

MIXIMUM CA' CANNY

The Sabotage Manuals

you cutta da pay, we cutta da shob

Ida Börjel

TRANS. JENNIFER HAYASHIDA

originally published in Swedish as

Miximum Ca' Canny

Sabotagemanualerna

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General Advice to Lower Morale and Create Confusion

after completed sabotage resist the temptation to
linger and witness the result there are
of course occasions when it to the contrary would seem suspicious
if you walked away

I. Etymology

sabotage is an internal, industrial
process

The word is taken from the French sabot,
wood clog, and the French mill workers'
manner of protesting against the new
automatic looms by hurling
their clogs into them. So they removed and
aimed, took off their only pair of shoes and
threw them into the machine's opening and walked
barefoot through *naw*

The word is taken from the Dutch
fourteen-hundreds when impoverished workers
threw their clogs far into
the future because they had lost hope
for a better life for their children
or since they had just begun to hope for one*

The word is taken from the act, from
the verb *saboter*, stomp with clogs,
slap together, neglect. A
saboteur is someone who drags
their feet

The word is taken from the late
eighteen-hundreds, from the French
slang *sabot* for someone with their head
in the clouds, all thumbs
and shitty shoes. So *saboteur* doesn't really
rhyme with amateur which etymologically is
she who loves something.

The word – the shoes
thrown at an old circus lion during
the international peace conference
in Copenhagen – and simultaneously in
Moscow...

*No longer would oppressed people be sure that history was on their side. No longer could they therefore be satisfied with creeping improvements, in the belief that these would see fruition in the lives of their children and grandchildren. No longer could they be persuaded to postpone present complaints in the name of a beneficent future. In short, the multiple producers of the capitalist world-economy had lost the main hidden stabilizer of the system, the optimism of the oppressed.

Immanuel Wallerstein

Moral Fiber

work twelve hours a day seven days
a week for two dollars a day in
the Pittsburgh steel mills and they say
sabotage would destroy my
sense of morality

became your mother's and yours if you
 marry but today one pound of silk to
 the dye house becomes three
 to fifteen pounds

and the gigantic vats of soup that
 stood there month after month without
 being washed oxidation blooming
 various life forms and if a mouse
 or a rat fell in we fished them out
 and threw them aside before
 serving

at the Waldorf the Astor the Belmont

the butter was sent back on the little butter
 dishes and we stuck our fingers in the butter
 and cleaned out butts and cigar ash
 and threw the lump of butter
 back in the butter jar and the napkins from
 the tables and the syphilis guests and their
 belches were used to wipe
 the dishes

II. the sabotage manual

In nineteen-sixteen
 Industrial Workers of the World
 (IWW) publishes the handbook *Sabotage:
 The Conscious Withdrawal of the Workers
 Industrial Efficiency* authored by
 Elisabeth Gurley Flynn

In nineteen-fourty-four
 The American Office of Strategic
 Services (OSS) publishes *The Simple Sabotage
 Field Manual*, de-classified
 in the year two-thousand-and-eight

The human factor. To widen a
 margin of error.

Intentional stupidity goes against
 human nature. The saboteur may
 need to reverse her thinking. If
 before she made sure to keep her
 tools sharp, she can now let them grow
 dull. What was brightly polished will now
 be scratched; what was carefully tucked away can
 now be left out. The assiduous grows full
 of indolence. The keen grows torpid,

the firm begins to give way. When the saboteur
 starts to think backwards about herself and hers
 she does not let the opportunity slip

out of her hands. Anything might be sabotaged.

What was firmly rooted
lies rotted. What was cast solid
is perforated. Into those openings the
saboteur sticks her fingers.

A certain measure of humor in the following

proposition helps the tension and
fear dissipate.

Commit acts for which a large number
can be held responsible. So that it could have
been anyone.

Do not be afraid to commit acts
you can personally be held
responsible for, as long as you do not do it
too often and assuming that you have a
plausible excuse dropped the wrench
there there by that circuit the little one cried
and kept me awake all night I
must have been half asleep well so
I dropped the key

Employer Sabotage

employer sabotage is anti-social by
its very nature

like the Phoebus cartel in
the nineteen-twenties

like every year in the western United States in Europe
fruit and grain that never reaches a
market bananas oranges rot
away gone bad decomposed boatloads
of fruit dumped in the ocean and prices
remain high in New York Chicago
Baltimore Boston

like the count down smart chip technoapoptos
in the inkjet printer the price set
just below the expected
threshold and how many will bother
to return the product when it
breaks

anticipated margin of error anticipated
fatigue

seventy-five years ago when clean
silk threads were woven into fabric it lasted
fifty years your grandmother's wedding dress

On the Floor

use a light hammer instead of a
heavy one use a little less force

so when they were mixing green we made sure they
added red when they were mixing blue we
made sure they added green

interfere in your work
when you replace components at the lathe
if you cut design or carry out other
measuring work measure up twice as often
as necessary and when you go to the restroom take
your time forget tools so that you
have to go back and get them

pretend that instructions are difficult
even if they are simple

do not help each other

do it poorly blame the machine that it is
preventing you from doing a good job
can something have gotten stuck

Tools

the saboteur's weapons are the things she
typically walks around with like the
materfamilias she is like the
workforce she is the arsenal
the kitchen shelf the trash heap
childrens' gear the ordinary
tool belt the primary targets of
the act of sabotage are objects she has
daily contact with nothing
strange at all

another variant is presented by universal
general eternal opportunities to make
bad decisions to adopt an un-
cooperative attitude and in
the blink of an eye make others do the same
in secret alone but
together

so simple to place something in one

spot instead of another
one control key instead of another

Water and Other Things

reduce the steamers' effect in all possible ways pour in too much water so they are slow to start keep the fire beneath them turned low let them boil dry happen to turn up the heat a particularly good trick is to repeatedly place lime fruit or lime water in the steamer whereby a deposit forms on the bottom and the sides this offers very good insulation against heat with enough build-up the steamer becomes entirely useless

place crumpled paper hair and

other things in the toilet

soak a sponge in a thick starch or sugar solution wring it out wrap a string around it let dry remove string the sponge is now a compact hard ball flush it down

during the day place a coin behind

light bulbs in public buildings

press paper chewing gum hair pins into the locks of unguarded entrances

In the Cubicle Landscape

place important documents elsewhere

make mistakes at the copier

confuse names write the wrong address

make one too few copies

say that someone is busy on another line

spread unpleasant rumors

let the crops be harvested too early or too late

so the fuses blow as they are turned on at night so they rot so overtime is needed by the copier so they short circuit when it starts to rain

the silk is there the loom

the stone is there

send up quantities of stones

the water is there

drown them in water the sun is there

leave them out in the sun

follow the manual to a T the leadership
 uses the manual to sue its workers
 to release themselves from liability to wash
 their hands of the matter it is written into
 impossibility through the bodies in line to the dock in the morning
 through the centuries and where the bodies once stood
 the radio waves run warm in the game for today's temp jobs
 advertised via text to the uneducable educables
 to the overqualified seasonals
 the bodies under 40 and their way of dancing
 tip-toeing through 24/7 availability
 tip-toeing through
 homelessness rootlessness childlessness but in a present
 but in a present but in a present that holds on
 in a present that holds you in a present where there is one sales associate
 for every seven-hundred applicants in sublets
 three four five roommates month-to-month
 weekly run into the sand where she waits absolutely loyal
 with a wreath of silence around her neck
 and with a three-hundred
 percent increase in tuition she works full-time to
 study part-time effectively market-driven
 with a hunger to flex her way out of the pointlessness
 where the old become richer and the young poorer
 during thirty-six-hour shifts
 in the waiting rooms and hallways of the ER
 through double bookings where one home visit
 begins before another one has ended where one
 old timer begins before another one has ended arm in arm
 without responsibility without teeth with paper with paper with paper

Fire

tear a three- or four-centimeter wide
 strip off an A4 page and wrap two
 or three times around the base of a
 wax candle wind more paper into loose
 cords placed at the foot of the candle twist
 and tape mobius strips for the investigators

a clean factory is not receptive to fire
 but a dirty one

make sure it starts to burn only after
 you have walked away

By the Machines

and other industrial activity
such as the silk factory where women
men and children work ten hours a
day for six seven dollars a week

week after week everyone has been there
forever and done it the way it has always
been done life in the factory is like some
strange religious sect all the first and
second cousins once or twice removed after being there
for ten years I am still the
new guy

scratch the tools used to cut

unravel

clean the files by knocking against
the vice or the work itself

a hole-puncher is made useless
by being fed more material than
intended two metal discs
instead of one two pages two chips two
boxes

As an Executive

demand to get it in writing

insist

delay postpone protract

make sure that crucial
responsibilities are delegated to ineffective
workers at unreliable machines

insist on perfect results concerning
relatively inconsequential matters return those
with the least tarnish to comment upon
approve others whose defects
are not visible to the naked eye

make mistakes send the wrong parts to the wrong
department

hold a meeting when the floor is hectic

make back-up copies of all documents

require that three people must
approve when one should be sufficient

In the Organization

take your time

ask to speak elaborate
paint a picture in words

have many committees with multiple chairs
never be fewer than five

place irrelevant questions on the agenda

nitpick

encourage self-control and caution
appeal to common sense remind of the importance
of avoiding hasty decisions picture
distressing future scenarios

children are there any of you who have a
silk dress in the family someone's
mother who has a silk dress

a little kid dressed in rags in the front row
squeaked sure my mom has a
dress like that

really where'd she get it

my dad messed up the fabric and got to
take it home

metal dust or filings fine sand
shattered glass materials for polishing
hard gravelly substances

stick in the tip of a pen and bend
a small amount of corrosive acid lacquer
linseed oil regular spit

knotted balls of human hair
threads dead insects
a fistful of hard grains such as rice or wheat

sawdust or hair
rubber crumbs from old rubber bands
or erasers

and if you can get a hold of sugar pour it into
the fuel tank
honey and molasses work just as well

when the machine is paused you can make a
small hole in the fuel line
cover it with wax

a small cut in the wire insulation
loosen or remove rings and screw nuts
press in some grease spill dust and dirt
make a small hole in the tank

after a turn by the machines that
 produce the desirable at a cost of a
 finger every now and then a hand an entire
 life we would watch a film maybe sounds fun
 we watch motivational films one that sticks out is
Touching the Void with two friends who
 climb a mountain but things go wrong
 one is forced to leave the other behind
 unconscious he continues the descent alone
 down the mountain breaks his leg severely affected by
 the cold all he needed to do to quickly
 end his misery was let go
 release ten fingers
 all of us wanted him to die because of
 the suffering but in the end he survived
 the moral is no matter how tough it gets

don't give up I hope it wasn't

meant to be a prediction of life in
 the factory

a piece of fine sand paper the size of
 half a stamp

sand mixed with grease oil
 tar or paint that is smeared that is

poured out between them

water salt

Communication

now and then when I want half a day off and
 they don't give it to me I let the belt slither off
 the machine so that it doesn't work and I get
 my half day I don't know if you call it
 sabotage but that's what I do

delay give the wrong number happen
 to disconnect forget

mutter make conversations difficult or
 impossible to understand

distort telegrams so that additional ones need to be
 composed sometimes simply by
 changing a letter from "minimum" to
 "miximum" then they won't know if
 minimizing or maximizing is at stake
 a letter a punctuation mark to move a
 comma from "access denied, control" to
 "access, denied control"

at the screening of propaganda films place two or
 three dozen large moths in a paper bag bring
 to the movie theater place on the floor in an empty row
 the moths will fly out into the theater
 towards the light
 and when they climb over the projector
 the film becomes an agitated fluttering shadow play

so they will sound as though they were passing
 through a thick cotton blanket with mouths
 full of gravel
 so that the line can no longer be used

so they do not move
 but flutter disturb
 the automated gaze

Transportation – Water
 increase time wasted

hide a large piece of steel or iron up against
 the compass

while loading on and off arrange for
 the fragile to end up at the bottom and the
 heaviest on top

scottish dock workers eighteen-hundred-and-
 eighty-nine we let the wine casks empty
 out over the dock like the scabs did
 we let cargo with delicate contents fall
 in the middle of the pier like the scabs did
 we will work as clumsily as
 slowly as destructively

well you see boss you cutta da pay
 we cutta da shob

coal or metal dust

an additional part tar

the entire system goes SOS and we
 get to walk out into the courtyard
 and the sun

as the engine starts up the wax will
 melt as it burns with the gas
 a sticky goo forms and spreads

as it swells the steam is blocked
 the air bubbles the circulation it
 will need disassembling and

repair soft scraped finishes
 engines will gradually swell and
 choke break burn

On the Roads

something to be sent express
 from Paris to Le Havre ended up in
 Marseille after three days
 the rail system was completely demoralized

make train travel uncomfortable make mistakes
 when you issue tickets print two
 for the same seat just before departure
 they are slowly written by hand

announce arrivals as departures
 and vice versa

make life disagreeable for
 the travelers make sure the food is bad
 check tickets after bedtime
 shout out station names in the loud speaker at
 night handle luggage as loudly as
 possible

mix up sprinkle plenty of rock salt or
 table salt over the power switches and on
 the ground nearby

peel off labels

loosen nails all around

add a half liter of soft soap
 replace or rotate signs at
 intersections

when asked for directions give the wrong answer

bus drivers can drive past stops
 taxi drivers can take the longest route
 between A and B

turn on the lights in parked cars

pour one-hundred to one-hundred-and-fifty
 cubic centimeters of vinegar in each cell

put a nail in a match box and
 place vertically in front of the rear tire
 when the car starts the nail will quietly
 puncture the tire