



**TACTICAL THINKING:
OCCASIONING SPIRIT HAPPENINGS
(sentences)**

VISION: S/O

The Church's only concern is the future, a vision for mankind. Tactical thinking requires that one begin with a vision (a will be). Sartres suggested that the only ones who "know" the world are those who are out to change it. LCX begins with a vision of a Church equiped for responsive mission to the world. Perhaps somewhat in the order of HRN's vision in par. 5 of RSI "Acting as a global society undivided by race, national origin and class" and with a vision of the Resurrection. The tactics are the means of journeying concretely toward this vision as this vision is articulated in both its global and local manifestations. It is a means of creating the signs of local possibility.

SOCIAL ANALYSIS: CONTRADICTION

Tactical thinking requires a realistic look at the actual (what is) through the screen of the vision. This kind of social analysis allows one to clearly articulate the present situation thus discerning where the vision is blocked, where the positive trends are weak and need focus and encouragement. It allows the naming of the final contradiction. Without being named adequately the tactics will be mis-fired no matter how creative and well-planned. The vision of the trans-establishment (Movemental Church) is the point from which the blocks and contradictions (demons) are seen and named.

TACTIC IS BRIDGE

The tactics and the Tactical System then is the bridge on planks which ves from what is to what shall be. The Marshall paper studied last night suggested that the ve of the trends through the blocks to the S/O is a concretion of the vision. The tactic is a tool of empowerment, either direct or indirect, to catalyzethe positive trends.

TREND BENDER

Thus the tactics dynamics release the trends toward new vision, focus the trends which might otherwise miss the mark, empower the trends which might otherwise be too weak to go through the block and sustain the trends which might otherwise lose their motivity.

TRANSITION

It is in the process of doing the tactics that S/O is achieved through recreating images, style, and finally through recreating forms or structures. Let us look at these.

II: RE-CREATES IMAGES

S/C ABOUT SITUATION THAT IS

The first way that a tactic changes the images out of which an individual or group sees life is by holding up a vision of an alternative. It is

by seeing an "alternative" that a self-consciousness about present images is achieved. This raises the question about the adequacy of present images. It is when such an openness is awakened that permission is given for further new input and thus the initiation of a new decision relative to the future. An example of this might be the intentional placement of tables at a Board meeting. Without a judgement on other methods, a new image of seriousness is presented, raising the question of former intentionality, and calling for a new commitment about what it means to be a member of this body.

APPROPRIATE W/I THE COMPREHENSIVE CONTEXT

Thus the tactic is never a direct assault on a situation in order to force a pre-determined direction. Rather the continuous series of inputs create their own imperatives. That is they self-consciously or unself-consciously call forth more appropriate images within the comprehensive context. Therefore one is not trapped into the question of "better than". The group or individual finally himself determines the adequacy and appropriateness of the possible new images. The "direct assault" approach is always a temptation in order to "speed up" change. However it always creates a forced change which does not result from an authentic change in the images of the congregation. Therefore, a kind of strategic patience is required of the Auxiliary.

PLANT NEW IMAGES OF POSSIBILITY

Perhaps to say another word on this. Tactics which recreate images need to build upon the latent images already present. That is to build up the trends which are "yearning" to be realized in the congregation, parish or cadre dynamics. Therefore a tactic may be the exposure and headlining of that image and permission to push it through. Careful planning of T/A would thus require not a negation of present images (cynicism) but an exposure of the gifts already present. The tactic, so enacted, would not point to itself but would be transparent, seeing through the tactic to the new possibilities. A non-transparent tactic always appears as forced and therefore turns back upon itself.

PLANS SPIRIT EVENTS TO HOLD IMAGE IN BEING

The S/O need to be continuously kept in mind as the swirl of tactics so that not only will the possibility of new images begin but that the ensuing tactics will continue to sustain the new images and strengthen them. Mis-fired tactics will only tend to confuse the direction which has been initiated.

III. RE-CREATES STYLE

OF RELATING TO THE MYSTERY

As the tactics release people to new images of possibility, so they also recreate the style of relating to the Mystery, to the world, to the neighbor, and to the self. In relationship to the Mystery, a style of obedience to the totality emerges: to where innocent suffering is seen, it is the style of passionate engagement: a new style of "yes" to comprehensive expenditure. There is a style of a new openness and less protectiveness.

OF RELATING TO THE WORLD

It is the creating of the style of being prepared to be in a history-long march, a march that is aimed towards a new world for everyman. The style of knowing that expenditure and care are always particularized and yet at the same time are the care for all of life. The tactics illuminate a style of evoking the spirit in every happening and being chaste to that concrete particular demand.

OF RELATING TO THE NEIGHBOR

The tactical thinking and action recreate a style which allows the honoring of all men by evoking his own yearnings rather than seeking to control his responses. It is the style of offering a pearl as a gift to everyman.

OF RELATING TO SELF

Finally the tactical thinking recreates the self as one whose whole being in relationship to all of life is tactical, who becomes the embodiment of spirit and therefore creates spirit occasions in every situation, who is the embodiment of community as Pastor acting in all situations to re-create primal community and who as Prior responds as the caring ones.

IV. RE-CREATES FORMS

NOT A PROGRAM

The tactics are not a program, but are an input into the given situation. It is precisely this Spirit burst from within that recreates images and style where new forms of life are the outcome. But this quest for a new and adequate framework moves from within, as the new life can no longer be contained or sustained by the old forms, as new wine needs new wineskins.

STRUCTURED ENGAGEMENT

Such re-creations do not come as some ideal to be realized, but by a serious engagement with the present structures, by a yes to the given forms and a glorying in the real, and finding precisely in this the fulfillment that is present.

SOCIOLOGICAL PLANNING

Yet at the same time one does not lose sight of the depth spirit contradiction, nor the vision held by the S/O. The Geo/Social analysis recreated the demand for new forms from within. Tactical thinking requires that we be brooding and model building, as Social Engineers, on the forms which will express and sustain the new. Or else the new forms will not be an adequate "container" for the emerging re-constructed Church.

SOCIETY TRANSFORMATION

Societal transformation and the transformation of the Church comes from these spin-offs or residue effects which are the signs of the necessary and possible new forms. It is this concretized vision which will finally allow the whole Church a new possibility for receiving back its role in the community and in history.