy's dream. For the most part, the profession was behind

him but there were those, even in high places, who disagreed with the whole scheme and thought that a college such as Dr. Sturdy planned was an impossibility...^{25, pp. 179-90}

Haldeman served with Drs. Clubine and Gaudet on the first committee established by the DCCC to look into the creation of a Canadian school.²⁰ Kennedy²⁹ has noted that a delegation comprised of Drs. Sturdy, Messenger, McElrea and Haldeman "impressed the importance of founding a Canadian College at the Ontario Convention of 1943." The creation of a college was contentious, and disputes arose within the DCCC over the scope and length of the curriculum, the non-profit status of the institution, and the degree of control which the national organization should exert over the school. Haldeman expressed his views to the other members of the Council in a letter on January 20, 1944:

One of the solutions to Chiropractic problems would have been for every Chiropractor to have taken post graduate courses in colleges teaching opposing lines of thought. I have done so, and more than once, which gives me an advantage in seeing both sides.

I was unaware that anything happened at the convention last Fall that should produce any bad repercussions. Circular letters from Dr. Mullin and Dr. Clubine indicate the continuance of some friction over the set-up of the proposed college and also the matter of definitions. In Saskatchewan we have the same definition of Chiropractic as Ontario and we have had no particular fault to find with it although no doubt, it could be improved. The definition to be adopted by the Dominion Organization had better be left to the next Board meeting where it can be threshed out and decided by a majority vote.

In regard to the college – our troubles there can also be smoothed out quite easily if things are considered in their proper sphere. The control of the aim and policy of the college must be under the Dominion Council with a view to the best interests of Chiropractic and the public. Dr. Sturdy as president must set this out.

My views as stated in a previous letter include the teaching of Chiropractic in the broadest sense including diagnosis and laboratory work but that the teaching of any therapeutic method other than Chiropractic can not be our present concern. Our future recognition will lie in our ability to show that we can render an essential and special service which no one else can render and for which we are especially qualified. All members of the Board have equal right to express their views but should abide by the decision of the Board.

Dr. Clubine was selected as president of the school. He is especially qualified for this position. He, with the College Board, which for reasons of convenience should reside in Toronto, will be charged with the responsibility of administering the school in accordance with the policy and objectives as outlined by the Dominion Council of which, of course, Dr. Clubine is also a member. The school board is charged with the responsibility of getting the school started by September 1st and graduating a maximum number of Chiropractors until the Chiropractic field has been adequately covered. The methods used by the school board are their own concern and a school board should not be interfered with by the Dominion Council as long as they are carrying out the policy that has been laid down and are achieving results.

Dr. Clubine in his letter did not appear to think that there was sufficient work to keep students occupied for four years of eight months. If the school teaches all the Chiropractic technics that are taught in other schools as efficiently as they are taught in other schools; diagnosis and laboratory work and basic sciences as well as they are taught in the medical schools; there would be plenty of scope to keep students occupied. There is plenty of scope in Chiropractic to insure its future if it is properly covered.

The laws in the Provinces do not permit Chiropractors to practice Medicine. The Ontario law states:

"4. Nothing in this Act or the regulations shall authorize any person not being so expressly authorized under a general or special Act of this Legislature to prescribe or administer drugs for use internally or externally or to use or direct or prescribe the use of anesthetics for any purpose whatsoever or to practise surgery or midwifery."

Under the Drugless Practitioners Act in Ontario, Chiropractors as well as all other practitioners are licensed under this Act. This Act was forced on the Chiropractors over their opposition and desire for a separate act in the early days. A similar act under similar conditions was also introduced in Saskatchewan. I can find nothing in the Ontario Act or regulations that requires that a Chiropractor be trained as anything other than Chiropractor.

There is no disagreement over the matter of a Chiropractic College teaching Chiropractic. The difficulty apparently arises over things that are not Chiropractic and if it is not Chiropractic then it is really not the concern of the Dominion Council. The individual Chiropractor can practice anything else that he is trained and registered to practice. This is his business.

If students wish to take physio-therapy or medicine, facilities are available or would be available for this work, outside the school. But the school itself must be a Chiropractic school. The main thing at present is to get the school started. The problems that are now

being discussed with some heat would not arise for the first three years of the school's operation. In that time, who knows but conditions and outlook may change.

Without permitting any one school of thought to dominate another it would appear that the only basis for satisfactory agreement would be the teaching of Chiropractic in its broadest sense, but only Chiropractic. I have personally gone to a lot of trouble to get this point clarified. If there is any further difficulty then the only thing is an open and frank discussion. There is no avoiding differences. Dr. Sturdy should immediately go to the source of difficulty and get it straightened out.³⁰

At a "special meeting" of the DCCC held at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto during the first week of March, 1944, several of the details of the College were ironed out. It was agreed that a curriculum of 4 years of 8 months each would be taught, and that initially physiotherapy would not be included in the regular curriculum. However, to accommodate the chiropractors of Ontario, who were licensed under a naturopathic/drugless healer act, the group unanimously approved a four-month post-graduate program in physiotherapy that would be offered to enable graduates to qualify for practice in that province.³¹ Haldeman continued to press for control of the college by the Dominion Council, but Drs. Sturdy and Clubine insisted that "if the Council runs the College it will ruin it".³¹ John A. Schnick, D.C. of Ontario, who had served as president of the Iowa-based NCA during 1940, emphasized the importance of non-profit status in order that the school be able to accept endowments.

At Dominion Council's October, 1944 meeting in Toronto, Dr. Haldeman continued to press for a strictly chiropractic course, without instruction in physiotherapeutic modalities.³² Yet when C.E. Messenger read a reply to the telegram he had sent to B.J. Palmer requesting Palmer to influence Dr. Sturdy to insist upon a straight chiropractic curriculum, Haldeman vigorously objected to any "influence from the United States in running Chiropractic affairs in Canada." His reasoning on the matter of straight chiropractic instruction seemingly was not linked to his personal loyalty to B.J. Haldeman specifically noted his belief that any chiropractor or student should be free to study and use physiotherapeutic methods, but he did not wish to see such topics taught in the proposed institution. A vigorous debate ensued, in which Haldeman emphasized that straight chiropractors would not support a school which taught physiotherapy, and Clubine called upon the members of the Council to vote upon the question: "Are you in favor of the college teaching a course of Chiropractic only? It would mean a four years of months and Ontario students having to take their physio therapy elsewhere".³² With Walter Sturdy abstaining as president, the western provinces could garner only three votes: Haldeman of Saskatchewan, Dr. Messenger of Alberta, and McElrea of Manitoba. The issue was settled in favor of the broad-scope curriculum by Clubine and Schick of Ontario, Gaudet of Quebec, and F.L. Wallace, D.C. of Nova Scotia.

Haldeman agreed to abide by the majority vote.

Brown²⁸ has reported that the DCCC “formed a separate body under the Corporations Act of the Province of Ontario, called the Canadian Association of Chiropractors, which later became the charter of CMCC,” and that “the first meeting of the Directors of this College Association” was held on January 3, 1945. Joshua Haldeman was appointed to this first board of governors,¹ and served until 1950 (see Figures 5 and 6 and Table 2a). The CMCC opened for enrollment on September 7,³³ and classes began on September 18, 1945. John J. Nugent, D.C., Director of Education for the NCA, offered the following in the *National Chiropractic Journal*:

A vigorous campaign to raise \$100,000 was initiated and the profession’s response was immediate and generous. The greater part of this sum is now raised and the balance will shortly be forthcoming. A \$50,000 building has been purchased in the heart of the University of Toronto district, and teaching equipment, school, dormitory and office furniture have been bought and paid for.

The school will operate as a non-profit, professionally owned institution under a charter obtained from the Ontario government, and under the direction of a Board of Directors elected by the Canadian Association of Chiropractors, Inc. The Board of Directors will appoint a Board of Governors, consisting of prominent chiropractors and laymen.

The course of study will consist of 4,200 to 4,600 hours over a period of four years of eight to nine months in each calendar year. The minimum entrance requirement is junior matriculation or its equivalent – high school graduation.

Table 2a
Members and Officers of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College, 1947–1949*

Walter T. Sturdy, D.C., <i>President</i>
S.F. Sommacal, D.C., <i>Vice-President</i>
Douglas Warden, D.C., <i>Secretary</i>
J.A. Henderson, D.C. <i>Registrar</i>
J.M. Anderson, D.C.
C.C. Clemmer, D.C.
John S. Clubine, D.C.
J.M. Gaudet, D.C.
Joshua N. Haldeman, D.C.
J.A. Hetherington, D.C.
H.A. Hill, D.C.
D.V. Hoskins, D.C.
F.B. McElrea, D.C.
C.E. Messenger, D.C.
F.L. Wallace
H.A. Yates, D.C.

* from Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College, Catalogue for the Academic Year 1947–1948–1949

Table 2b
Faculty and Staff of the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College for 1947–1949*

<i>Department of Chiropractic</i>
Rudy O. Muller, D.C., Ph.C., <i>Dean</i>
Herbert K. Lee, D.C., Ph.C.
James Ellison, D.C., Ph.C.
Richard S. Wynn, D.C., N.D.
Colin Greenshields, D.C.
<i>Department of Chemistry</i>
Major L.H. Colbeck, E.D., B.S.A., B.Paed. (Tor.), M.C.I.C., <i>Asst. Dean</i>
<i>Department of Histology and Embryology</i>
D.M. Allan B.S. (Pitt.), D.C.
<i>Department of Anatomy</i>
A. Earl Homewood, D.C., N.D., D.P.T.
<i>Department of Diagnosis and Pathology</i>
Crichton Alison, M.B., Ch.B. (Aberdeen)
<i>Department of Physiology</i>
A.L. Bailey, D.C., D.D.T.
<i>Department of Bacteriology and Public Health</i>
E.H. Grieg, B.A. (Queen’s)
<i>Clinical Laboratories</i>
Lynn Beazer
<i>Office Staff</i>
June Harris, <i>Secretary</i>
Cecile Conron, <i>Assistant</i>

* from Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College, Catalogue for the Academic Year 1947–1948–1949.

The curriculum includes all of the basic science subjects and a thorough training in “straight” chiropractic. For those wishing to qualify under the Province of Ontario Drugless Theraputists Act, there will be a separate course in physiotherapy.

The tuition fee is \$300.00 per year....

The school has been accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs and a number of Canadian veterans are enrolled.²⁷

Although he never intruded upon the daily operations of the College, Haldeman’s strong opinions about school operations are reflected in the minutes of various executive meetings he attended in his multiple capacities as Saskatchewan’s representative to the Dominion Council and the College’s governing board. Attorney Burton’s notes for the Dominion Council’s annual meeting on September 16, 1946 indicate that:

Dr. Haldeman stressed the need of having instructors who have already made a success of their practice and that it would be a



Figure 5 Photo depicting the members of the Board of Governors of the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College, 1946; standing (left to right): J.N. Haldeman of Saskatchewan, J.M. Gaudet of Quebec, R.O. Mueller (Dean), Douglas V. Hoskins of Ontario, F.B. McIlrea of Manitoba, John S. Clubine (President), Herbert A. Hill of Ontario; C.E. Messenger of Alberta, M. Anderson of Ontario and J.S. Burton, attorney; seated (left to right): J. Henderson (Registrar), Harry Yates of Ontario, Jack Heatherington of Ontario, Cecil Clemmer of Ontario, Samuel Sommacal of Ontario, Douglas Warden (Secretary) and Walter Sturdy (Vice-President); courtesy of the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College.



Figure 6 Photo depicting convocation at the dedication ceremonies of the first campus of Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College at 252 Bloor Street, Toronto; seated second from the left in front is John A. Schnick, D.C., chiropractic leader from Ontario, and president of the National Chiropractic Association in 1940; Joshua N. Haldeman, D.C. is seated third from left in the front; courtesy of the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College.

handicap to the student body to have academic teachers only who had not made a success of their own practices and did not know the practical end of chiropractic.³⁴

Haldeman's activities as Saskatchewan's representative to the DCCC culminated in his election on September 28, 1947 as Vice-President of the DCCC.^{1,35} The following year, the national organization appointed him to serve as the society's representative to the ICA's Board of Control (see Figure 7).³⁶ Haldeman held this post until 1950, when a Canadian seat was made a permanent feature of the ICA Board.^{37,38} However, the Dominion Council "made a critical political decision at its eighth annual meeting in Toronto in 1950",^{21,39} and decided to discontinue affiliation with either of the two national professional associations in the United States.

Perhaps Dr. Haldeman's final major contribution to chiropractic in Canada was his 1949 role in replying to a Royal

Commission in Quebec which had investigated the profession preparatory to a decision to license chiropractors in that province. The ICA released the following:

August 29, 1949

The conclusions of Quebec's Royal commission to study the Chiropractic profession were labeled today an example of "either classic stupidity, willful misrepresentation of the facts, or both," by a spokesman for the International Chiropractors' Association.

Dr. J.N. Haldeman, Dominion council representative of the ICA said, "the dice were loaded against Chiropractic even before the commission began its so-called deliberations. It has even come to my attention that during the course of the hearings Magistrate Joseph Marier, head of the commission, regularly dined with the attorney representing the medical profession, which opposes the licensing of Chiropractors. This scandalous conduct is bound to give rise to certain embarrassing questions as to the real impartial-



Figure 7 Photo from the *ICA International Review of Chiropractic* 1950 (March), p. 7; original caption read: "Intense concentration is evident during a candid camera study at the mid-year Board of Control meeting. Left to right: Roger E. Dunham, Public Relations Counsel; A.E. Lill, D.C., Belleville, Ill.; Walter O. Peterson, D.C. Pueblo, Colo.; J.N. Haldeman, D.C., Sask., Canada; E.S. Grandchamp, D.C., Holyoke, Mass.; Herbert R. Reaver, D.C., Third Vice-President, Cincinnati; George G. Rinier, General Counsel, Indianapolis, Ind.; Mary E. McDermott, Secretary-Treasurer; L.K. Griffin, D.C., Fort Worth; Elmer G. Green, D.C., Seattle; Walter Gingerich, D.C.,

Reseda, Calif; Charles Heiss, D.C., Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; R.W. Tyer, D.C., Jackson, Miss.; George P. Sheridan, Director Legislative Affairs, Tacoma, Wash.; G.M. O'Neil, D.C., O'Neil-Ross Chiropractic College, Fort Wayne, Ind.; and C.F. Aumann, D.C., Indianapolis, Ind.;" courtesy of the Los Angeles College of Chiropractic.

ity of the judgment given."

Dr. Haldeman was optimistic about the future, however, despite the commission's adverse decision. He said that experience has shown that despite "all attempts to stamp out Chiropractic, it has grown increasingly stronger, for the simple reason that it gets sick people well."

He also pointed to the fact that Chiropractic is licensed in five Canadian provinces and that the Chiropractic profession maintains a "grade A college in Toronto with 250 students, who must complete an intensive 4-year professional course before being graduated."

Quoting from the commission's report, Dr. Haldeman pointed out what he called the "hand of the medical profession" in the decision. He quoted the commission as saying, "Our province possesses institutions highly qualified to give medical teaching ... and there appears to be no valid reason for permitting the healing arts to be taught in schools infinitely less qualified and situated outside the province..."⁴⁰

In the late 1940s Dr. Haldeman's multiple responsibilities, including his political activities for the Social Credit Association, his activism within the DCCC and his role as a member of the Board of Directors of the CMCC began to take a toll on his practice. In the autumn of 1949 he tendered his resignation as chairman of the national council of the Social Credit Party, which was not at first accepted.⁴¹ Haldeman's responsibilities as the Dominion Council's representative to the ICA added two additional annual trips to Davenport, Iowa to the heavy travel demands he already faced, this in an era when train travel from Regina to Davenport took 48 hours one way, and commercial airline travel, owing to poor connections, required almost as long. Accordingly, at the age of 45 Dr. Haldeman began what would eventually become another career, when on July 16, 1947 he took his first lessons as a pilot. His license to fly was awarded on March 15, 1948, and he soon purchased the first of several single-engine aircraft.⁴² In the short-term this new mobility greatly decreased the time away from his practice; the Davenport trek was reduced to 6-8 hours in the air. Speaking engagements within the province no longer detracted from his time with his patients.

However, flying became more than a mere convenience for the Haldeman family (see Figures 8). The "Flying Haldemans," parents and children, became celebrities at the PSC Home-

comings and ICA meetings, and were regularly featured in the society's journal. Among the happiest and proudest moments of Joshua Haldeman's life were the times spent at the annual Palmer convocations. He would recall these occasions in a book on flying authored by he and his wife, including one particularly memorable event, wherein he was invited to address those assembled at his alma mater on the subject of "Freedom";⁴³ the presentation took place on Monday, August 29, 1949:

When they [twins] were three months old, we flew with them down to Davenport, Iowa, to attend the Palmer Chiropractic Lyceum. Before leaving for Davenport, we went to Edmonton. I had a conference with Premier Ernest Manning. The nine-hundred-mile return flight to Edmonton had to be made occasionally, as I was organizing Saskatchewan and was Chairman of the National Council of the Social Credit Association of Canada. We depended on Premier Manning and Alberta for assistance. This was generously given and Bob Jorgenson, later Minister of Welfare, and Ernest Manning always gave me as much of their time as was needed when we visited them. Pictures of the "Flying Twins" were in the Edmonton papers and in Davenport, Iowa, papers in the one week.

The following year we flew to Davenport in the Bellanca. I was a guest speaker at the Palmer Lyceum before five thousand of my colleagues. On the same program was Bernard McFadden [Macfadden]. It was most interesting to meet a man who I had heard about all my life and whose magazines were always to be found in my living quarters.

Visiting the Palmer Lyceum is like a "pilgrimage to Mecca". Here, from the original school and the Fountainhead of Chiropractic, is disclosed the latest scientific developments in chiropractic. Chiropractic, having been discovered only in 1895 by Dr. D.D. Palmer, is in a state of continual development. One of the great sources of interest is Dr. B.J. Palmer's (son of the Founder) million dollar private clinic, where the most advanced types of modern medical equipment are used to prove actual body conditions, and the proof of the relief of these conditions by chiropractic only – "the scientific adjusting of a bone in the spine to relieve nerve pressure to restore health."

At a year old, the flying twins were certainly "cute" and attracted a lot of attention. They had their first television appearance in Davenport over WHO-WOC (see Figure 9). The radio artists coined the word "telegenic" for the twins.^{42,p.22}

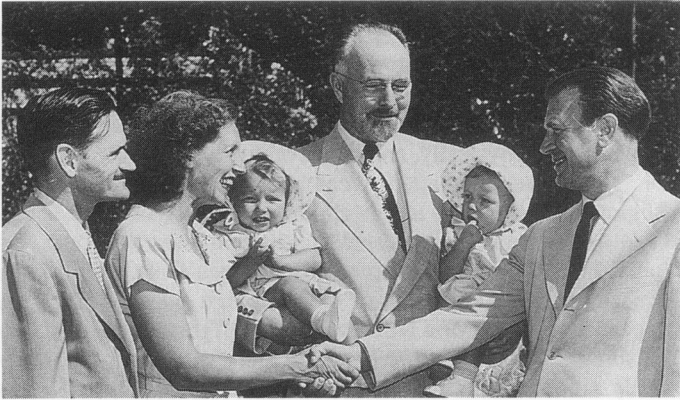


Figure 8 At the 1949 Lyceum of the Palmer School of Chiropractic (PSC) the Haldemans are shown meeting with Leonard K. Griffin, D.C., member of the ICA Board of Control, and David D. Palmer, D.C., then Vice-President of the PSC. Left to right: Dr. Griffin, Wyn Haldeman, Dr. Haldeman and his twin daughters, Kay and Maye, and Dr. Palmer (Haldeman papers).

During their final years of residence in Canada the Haldeman family became “flying enthusiasts” and toured North America in their airplane.¹ Their book, *The Flying Haldemans: Pity the Poor Private Pilot*, recounts a variety of chiropractically-related trips, including visits with Leo Spears, D.C. at the latter’s Denver hospital, a journey to Los Angeles, where they were guests of John S. Clubine, D.C., former president of the CMCC, for a tour of Hollywood, and stops at various chiropractic schools for post-graduate education.

Practitioner, husband and father

Dr. Haldeman is remembered as a very successful practitioner in several respects: as a clinician devoted to his patients, as developer of several large and financially rewarding practices, and as a respector of the professional responsibility to stay current with his field. Joshua was no less ardent a family man; he described his courtship and marriage to Wyn (Winnifred Josephine Fletcher) in 1942 as follows:

Life seemed to be a little dull, so I decided to take dancing lessons and phoned the local dance studio. The dance teacher said she was booked up until nine o’clock that evening. I told her, “That’s all right. I want to get started and will come back at nine o’clock.” Six months passed and in a weak moment I happened to say, “When will you marry me?” Without hesitation, “Tomorrow” she said.⁴²

During the war, Dr. Haldeman was so busy with his political and economic research that he had little time for his practice and lived at the YMCA. After a honeymoon in a straw patch on his parent’s farm, they moved to Wyn’s six-by-eleven trailer. Their son Scott’s first bed was an apple box on the side of a wall. Once daughter Lynne arrived, however, Joshua’s com-

mitment to family took over and he built one of the most successful chiropractic practices in the province of Saskatchewan. He moved to a three-story, twenty-room house in which Wyn had her dance studio. Twin daughters, Maye and Kaye, arrived in 1948 following by another son, Angkor Lee, in 1955. Over the next 30 years until his death, Joshua and Wyn shared a commitment to each other, their children, political ideals and chiropractic. They did everything together and throughout their marriage the children never heard them argue or seriously disagree on any matter.

Joshua’s family life was dominated by his ethical and chiropractic principles. He repeatedly expressed the view that the body had the innate ability to heal itself if it was not abused and received chiropractic adjustments on a regular basis. He did not smoke, nor would he permit smoking in his family. The children were not allowed to drink coffee nor take alcohol until they were adults. Dr. Haldeman would allow only whole wheat breads and cereals, and insisted that unrefined flour and sugar be used at home. He would go so far as to collect ground wheat directly from farmers to avoid contamination. It was not even perceived possible that a member of his family would

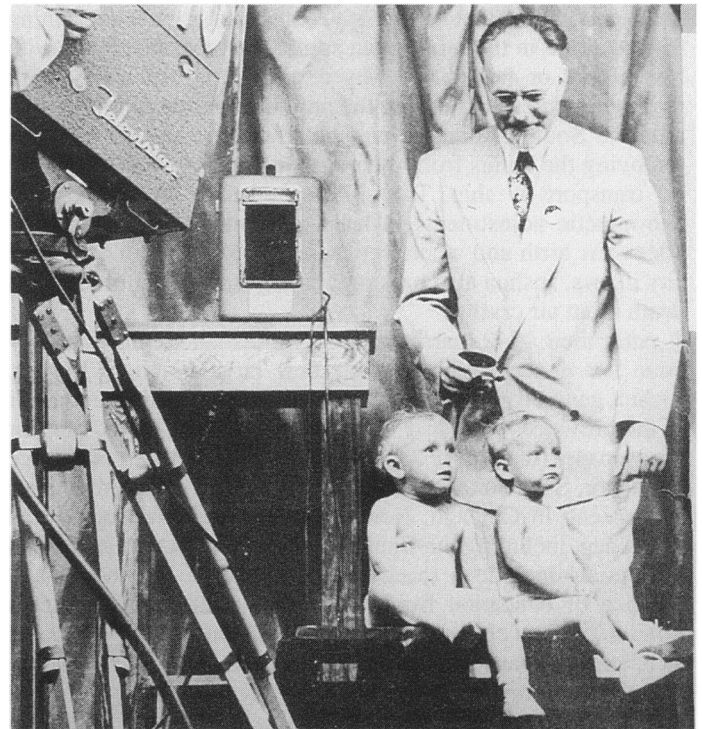


Figure 9 Photo from the *ICA International Review of Chiropractic* 1949 (Oct); 4(4):13; original caption reads: “Television Plays a Part Too! Kaye and Maye Haldeman (or is it Maye and Kay), twin daughters of Dr. J.N. Haldeman, Regina, Saskatchewan, are shown with their father, as he demonstrates nerve pressure reading during special pre-Lyceum classes”; courtesy of the Los Angeles College of Chiropractic.

have psychological problems or be unhappy. Joshua rarely, if ever, punished his children, but instead dominated the household by his personal behavior and strong beliefs in a high moral code. There was a strong belief that the children would inherently do the right thing if left to their own resources. He was never heard to swear beyond an occasional “darn,” and did not tolerate swearing by the children. Although an avid student of the bible and believer in Christianity, he rarely went to church, believing instead that he had a personal ability to interpret the teachings and morals of the bible at least as well or better than most ministers. The children, however, were required to go to Sunday School in order to assure that they were familiar with Christian standards.

Stories told to the children about Joshua’s youth tended to focus on his years in the rodeos, where he would ride wild horses and steers and do rope spinning. He would entertain the children at parties by doing rope tricks. He claimed to have fractured multiple bones while breaking horses for farmers and to have organized one of the earliest rodeos in Canada, probably in Swift Current in the 1930s. His most common piece of advice was that, “If you always enjoy everything you do, you will never do anything that you don’t enjoy.” Son Scott remembers that he was given an equal say on everything that occurred in the family, but somehow never disagreed with his mother or father. He was required to participate in all family activities, and during the period when the family was to move to South Africa, he was delighted to help his father in removing the wings from their airplane and in crating the craft for transport by ship. The children’s health was assured by chiropractic adjustments at least once monthly from shortly after their birth and whenever there was a symptom or sign of any illness. Joshua also took regular adjustments until his 1974 death in an air crash.

After their 1942 marriage, Wyn Haldeman continued to operate her dance studio in their new large home in Regina. Joshua generally assumed that she was the best dance teacher in the province. Wyn had worked since the age of 16, first for a newspaper (the *Moose Jaw Times Herald*), and then as a dance instructor. She had taken extensive training in dance, dramatics and speech in Chicago, New York, Toronto, Vancouver and Winnipeg, including the Banff School of Fine Arts. Her formal credentials include a teacher’s certificate in the theory and practice of education from the Trinity College of Music in London, and an elementary certificate in ballet from the Royal Academy of Dance in England. Following World War II the Royal Academy of Winnipeg conducted classes at Wyn Haldeman’s studios in Regina, and in 1947 Mrs. Haldeman founded a small ballet company. She is proud of her company’s productions, including “Peter and the Wolf,” “Sleeping Beauty,” “The Fire Bird,” the “Nutmcracker Suite,” and “La Boutique Fantastique,” among others. Joshua never doubted for a moment that Wyn could operate her dance studio, bring up four children, support his chiropractic and political activities, and travel around the continent in a single-engine airplane with the children in

the back seat.

Joshua Haldeman had a particular aversion to Coca-Cola. Before the second World War, Coca-Cola included cocaine as an additive, which produced many addictions. Joshua often described a friend who drank 20 Cokes per day, had deteriorated mentally and physically, and who eventually committed suicide. Dr. Haldeman conducted a campaign against Coca-Cola in Regina and refused to let his children purchase or drink Coca-Cola at any time. He reported that he had been threatened by individuals who claimed to represent Coca-Cola, and on one occasion another supporter of the campaign against Coca-Cola apparently fell out of a window. Although this was declared to be suicide, Joshua always believed there was foul play, especially since he was warned that this could happen to him as well.

Over the years, Joshua gave a number of reasons why he decided to leave Canada and travel to South Africa in 1950. He had never been to South Africa, and did not know anyone who lived there, although he had corresponded with John Blackbourn, a chiropractor in Cape Town. Haldeman felt that the political system in Canada had deteriorated with a rapid growth in the power of government to control the lives of individuals; he also perceived a drop in the moral standards of the country. However, the primary reason for the relocation to South Africa may have been his adventurous spirit and the desire for a more pleasant climate in which to raise his family. Joshua and Wyn agreed that they could live on a quarter of their Canadian income, if necessary. Within six months of their decision to relocate, they had sold their home, the studio and the chiropractic practice, had crated the Bellanca aeroplane, packed up the family and boarded a freighter for a 30 day voyage to Cape Town.

Beyond the Canadian years

On November 21, 1950 the Haldeman Chiropractic Clinic opened in Pretoria, South Africa.⁴⁴ Joshua would soon report in the ICA’s *International Review of Chiropractic* that his practice had grown to 25 patients by mid-January, 1951 and 37 patients by early February.⁴⁵ Eventually, Haldeman would build one of the largest chiropractic clinics in the country, and would treat one of the country’s presidents, whose hillside home overlooked the Haldeman clinic, as well as a number of cabinet ministers. He and his associates reputedly cared for as many as 175 patients in a day.⁴⁶

Following the family’s relocation to South Africa, they commenced a number of inter-continental aerial tours which caught the attention of the international press. These included flights throughout Africa, Europe and Australia. Haldeman’s enhanced mobility enabled him to accommodate a number of international speaking engagements, including a 1952 address to the European Chiropractic Convention⁴⁷ and a 1954 presentation at an Australian convention of chiropractors. The round-trip voyage in 1954 extended thirty thousand miles: up the coast of Africa, over parts of Asia, across the open sea to

Australia and back; Joshua Haldeman is thought to be the only private pilot to make such a trek in a single-engine plane. He is also remembered as a co-founder of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association of South Africa, which he served as president for four years and as a member of the society's national council for eight or more years.

The chiropractor's wings also encouraged his career as an explorer. Haldeman became intrigued with the legend of a lost city in the desert of South Africa and made numerous trips by air and ground over extremely hostile terrain. Rehm^{13,pp.322-3} has noted that Haldeman was:

Also an explorer, sportsman and political activist, Dr. Haldeman perhaps became best known in South Africa for his expertise in the 'Lost City of the Kalahari Desert.' His first expedition into the Kalahari desert was in 1953 to look for the Lost City described by Farini in 1885. The second was an 8,400-mile aerial search at 200 feet off the ground in uncharted desert. Altogether, he made 12 expeditions searching for the Lost City. On every occasion he was accompanied by Mrs. Haldeman and those of his children who were home. Two books on the Lost City (by F. Goldie and A.J. Clement) devoted large sections to his travels. Though he found no evidence, Dr. Haldeman remained convinced there was indeed a Lost City in the Kalahari desert.

Soon after his arrival in South Africa the veteran chiropractic politician would also become involved in professional affairs in his new country. From 1952 to 1959 he served as secretary of the South African Chiropractors Association (SACA), and during 1959 through 1969 as president of the organization. During his tenure, the SACA maintained monthly educational meetings, invited neurosurgeons and professors from the medical schools as speakers at the annual conventions and formed a South African Chiropractic Research Foundation which briefly had a small animal laboratory. It was typical of Joshua Haldeman's vision for the science and art of chiropractic.

Conclusion

Doctor, politician, economist, family man, author, pilot, adventurer, college founder Joshua N. Haldeman (see Figure 10) did it all and did it well. For the profession in Canada, J.N.'s legacy is still quite visible in the form of the Canadian Chiropractic Association and the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College. His role in the profession's middle years exemplified a commitment to straight chiropractic principles, high standards of education, and integrity in professional matters.

Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Donald T. Bramham, D.C., Lesley Biggs, Ph.D., Vivian Doan, Bart Green, D.C., C.C.S.P., Jerry Grod, D.C., F.C.C.S.(C), Mr. Jerry Haldeman, Mrs. Wyn Haldeman, J. Kenneth Goldie, D.C., Herbert K. Lee, D.C., Dale Mierau, D.C., M.Sc., F.C.C.S.(C), Jetta Nash, B.A., William Rehm,



Figure 10 Dr. Joshua Norman Haldeman, circa 1945; photo from the Haldeman papers.

D.C., John A.M. Taylor, D.C., D.A.C.B.R. and the librarians of the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College for their input and assistance. This report was supported by a grant from the Canadian Chiropractic Association. We are also grateful for the support of the National Institute of Chiropractic Research, the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College and the Los Angeles College of Chiropractic. The authors are solely responsible for the content of this paper.

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In science we trust

Back in the first half of the 20th century, a group called Technocracy Incorporated wanted to reorganize society by putting scientists in charge. The movement flamed out, but its underlying message still appeals to many in Silicon Valley.

By Ira Basen

June 28, 2021

On Oct. 13, 1940, a Regina chiropractor named Joshua Haldeman appeared in city court to face two charges under the Defence of Canada Act.

His alleged offence was belonging to Technocracy Incorporated, an organization that had been banned by the Canadian government several months earlier as part of a larger sweep of groups it considered subversive to the war effort.

Technocracy Incorporated was not a political movement – in fact, politicians or members of political parties were not allowed to join. It was founded in New York City in 1933 as an educational and research organization promoting a radical restructuring of political, social and economic life in Canada and the United States, with science as its central operating principle.

- [Listen to the full documentary on Technocracy on CBC Radio's *Ideas*](#)

There would be no politicians, business people, money or income inequality. Those were all features of what Technocracy called the “price system,” and it would have to go.

There would be no countries called Canada or the United States, either – just one giant continental land mass called the Technate, a techno-utopia run by engineers and other “experts” in their fields. In the Technate, everyone would be well-housed and fed. All material needs would be taken care of, whether you had a job or not.

Joshua Haldeman was a leader of Technocracy Incorporated in Canada from 1936 to 1941, but eventually became disillusioned with both the organization and the country, and packed up his young family to start life anew in South Africa.

In June 1971, Haldeman's daughter Maeve gave birth to his first grandson. His name is Elon Musk.

In 2019, Musk tweeted, "accelerating Starship development to build the Martian Technocracy."



Musk's estimated net worth today is more than \$150 billion US. He's clearly done very well inside the price system his grandfather would have railed against. But Musk has not completely abandoned his Technocracy roots.

Musk doesn't talk about a Technate on Earth, but he has invested billions developing rockets to send people to Mars, with the intent to colonize it. He wants to see a city of a million people there by 2050.

In 2019, Musk tweeted, "accelerating Starship development to build the Martian Technocracy."

Most of Technocracy Incorporated's ideas for the Technate were neither practical nor achievable. But they raised at least two important questions that we're still grappling with today: How should governments respond when large numbers of people lose their jobs to automation – and how can representative democracy, with all its obvious imperfections, function effectively in a world where science and technology play an ever more dominant role?

'A clash between obsolescence and modernity'

In a speech to an American audience in 1963, Howard Scott, the founder and leader of Technocracy Incorporated, declared that "as far as Technocracy's ideas are concerned, we're so far left that we make communism look bourgeois."

That may not have been the most effective recruiting slogan at the height of the Cold War, but Scott wasn't entirely wrong.

Technocracy was far from the only protest movement to emerge from the economic collapse of the 1930s. Social Credit in Alberta and the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation in Saskatchewan, the forerunner of the NDP, also attracted a lot of support. Some groups across the political spectrum had ties to European political movements. Some had charismatic leaders, like Huey Long and Father Charles Coughlin in the United States.

But Technocracy was a uniquely North American movement that may have been the most radical of them all. And in the depths of the

Great Depression, hundreds of thousands of Canadians and Americans were prepared to embrace it.

Howard Scott founded Technocracy Inc. in 1933. He led the organization until his death in 1970. (Technocracyinc.org)

Technocracy's ideology defies easy characterization. It was anti-capitalist and anti-democratic, but not fascist. It was anti-government, but not libertarian. It believed in a radical form of social and economic equality, but it was not Marxist.

It rejected all those ideologies because none of them accepted the idea that science and technology were transforming North American life, and that only highly trained engineers and experts were capable of building a "new" North America.

While other political parties and protest groups were touting plans for putting people back to work, Technocracy response was: don't even bother. The world had changed, and the jobs destroyed by machines were not coming back.

Before the Industrial Revolution, most manufacturing was done by hand, and there were never enough goods to go around; it was an economy based on scarcity. Now, machines could produce more

than enough of everything for everybody with significantly less human labour.

But this industrial system capable of producing abundance was being stymied by the price system, a pre-industrial, scarcity-based construct ill-suited to a world where machines were replacing humans in the workplace.

At the heart of the price system was money. It was what forced people to go into debt, break the law, become greedy and engage in all kinds of other bad behaviours. But help was on the way.

“The march of technology, with its increasing abundance, will destroy every value of the price system,” Scott declared in a speech in Sylvan Lake, Alta., during a western Canadian speaking tour in September 1939. “It is a clash between obsolescence and modernity, between technology and value, between science and chaos.”

If this all sounds familiar, it’s because doomsday scenarios about massive unemployment and social unrest caused by technological change have been around since at least the Industrial Revolution.

A Technocracy sign is seen in Josephine County, Ore., in August 1939. (Technocracyinc.org)

In the 1770s, when the use of the spinning jenny became widespread, many weavers who had been spinning cloth by hand from their homes lost their jobs. But the spinning jenny made it cheaper to produce cloth, which meant more people could afford to buy clothes, which meant many more of them were needed to work in the factories where the cloth was now being produced.

This has been the story of technological change up to now: The jobs that machines have taken they have invariably given back in even greater numbers. The price system has proven to be much more resilient and adaptable than doomsayers like Howard Scott had imagined.

But today, as robots and artificial intelligence make ever deeper inroads into our offices and factories, the doomsayers are back, predicting a tsunami of unemployment that will crash into workplaces like banks and law offices, which until now have largely resisted automation. They fear this time, the story will in fact be different.

According to a 2019 report by the U.K. research group Oxford Economics, around 1.7 million jobs have already been lost to robots globally since 2000. Even the people who have helped engineer the tsunami are worried.

“We are experiencing the greatest economic and technological shift in human history,” declared Silicon Valley entrepreneur Andrew Yang during his unlikely run for the Democratic presidential nomination in

2020. “We need a way to help millions of Americans transition through this period.”

Yang’s solution was a \$1,000 US-a-month universal basic income. It’s an idea that has gained considerable traction among Silicon Valley engineers and entrepreneurs in recent years – even among those who are usually opposed to any kind of expansion of government.

Silicon Valley entrepreneur Andrew Yang sought the Democratic nomination for U.S. president in 2020, campaigning in part on a promise of a \$1,000-a-month universal basic income. (Joe Raedle/Getty Images)

At the World Government Summit in Dubai in 2017, Elon Musk — who constantly wages war with agencies trying to regulate his cars and rockets, and whose plan for fully autonomous vehicles could cost millions of jobs — expressed his support for a guaranteed basic income.

“Mass unemployment” will be a “massive social challenge,” Musk warned. Echoing words that his grandfather likely uttered many times, Musk concluded, “There will be fewer and fewer jobs that a robot cannot do better. With automation will come abundance.”

‘You can only patch up the symptoms so far’

For Technocracy, schemes like a universal basic income simply postpone the inevitable day of reckoning for the price system.

“You can’t fumble along with the system and just patch up the symptoms,” explained Tom Mason in a recent phone interview from his home in Tampa Bay, Fla. Mason is 99 years old and has been involved with Technocracy since the 1940s.

“Politicians today don’t want to address the disease. They just want to treat the symptoms — and you can only patch up the symptoms so far.”

Tom Mason, who is 99 and lives in Tampa Bay, Fla., has been involved with Technocracy Inc. since the 1940s. (Kathryn Mason)

For Technocracy, addressing the “disease” meant doing away with the price system and the political infrastructure that supported it. They could provide citizens with far more security than any kind of guaranteed basic income.

“Under the Technate, we will be responsible for the health and well-being of every human being,” Howard Scott declared. “That is more than any political government ever did.”

Technocracy's plan was to replace the price system with a system based on energy. In the 1920s, Scott and his colleagues began a hugely ambitious program called the Energy Survey of North America. The idea was to establish a value for all the goods and services produced on the continent, not by measuring how much labour was expended or how much money was spent, but on the amount of energy used to produce them.

They would then divide the total amount of energy used by the number of citizens in the Technate over the age of 25, and issue each of those citizens an equal number of Energy Certificates, whether they were employed or not. These certificates would be the Technate's currency.

The Technate was meant to encompass the entire American continent, from Panama to the North Pole. (Technocracyinc.org)

Every time you bought something, some of your energy credits would be deducted, and because the certificates would be issued directly to the owner, they couldn't be bought, sold, traded or stolen. No one would be able to accumulate more than anyone else. It was a prescription for a radically egalitarian state that might have made a Bolshevik blush.

In the Technate, your work life wouldn't begin until age 25. Once you joined the labour force, you'd work 16 hours a week, you'd get about 78 days of vacation a year and you'd retire when you're 45.

Only a small percentage of adults in the Technate would have jobs, and Scott thought that should be a cause for celebration. Most of those "hand tool" jobs were not very good to begin with, so why weep if they could now be done by a machine? People who clung to old-fashioned ideas about the value of work were "suckers."

"If you want to know what work has done for you, go home and look in the mirror and see what a mess you are."



"One of the lowest social diseases is the belief in the morality of work," he told an audience in Calgary. "If you want to know what work has done for you, go home and look in the mirror and see what a mess you are."

Scott believed that people, freed from having to work for a living and secure in the knowledge that all their material needs would be taken care of, would be able to fulfill themselves through the arts, recreation, religion or education, all of which would thrive in the Technate.

This idea that people longed to be relieved of the burden of their labour has been a staple of utopian literature since the 19th century, but it ignores some deeper realities.

Speaking to the World Government Summit in 2017, Musk acknowledged that a guaranteed basic income would address only one part of the problem caused by technological unemployment. “The much harder challenge is, how are people going to have meaning?” Musk asked. “A lot of people derive their meaning from their employment. So if there’s no need for your labour, what’s your meaning? Do you feel useless? That’s a much harder problem to deal with.”

Elon Musk's grandfather, Joshua Haldeman, was a Technocracy leader in Saskatchewan between 1936 and 1941. Musk says he wants to build a 'Martian Technocracy.' (Britta Pedersen/Pool/AFP via Getty Images)

‘On a different plane than regular people’

Howard Scott was a tireless worker on behalf of Technocracy Incorporated, an organization he founded and led until his death in 1970. He spent most of those years travelling across North America preaching his path to a better world. A book called *Words and*

Wisdom of Howard Scott, prepared by a Technocracy chapter after his death, runs to more than 2,000 pages.

Scott was a polarizing figure. For better or for worse, he was always the public face of Technocracy.

At six foot five, Scott was an imposing figure with a deep, resonant voice aided by a lifetime of chain-smoking cigarettes. In his public interactions, he often came across as arrogant and condescending, but most Technocracy members were captured by his intelligence, charisma and ability to reel off facts and figures about global industrial production.

“He was on a different plane than regular people,” recalls longtime Technocracy member Ed Blechschmidt, in a recent interview from his home in Pennsylvania. Blechschmidt said Scott, who he first met in the ‘60s, “would talk and explain things and smile and be friendly. But if you asked him a question, he immediately would spout off twenty minutes of something you couldn't even understand.”

Howard Scott addresses a Technocracy Inc. rally at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles in 1941. (Technocracyinc.org)



Scott was also a savvy marketer with a flair for the dramatic. He liked to stage what he called “symbolizations.” These were spectacles designed to show the wider world that Technocracy was a force to be reckoned with.

The largest symbolization took place in June 1947. It was called Operation Columbia and involved a motorcade of hundreds of cars that proceeded up the west coast of the U.S. into British Columbia, where Scott delivered a speech to a capacity crowd of 5,000 people at the Vancouver Forum.

In its public outings, Technocracy Incorporated had an oddly militaristic look. Its members, both men and women, wore tailored grey suits and drove cars that they also painted grey. They greeted each other with salutes.

To Scott’s critics – which included many of his former allies – the uniforms and salutes were evidence of a penchant towards authoritarianism. They considered him to be an egotistical blowhard. In fact, he appears to have seriously inflated his resume, falsely claiming to have an academic degree and work experience as an engineer. That last point mattered, because in the Technate, engineers and other experts would be in charge.

The images above are stills from a documentary film produced by Technocracy Inc. in the 1940s. In the top photo, a Technocracy Inc. motorcade prepares to cross the border into B.C. during Operation Columbia on July 1, 1947. The second photo is a sign promoting Technocracy outside their Victoria, B.C., headquarters in 1942. (Technocracyinc.org)

Technocracy believed that in a world that revolved around science and technology, only people with proven expertise in those areas should be responsible for its governance. That excluded all the usual suspects — business people, lawyers, bankers, academics — none of whom had the practical skills the modern age demanded.

“Those who create a civilization will eventually dominate it,” Scott proclaimed in a speech in Winnipeg. “The engineers and mechanics created this civilization, and will eventually dominate it.”

Technocracy was building “a technological army of the functionally competent.”

This meant there would be no room and no need for democracy. All the normal functions of government — education, health, sanitation, public safety — would be run by experts chosen by their peers. Doctors would vote for the person in charge of the health-care system, teachers for the person who’d run the schools and so on. There would be a cabinet made up of about a hundred of these

experts, and they would select a “continental director” to oversee the whole thing.

This was how Technocracy planned to overcome its core complaint with democracy: that it led to too many incompetent people being in charge, or that too many people made bad decisions because they lacked the necessary expertise or were motivated by profit, ambition or something else that would lead them astray.

In the Technate, all the normal functions of government would be run by experts chosen by their peers. They would select a cabinet called the Continental Board, which would then choose a continental director. (Technocracyinc.org)

‘You are not welcome among us’

This idea was not new. Plato believed society functioned best when it was run by experts. Technocracy’s focus on engineers was rooted in the conviction that there was a technological fix to almost all of society’s problems.

Today, the idea that governments are too slow, too inefficient, too lacking in expertise to solve hard problems is widely shared among the engineers and entrepreneurs of Silicon Valley.

This libertarian impulse has always been part of the ethos of Silicon Valley. One of its first and most forceful expressions came in 1995, when tech pioneer John Perry Barlow delivered his “Declaration of the Independence of Cyberspace” to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

“Governments of the Industrial World, you weary giants of flesh and steel,” the Declaration began. “I come from Cyberspace, the new home of Mind. On behalf of the future, I ask you of the past to leave us alone. You are not welcome among us. You have no sovereignty where we gather.”

Silicon Valley’s attitude towards government has become more accommodating since Barlow delivered his declaration, both out of choice and necessity. But there remains a conviction that, left to their own devices, tech companies are better able to solve problems in areas like transportation, education and health care, where decades of government regulation have put a break on innovation.

“There’s a lack of focus on efficiency,” lamented former Google executive chairman Eric Schmidt on a panel about government and technology in 2019. “The reason there's no innovation in government is there's no bonuses for innovation. In fact, if you take a risk ... and it fails, your career is over.”

A system “where problems can be identified through evidence, facts, reason, rather than

ideological beliefs ... I think that a lot of people find that appealing.”



This is the kind of overblown rhetoric we’ve come to expect from engineers and entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley, and their insistence that governments should step aside in favour of true problem-solvers is clearly self-serving. But the idea that we should be looking to experts rather than politicians for solutions to massively complex problems like a deadly pandemic or a climate emergency is gaining traction everywhere.

“The idea of an apolitical world is appealing more and more to people,” argues Eri Bertsou, a senior researcher at the University of Zurich and co-editor of a 2020 book called *The Technocratic Challenge to Government*.

“People are tired, and they are put off by the commotion and the disagreement of representative politics,” Bertsou said. “So it’s this appeal of an efficient machine-like system ... where problems can be identified through evidence, facts, reason, rather than ideological beliefs. I think that a lot of people find that appealing.”

Bertsou has been studying the rise of “technocratic” governments around the world, especially in Europe. In February 2021, Mario Draghi, an economist and former president of the European Central

Bank who had never held political office, was named Italian prime minister to help manage the country's post-pandemic economic recovery.

Draghi is a "technocrat," chosen for the specific experience he brings to the job. Italians are fond of technocrats, especially when times are tough, and Draghi is the fourth technocrat prime minister there since 1993. You can also find cabinet-level technocrats in Greece, France and Lebanon, among other countries. But none of them would be embraced by Technocracy, because they are still operating within the price system, still treating "symptoms," not the disease.

Mario Draghi, an economist and former president of the European Central Bank, is Italy's fourth technocrat prime minister since 1993. (Photo by Alberto Pizzoli/AFP via Getty Images)

While the number of technocrats in government is on the rise, so, too, is the number of populist politicians who wear their lack of expertise like a badge of honour.

During the 2020 U.S. presidential campaign, U.S. President Donald Trump mocked his opponent, Joe Biden, for saying he would "listen to the scientists" when it came to managing COVID-19. "If I listened totally to the scientists," Trump proclaimed, "we'd have a country right now that would be in a massive depression."

But there's been a price for not listening to the experts. Countries run by populist leaders of various shades – particularly the U.S., Brazil and the U.K. – have recorded among the highest COVID-19 death rates.

For longtime Technocracy Incorporated supporters like Ed Blechschmidt, the idea that anyone would question the science around the pandemic, or anything else, is mystifying.

“You can't argue with science and technology,” he insisted. “Science exists and scientific fact is fact. You can't have a political position about it. You have to recognize it and implement science.”

But as we've discovered during the pandemic, science can sometimes speak with many voices, and by definition, representative democracy requires a constant balancing act among competing interests. Governments have to listen to the scientists — but also to business people, parents and others.

Bertsou believes that by insisting on finding the one correct solution to every problem, Technocracy has presented a false dichotomy. “There is not one type of scientific knowledge, and no one way of governing social problems.”

Technocracy Incorporated began nearly a hundred years ago by seeking answers to two important questions: Why on a continent so rich in natural resources, energy and industrial capacity, were so many people suffering? And how could democracy, with all its

obvious imperfections, continue to function effectively in a world where science and technology played an ever more dominant role?

Technocracy's answers to both those questions were bold, radical, overly complicated and wildly impractical. Today, no one is talking about a North American Technate or a 16-hour work week or replacing money with energy certificates. But it would be wrong to dismiss Technocracy Incorporated as just another failed utopian scheme – not while the answers to those two questions remains so elusive.

Opinion **Silicon Valley**

[John Thornhill. (Feb. 19, 2018). The march of the technocrats, include refs. to Elon Musk, grandson of Joshua Musk, leader of the Technocracy Party of Canada (1936-1941) who emigrated from South Africa. Financial Times. Reproduced for educational purposes only. Fair Use relied upon. Source: <https://www.ft.com/content/df695f10-154d-11e8-9376-4a6390addb44>]

The march of the technocrats

There are lessons to be learnt today from the 'revolt of the engineers' in the 1930s

JOHN THORNHILL



Technocracy in action: Elon Musk, grandson of one of the movement's leader in Canada, Joshua Haldeman © Reuters

John Thornhill FEBRUARY 19 2018

[Maye Haldeman is
Elon Musk's mother]

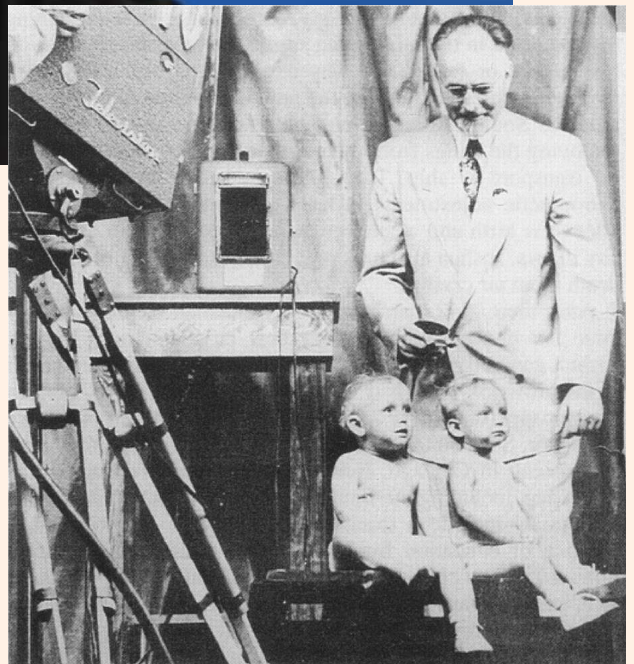


Figure 9 Photo from the *ICA International Review of Chiropractic* 1949 (Oct); 4(4):13; original caption reads: "Television Plays a Part Too! Kaye and Maye Haldeman (or is it Maye and Kay), twin daughters of Dr. J.N. Haldeman, Regina, Saskatchewan, are shown with their father, as he demonstrates nerve pressure reading during special pre-Lyceum classes"; courtesy of the Los Angeles College of Chiropractic.

[See "Joshua N. Haldmen, DC: the Canadian Years, 1926-1950" starting on p. 7 following.]

One of history's recurring themes is that [technology](#) sometimes outruns society, leaving politicians gasping to catch up with the consequences. So it was with the impact of the printing press, the steam engine and the computer. Arguably, so it is again today with gene editing, social media and artificial intelligence.

While technologists often rail that politicians just do not “get” technology, politicians counter that technologists all too rarely grasp politics.

One fascinating example of both sides of the debate was the history of the [technocracy movement](#) that briefly flourished in North America in the 1930s. The “revolt of the engineers”, as it was called, holds some interesting lessons for today.

It was understandable that radical movements emerged in the US in the 1930s in response to the Great Depression, just as communism and fascism proliferated in Europe. The technocracy movement argued that the best way out of the crisis was to reject the messiness of the market and old-fashioned politics and adopt a “modern scientific point of view”.

In their [Introduction to Technocracy](#), published in 1933, the movement's leaders declared that the “riff-raff” of outdated social institutions was blocking progress and politicians should be swept aside, just as alchemists and astrologers had previously given way to science. Traditional economics, obsessed with arbitrary pricing mechanisms rather than rational production, was nothing more than the “pathology of debt”.

“In contrast to the devious ways of politics, the fumbling methods of finance and business . . . we have the methods of science and technology,” the movement’s manifesto declared. “Modern common sense is now calling upon physical science and technology to extend the frontiers of their domain.”

The historian William E Akin identified three wellsprings for budding technocrats: a growing fashion for centralised planning among progressive reformers; the popular mythology of the engineer as the saviour of American society; and the scientific management theories of Frederick W Taylor.

Abolishing the price mechanism and maximising production had some obvious parallels with what was happening in the Soviet Union. In his brilliant dystopian novel [We](#), the Russian writer Yevgeny Zamyatin savaged such technocratic thinking, foreseeing a society in which people had numbers, not names, and operated like cogs in a vast industrial machine. The North American technocracy movement, though, argued fiercely against both communism and fascism and claimed to be much more humane.

In spite of the media interest, the technocracy movement never succeeded in the US, largely because its leaders were hopeless politicians. President Franklin D Roosevelt was the one to salvage capitalism through his New Deal. Perhaps the movement’s greatest failing was that it never spelt out practical solutions that ordinary voters could understand. Disappointed that pure reason had not swept all before it, the movement eventually split, with one splinter group ending up as a quasi-fascist fan club.

North of the border, the technocracy movement was taken so seriously that it was banned by the Canadian authorities, fearing it planned to overthrow the government. The party's disillusioned leader, the adventurer Joshua Haldeman, later abandoned Canada and moved to South Africa.

At the heart of the movement was the belief that human action was measurable and, ultimately, predictable. "Technocracy makes one basic postulate: that the phenomena involved in the functional operation of a social mechanism are metrical," its manifesto claimed.

Flashes of that mentality appear to have resurfaced on the West Coast of the US today in what the writer Evgeny Morozov has called [technological "solutionism"](#). According to this worldview, technology has the answer to almost every problem and humans can best be analysed as collections of data points.

The politicians' response is that human behaviour is not computable. Both individually and collectively we act in refreshingly irrational ways. It is hard to improve on Immanuel Kant's famous dictum: "Out of the crooked timber of humanity, no straight thing was ever made."

One small, but intriguing, footnote in the history of the technocracy movement, though, may have particular resonance today. One of Haldeman's grandsons is Elon Musk, the space entrepreneur who aims to turn us into an interplanetary species.

Maybe technocracy will finally have its day, appropriately enough, on Mars.

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