

PASSAGE I

This passage is adapted from a book about the future of technology.

The catchphrase “information age” is widely used but often with only casual effort to unpack its meaning. For many, this phrase means little more than the fact that computers and associated technologies are involved. Yet, it is clear that we are in the throes of the third great transformation of human communication.

5 Before any form of communication was possible, there must have been human thought. We all have an experience of an inner life in which we look into our minds or reflect upon our thoughts, but our inner thoughts are not, in and of themselves, accessible to others. To be sure, a scream, a sigh, or a grunt may signal pain, satisfaction, or disapproval; but raw experience is not thought. Instead, what was needed was a system of symbols to express thoughts in ways that were susceptible to understanding by others, that is, a code. Speech sounds represent cognitions; and as language has developed, increasing richness and subtlety of
10 expression have become possible.

With speech, the knowledge of individuals could not only be communicated, it could be accumulated, and so society began to acquire a common wisdom—stored usually in the brains of elders. By memorizing the accumulated knowledge and passing it on to successive generations by word of mouth, the product of human minds achieved a durability beyond the life of a single human.

15 The second transformation occurred with the development of a code that made use of graphic symbols to record speech. The earliest known use of graphics is the cave drawings of the Upper Paleolithic period, 30,000 to 10,000 BCE, but these drawings were not yet a primitive form of writing—only a way to represent important events in the same way as primitive music and dance. The first true use of graphic symbols to codify speech did not occur until around 3,500 BCE or about 500,000 years after humans evolved an oral
20 tradition. The invention of the printing press, which made books, newspapers, magazines and other printed matter available to everyone who could read, belongs to this second transformation.

We are now in the throes of a third transformation in communications, though when it began exactly is difficult to say. One might choose that evening of 1844 when Samuel Morse telegraphed the message “What has God wrought!” Or possibly the invention by Charles Babbage of the “Analytic Engine,” a mechanical device
25 that prefigured the modern electronic computer. Or the ENIAC computer developed during World War II, the first digital electronic computer. In any case, it is estimated that it took about 150,000 years for human knowledge to first double, then 1,500 years for it to double again, and that it now doubles every 15 years or less.

**PASSAGE II**

This passage explains how legislatures have changed and evolved.

Legislatures are increasingly becoming highly professionalized bodies. There have been profound changes in the organization of legislative life, shifts in the location of power, and alterations to the instruments by which power is exercised.

James S. Young's account of Washington DC from 1800 through 1828 describes a community of sojourners, people temporarily in a place with little or no expectation of remaining long. Congressmen lived in boarding houses, and the boundaries between the makeshift social life of residents and their political duties were indistinct. Young's Washington was a city of cliques formed around regional and sectional affinities. For the modern legislator, social life has receded to the periphery. Legislators live in apartments and have less to do with one another in groups outside of the formal interactions of the legislative body. Organized political units—conferences, caucuses, committees—have replaced the more personal clique arrangements of an earlier period. Additionally, membership is more likely to be a career in itself rather than a temporary status or a capstone to another career. Indeed, members describe themselves in terms of their status. When asked to list their primary occupation, most describe themselves not as lawyers or business executives but as “legislators.”

A second set of changes involves the internalization of control of the legislative body. In earlier periods, it was the Chief Executive who set the agenda for the body as whole. For example, the Chief Executive proposed the budget, and the legislature largely approved it. Or the Chief Executive exercised control through a veto power that was regarded as nearly absolute. Now, legislators are more likely to propose an agenda and to ignore that of the Chief Executive and to make it clear that a veto can be overridden when the issue is of sufficient importance to the membership. External control also used to reside in the hands of local party leaders who controlled nominations. Now, control over nominations is more centralized and under the direction of legislative leaders.

Finally, there is the change in what counts as an instrument of power. Career legislators plan to be re-elected, so influencing a member's re-election chances becomes an important instrument of leadership. Leaders within the body itself now control the means to a successful campaign and distribute money and other assistance in exchange for loyalty. Additionally, member items, budget allocations to specific districts over which members have considerable control, are an important tool of leadership. And there is growth of centers of policy activity where a legislator has created a special area of influence through expertise and the development of special relationships with influential groups.

**PASSAGE III**

This passage discusses alcohol abuse and alcoholism in a clinical context.

Alcohol abuse and dependence are serious problems affecting 10 percent of adult Americans, and the toll is high: 3 out of 100 deaths in the United States can be linked directly to alcohol. In addition to traffic crashes, injuries in the home and on the job, and serious long-term medical consequences, alcohol abuse has been implicated in aggression and crime. The cost of alcohol abuse and alcohol dependence is estimated to be as
5 high as \$1 trillion annually.

Although patterns vary, it is possible to classify drinkers as social drinkers, alcohol abusers, and alcohol-dependent persons. While alcohol consumption is never entirely a risk-free activity, these categories represent a range from relatively benign to extremely problematic.

10 An evaluation of treatment for any alcohol-related disorder must be situated historically. For nearly two hundred years, the explanation of alcoholism as a disease competed with explanations in which character or moral defects were believed to lead to drinking behavior. It wasn't until the 1930s that serious consideration was given to the concept of alcoholism as a disease with psychological, biochemical, endocrinological, and neurological implications. Even as late as the 1960s, some researchers still defined alcoholism broadly to include any drinking behavior that had harmful consequences.

15 Evidence accumulated, however, suggesting that alcohol abuse and alcohol dependence are distinguishable. "Alcohol abuse" refers either to transitory or long-term problems in accomplishing basic living activities in which alcohol is implicated, and "alcohol dependence" describes a severe disability in which dependence brings about a reduction in the individual's ability to control the drinking behavior. This delineation was endorsed in 1987 by the Institute of Medicine, which defined alcohol abuse as "repetitive patterns of heavy
20 drinking associated with impairment of functioning and/or health" and discussed alcoholism (dependency) as a separate phenomenon. Alcohol dependence is associated with additional symptoms such as craving, tolerance, and physical dependence that bring about changes in the importance of drinking in the individual's life and impaired ability to exercise behavioral restraint.

The distinction has important clinical implications. For some nondependent alcohol abusers, drinking
25 patterns may be modified by exhortations or by societal sanctions. For alcohol-dependent persons, exhortations and sanctions are insufficient, and the goal of modified drinking inappropriate. The goal for these people is abstinence, and a range of treatment options is available, including pharmacologic interventions, psychotherapy, and counseling. But even alcohol-dependent persons do not constitute a homogeneous group. They are not identical in personality, life experiences, family characteristics, or social
30 status. Knowledge of the differences among alcohol-dependent persons is important because research shows that alcoholism treatment methods are differentially effective according to patient characteristics.

PASSAGE V

This passage describes the impact of open government statutes in California.

- Open government statutes in California have proved both beneficial and harmful. In the energy commission, for example, as in other government commissions, nearly all decisions must be made in a public session for which at least seven days' notice must be given. (Two notable exceptions to public participation in commission meetings are meetings that are held to discuss pending litigation and meetings held to discuss staff personnel matters.) The determination of which decisions can be made by the executive director and which are strictly reserved for the commission becomes quite important in this context. If something is a matter for the commission, there must be a public hearing with attendant publicity and preparation of materials for distribution at the meeting. (A formal delegation of authority authorizes the executive director to make purchases of goods and services, including consulting services, costing less than \$5,000.)
- Furthermore, no more than three of the commission's five commissioners may meet informally with one another or with the executive director or any member of his staff to discuss commission activities. Such behavior would be a violation of open government statutes. Staff briefings must take place commissioner by commissioner or through a commissioner's advisers. More frequently, commissioners or their advisers contact the staff for information, but all such requests must be submitted in writing.
- An example of the impact of open government on the operating procedures of a commission is the energy commission's budgetary process. The budget for the commission, unlike that prepared in other state agencies, was prepared in a public session by the five commissioners. The session was not simply a "review and comment" session, since the commissioners had not previously discussed the budget. Every item proposed for the budget could be commented on by anyone who attended the hearings. The budget was then forwarded to the governor's office prior to submission to the legislature as part of the executive budget. In a recent case involving development of regulations to ban the use of gas pilot lights in new equipment sold in the state, much of the actual development of the regulations was performed by an advisory committee of both environmental and industrial representatives in public workshops.
- Perhaps open government's effect has been greatest in the promulgation of rules and regulations. Complaints have arisen from the news media and several legislators about the slowness of the energy commission in setting regulations. In fact, the commission may be unable to meet the original legislatively mandated deadlines for several sets of regulations, including standards for newly constructed nonresidential buildings. If, however, a commission attempts to handle more matters without input from state agencies and interested groups in open meetings, it will be criticized for circumventing the open government intentions of the legislation. Thus, if present practices continue, the commission will continue to be criticized for moving too slowly; but if it attempts to move more quickly, the commissioners open themselves up to charges of attempting to circumvent the letter and spirit of the open government law.