would like to see a completely gender equitable world 30 years from now—an equal proportion of men and women working for pay and earning the same amount on average, regardless of which jobs they are in. Similarly, I would like to see the elimination of race and ethnicity-based differences in econom-
ics and politics; a more gender- and race-integrated work force in which most jobs are not sex and race typed as they are now, men and women sharing equally in the care of children, elders, and other family members or friends in need; everyone able to choose the partners and family compositions that suit them best, including living alone or living communally, and all groups represented in governments according to their share in the population. In other words, the complete elimination of all discrimi-
nation based on gender, race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.

Such a change would eliminate a large share of poverty. Paying women comparably with similarly qualified men, for example, would eliminate an estimated half of all poverty in families with working women in them. Nine of ten long-term low earners (those earning less than $15,000 per year across 15 years) are women. The low-wage labor market is very largely a female labor market, with women often working in jobs that pay less because women hold them.

While many more changes would be necessary to bring about a more democratic economy in which the average person has more control over her or his economic fate, I would like to see us start by achieving equal pay for comparable work in the labor market as well as an equitable distribution of family care at home.

Heidi Hartmann

W

ere the United States has declared an end to military inter-

vention, has eliminated its intelligence agencies, has disman-

tled its overseas military bases, has reduced its armed forces to a small peace-keeping contingent ready to heed the call of the U.N. General Assembly for emergencies, and where the resultant saving of half a trillion dollars is then added to another half trillion dollars that comes from a wealth tax and a truly progressive income tax, the trillion dollars then to be used in the following ways:

• To establish a program of Health Security, with free medical care

• To guarantee decent housing—through rent subsidies or low-

interest home loans—for any family not able to afford market

prices for good housing.

How to achieve this? Organize a new national movement around this agenda, which will then engage in a variety of resistant tactics: strikes, boycotts, demonstrations, marches, occupations, to insist that this program be enacted.

—Howard Zinn

In plenty of ways, the aims of the U.S. and global economic justice movements appear to be receding today, not drawing closer. Still, it is important to keep those aims in mind. On this 30th anniver-

sary, Dollars & Sense asked a number of thinkers and activists to describe their vision of a more economically just world 30 years hence, and to outline what they consider the most important steps to take today to move toward that vision.

Richard Smith

P

ossibly the most important task for the next 30 years is to ensure that we understand the history of the past fifty. That is true in the

political and strategic sphere, where much about the Cold War and our deep politics remains half-hidden. But it is also true in economics. Here deeply flawed and sometimes fraudu-

lent doctrines—such as “natural rate” theories of unemployment and interest, phobias about deficits, and misguided notions about debt—corrupt thought and confuse policy. Only in such a climate can an otherwise sensible public get whipped up over invented problems of Social Security 40 years hence, while little is done about nuclear risks and nothing is done about our precarious dependence on oil.

Outrage and activism are necessary but not sufficient.

Thirty years from now the prob-

lems of peace, full employment prospects, economic justice, nuclear security, and envi-

ronmental sustainability will be much the same as today.

If we understand them a little better, we may do a better job of getting them right from time to time. In particular, if by the centenary of Keynes’s General Theory of Employ-

ment, interest and money in 2036 the world will have a decent

fairs at the University of Texas, Austin. Michael Albert is a

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Nancy Folbre

Heidi Hartmann