

Age Of Automation, Efficiency,

We live in the day of the shortcut. An intense desire to save time and be efficient is at the heart of our economic system. This was illustrated in "Cheaper By the Dozen" when father, who was an efficiency expert, stood in front of the mirror while his wife held a stop-watch on him as he buttoned his vest. He determined he could save 1.7 seconds if he buttoned his vest from the top down

rather than from the bottom up. However, he failed to take into account that the whole experiment lasted 15 minutes—and used up more time than he could ever save at 1.7 seconds a day over the next ten years.

The drive to produce more for less effort and

PERSPECTIVE

money has given us labor-saving machinery and the highest standard of living in all history. Automation

permits longshoremen to time when you saved mo-unload a ship full of cars in hours instead of days, while complex mathematical problems are solved by computers in seconds. American ingenuity and discontent with inefficiency are known around the world.

LEARN TO play a piano in 10 easy lessons. Pick up German or French with three long-play records.

Lose five pounds in one on credit. They saved first and paid cash on the bar-week without effort. Make money in your spare time — success guaranteed.

We have little patience with any process that is slow or tedious.

But every coin has two sides — and one's strength can also be his weakness. The day of the short cut is also the day of the fast buck. People not only want their efficiency — they

At Times Perplexing

want it now. Gone is the good. I like the idea of being able to fly to Atlanta ney to buy a camera or a car. "Buy now — pay later" is the pitch. Who cares what the total price of a car is — "just let me know how much down and how much a month."

I remember visiting an uncle in Indiana one summer and meeting some of his Mennonite neighbors. The Mennonites never buy

relhead. "How strange," I thought. But their machinery — unlike my uncle's — did not wear out before it was paid for.

Short cuts make life contract like an accordion. Children must grow up in a hurry. Now it's coat and tie for 1st graders. Nylons for 6th graders — and a padded bra for the 7th grader who for some reason is a little slow maturing.

SOME SHORT cuts are

in an hour... even if I miss the beautiful countryside and never get the opportunity to visit in a country store. I can learn Spanish from a phonograph record and have my books printed from a tape fed into a computer. But I have a funny feeling I'm missing something. I haven't found a short cut to friendship — nor maturity — nor God. And sometimes I feel I've gotten to where I was going but still haven't arrived.