

or years now in classes, in my writing, I've been banging on about the time having come when we could all sit around, guaranteed an income by the state. Friends laughed, found it impractical, altruistically asked, but what will (other) people do, they asked. Not, mind you, what would they do. On this account they had no fears. Maybe they'll sit around all day drinking beer and watching the game. ("So what?" I would say, "It beats working.") I pointed out that support had existed among the most

accounts for around one third of the US workforce, fully 53 million workers" (71). Newsweek "characterized young Americans as 'Generation Screwed.' Some writers have advanced the thesis that technology has become so productive that there is no longer need to work; or that the amount of human labor necessary for the production of a suitable standard of living Understandably enough, then, the idea of a guaranteed annual income, unrelated to work, has once more surfaced. I say once more because it was a concept that had been seriously discussed in the 1960s, but with much less support.

That it had been seriously discussed is evidenced in a 14-page memorandum of March 22, 1964 to President Lyndon Johnson. Signed by current and future Nobel Prize winners Linus Pauling and Gunnar Myrdal as well as the publisher of ~~Scientific American~~ ~~Scientific American~~ warned the President that: