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The Dvorak Simplified Keyboard

"Changing the World... One Keyboard at a Time!"

Narrated by
Aleh, Frunch & GCB

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To type Dvorak, refer to the keymap above. As you learn, map above as you type. Next to your computer, stand this zine up like a tent.
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CITATIONS

4:3 - http://home.earthlink.net/~dcrehn/firsttw.html
5:1 - 5:4 - see 4:8
5:6 - http://www.mwwbooks.com/dvorak/dissent.html#sholes
5:8 - http://www.office.museum.com/typewriters.htm
7:6 - U.S. Patent # 2,040,019 (see link from 1:6)
8:3 - 8:4 - Cryptanalysis by H.R. Gaines, Dover, New York, 1956.
12:3 - 12:4 - "The Curse of QWERTY" by Jared Diamond, Discover Magazine, Vol. 18 No. 4 April 1997
13:5 - see 7:3 - 7:5 / 13:9 - see 12:3 - 12:4

THANKS

CHARLOTTE PHILLIPS, SAM GREENBERG, PETE LYONS, GWYN HUGHES, MARTHA STEWART LIVING OMNIMEDIA, NEWSWEEK, PHASE SEVEN COMICS, AARON RENIER, THE INTERNET AND GOOGLE.

DEDICATED TO DR. AUGUST DVORAK 1894 - 1975
Well, that’s our zine!

We really hope we’ve convinced you to give Dvorak a try!

We know sometimes it’s hard to learn new things.

Typing is really important these days.

With technology the way it is, most of us type every single day.

Learning Dvorak can be a lot like all those other things you keep meaning to do...

Biking to work buying local produce quitting smoking

But learning Dvorak is really worth it!

Have you ever really looked at a keyboard though?

I mean, how did we come up with such a random arrangement of keys?!

Well, it all began with an inventor named Christopher Latham Sholes.

In 1868 Sholes secured a patent for his new invention, the "typewriter."

His prototype, as you’d expect, had the keys arranged alphabetically.

*Fun intended!!!

Your hands are important, you should take care of them!

It could be the difference between working in your garden when you’re 70 or wearing wrist braces when you’re 40.

Plus, with all the typing we do these days a few extra words per minute might give you some extra time to do the things you love!

Viva la Dvorak!
AS A RESULT WHEN TWO NEIGHBORING KEYS WERE STRUCK IN RAPID SUCCESSION THE TYPEWRITER WOULD JAM.

BUT INSTEAD OF IMPROVING THE TYPE BARS LEVER DESIGN, SHOLES BECAME PREOCCUPIED WITH REARRANGING THE KEYS.

HMMMM... THAT’S GOING TO BE A PROBLEM.

IF I CAN SEPARATE THESE KEYS ON THE KEYBOARD, THEY WON’T JAM.

EXCITED BY THE POTENTIAL OF HIS INVENTION, SHOLES ENLISTED THE HELP OF A MACHINIST, CARLOS GLIDDEN AND A BUSINESS MAN, JAMES DENSMORE.

THEIR MAIN GOAL FOR IMPROVING THE NEXT TYPEWRITER MODEL WAS TO PHYSICALLY SEPARATE KEYS THAT WERE FREQUENTLY STRUCK IN SEQUENCE.

DENSMORE’S BROTHER AMOS, AN EDUCATOR, PREPARED DATA ON COMMON LETTER PAIRS, OR “DIPGRAPHS”

USING THIS DATA, SHOLES MOVED THE KEYS AROUND EXPERIMENTALLY WHILE TRYING TO SEPARATE AS MANY DIPGRAPHS AS POSSIBLE.

WH” AT “AB” “AD” “ID” “EA” THIS IS KIND OF FUN.

TOTAELY RANDOM.

HE DECIDED HIS NEW KEYBOARD WOULD NOT NEED A NUMBER 1 KEY.

AND SUPPOSEDLY DENSMORE SUGGESTED HE PUT ALL THE LETTERS IN THE WORD “TYPEWRITER” ON THE TOP Row.

HA HA! GOOD IDEA.

IT’LL AID THE SALESMA N LATER ON.

CHARLOTTE: I LEARNED DVORAK By CUTTING OUT LITTLE PIECES OF PAPER WITH ALL THE LETTERS ON THEM AND TAPING THEM TO MY KEYBOARD.

IT SEEMED LIKE I LEARNED DVORAK REALY FAST. A LOT FASTER THAN QWERTY.

SAMY: MAYBE IT WAS WAAY FASTER LEARNING DVORAK BEFORE IT WAS MY SECOND LAYOUT? OR BECAUSE IT MAKES MORE SENSE? PROBABLY BOTH.

AND I CAN TOTALY STILL TYPE QWERTY.

NOBODY WORRIES THAT THEIR ENGLISH GETS WORSE BECAUSE THEY LEARNED SPANISH? I CAN STILL “SPEAK” QWERTY EVEN THOUGH DVORAK IS NOW MY “NATIVE TONGUE.”

PETE: I CONSIDER TYPING DVORAK ON MY MACHINE A SECURITY MEASURE.

I USE DVORAK AT WORK AND IF SOMEONE TRIES TO TYPING ON MY COMPUTER, THEY GET A BUNCH OF GIBBERISH!

GWYN: IN COLLEGE I HAD THIS TEN PAGE PAPER TO WRITE. I DECIDED TO TEACH MYSELF DVORAK BY TYPING THE WHOLE PAPER WITH IT.

IT TOOK LONGER, BUT IT WAS WORTH IT.

AT THE END OF THE YEAR I TYPED MY ENTIRE SENIOR THESIS IN DVORAK WITH EASE.
I was a quick “hunt-and-peck” QWERTY typist. I could do about 45 words per minute. Then, one fall break at college I decided to learn Tough Typing with Dvorak.

After nine days I was typing 90 words per minute and after two weeks I was typing 60!

Thus was created...

The Sholes Keyboard Layout

Also known as “QWERTY” (because of the first six letters on the top row)

I’ve now been happily typing Dvorak for seven years, at about 70 words per minute!

Frunch is the real speed demon though!

I can type about 45 words per minute with Dvorak!

Now hold on for a second, I want to reinforce something here.

Most QWERTY critics will tell you that Sholes rearranged the keyboard to slow down “all the people” who were typing “too fast.”

KLAK KLAK KLAK

But check it out, the original typists to slow down! Sholes developed QWERTY before typewriters were even available to the public.

“Now listen to similar success stories from our real friends!”

“AGGH!”

I don’t think any inventor would want to make their invention worse.

When Sholes rearranged the keys he didn’t eliminate the jamming problem but he greatly reduced it.

Even I believed this before doing the research for this zine!

Mythical Alphabetical Typist

This’ll fix ‘em!

Evil Sholes

Can you believe that?!” QWERTY is designed to be inefficient!!!

But enough so, that his invention could now actually be used to type...
With the completion of the new prototype, Sholes's team turned from design to production. Yawn!

But Sholes was no businessman, so after five years of working on the typewriter he sold all his rights to Densmore.

Densmore went straight to Remington, the famous gun manufacturer.

"Type-writer eh?" and so, in 1873 the Sholes & Glidden typewriter was released to the public.

The type bars struck the paper from underneath, so you couldn't even see what you were typing!

These first typewriters were pretty awkward to use.

As a result, the first typewriter did not sell very well.

From 1873 to 1878 Remington only sold 5,000 typewriters in the U.S.A.

Most of the other good consonants are on the right side of the top row.

Most of your punctuation marks are on the left side of the top row.

And then all that other stuff we don't use as much is on the hard-to-reach bottom row.

You can find typing tutors and exercises plus all kinds of other helpful stuff at our website.

www.DVzine.org

"Changing the world... one keyboard at a time"

Try writing a short email in Dvorak, it takes a bit of concentration at first.

But pretty soon it will become second nature to you!

Have you ever heard of "Dvorak?"
AS WITH MOST THINGS, THE EASIEST WAY TO LEARN DVORAK IS TO START TYPING DVORAK!

"BUT GABE!" "NOW WILL I KNOW WHERE THE LETTERS ARE?"

"I CAN'T LOOK AT THE KEYBOARD, IT'S GOT QWERTY ALL OVER IT!"

WELL, ALEC, IF YOU'VE EVER TAKEN A TYPING CLASS, YOU'LL KNOW THAT YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO LOOK AT YOUR FINGERS.

YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THAT THE BACK OF THIS ZINE HAS A NICE BIG DVORAK KEY MAP ON IT!

STAND UP THIS ZINE LIKE A TENT NEXT TO YOUR KEYBOARD.

THEN REFER TO THIS MAP AS YOU TEACH YOURSELF THE LAYOUT!

"BUT GABE!

"THAT'S SO EASY!"

OKAY ALEC... ENOUGH WITH THE SCRIPT!

HEH... COUGH! REMEMBER! START WITH THE HOME ROW! VOWELS ARE ON THE LEFT, THE MOST POPULAR CONSONANTS ARE ON THE RIGHT.

BUT THEN, IN 1878 THE REMINGTON NUMBER TWO WAS RELEASED!

THE NO. 2 HAD LOTS OF IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING THE ABILITY TO SEE WHAT YOU WERE TYPING!

THE NO. 2 ALSO INTRODUCED THE SHIFT KEY, ALLOWING UPPER AND LOWER CASE LETTERS. THE NO. 2 ALSO REINCORPORATED THE NUMBER 1 KEY.

MOST IMPORTANTLY THOUGH, THE NO. 2 HAD SPRING MOUNTED TYPE BARS WHICH QUICKLY SNAPPED BACK INTO PLACE AFTER TYPING.

THIS ELIMINATED KEY JAMS FOR ALL BUT THE FASTEST TYPERS!

AND SINCE HIS ORIGINAL LAYOUT WAS DEVELOPED TO COMBAT THE VERY PROBLEM, SHOLES NOW DESIGNED A NEW, MORE LOGICAL LAYOUT.

BUT SHOLES FOUND THAT REMINGTON HAD NO DESIRE TO ALTER HIS OLD INVENTION

YOU SEE, BY 1900 REMINGTON WAS SELLING 100,000 TYPEWRITERS A YEAR.
AND EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THOSE MILLIONS OF TYPEWRITERS WAS SOLD WITH THE QWERTY KEYBOARD LAYOUT!!!

PEOPLE ALL ACROSS AMERICA BEGAN MEMORIZING THIS RANDOM ARRANGEMENT OF KEYS!

PRETTY SOON PEOPLE HAD DEVELOPED METHODS TO TOUCH TYPE WITH ALL TEN FINGERS!

IT WAS NOT直到30 YEARS LATER THAT SOMEONE REALLY TRIED TO CHANGE THE MODERN KEYBOARD LAYOUT...

AND BY THEN QWERTY HAD SUNK ITSELF INTO THE AMERICAN SUBCONSCIOUS.

DO YOU SEE HOW FRUSTRATING THIS IS? RIGHT WHEN QWERTY BECAME OBLIQUE IT BEGAN TO BE WIDELY DISTRIBUTED!!!

FRUNCH!

TAKE OVER FOR ME. I'M GETTING SO DEPRESSED.

YEAH?

IF YOU USE LINUX

...YOU'RE AWESOME!!

THERE ARE LOTS OF WAYS TO SET UP DVORAK IN LINUX. HERE'S ONE SIMPLE METHOD...

IN XWINDOWS, RUN "SETXKBMAPP DVORAK" AND "SETXKBMAPP US" TO SWITCH BACK AND FORTH

Both KDE and GNOME have easy keyboard switching functions, check them out!

OKAY! PF EW! DID EVERYONE MAKE IT?

IF NOT, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO EMAIL ME WITH ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT SETTING UP DVORAK ON YOUR COMPUTER!

HOW'S THAT FOR PERSONAL ATTENTION?

OKAY!

YOU NOW KNOW WHY IT'S AWESOME AND YOU'VE GOT IT ALL SET UP ON YOUR COMPUTER...

NOW IT'S TIME TO TYPE SOME DVORAK!
IF YOU USE A MAC
USE THESE DIRECTIONS!

USING MAC OS X...

1. SELECT "SYSTEM PREFERENCES" FROM THE DOCK.
2. NEXT, SELECT THE "INTERNATIONAL" ICON.
3. UNDER THE "INPUT MENU" TAB YOU WILL FIND A WHOLE SLEW OF LAYOUTS.
4. IN THE APPLE MENU FIND THE "CONTROL PANELS" 
   a. File Edit View
   b. Chooser
   c. Control Panels
5. SELECT THE "KEYBOARD" CONTROL PANEL
   a. File Sharing
   b. General Controls
   c. Internet
   d. Keyboard
   e. Keychain Access
   f. Launcher
   g. Launcher Manager
6. THEN FOLLOW STEPS 8, 9 & 10 FOR MAC OS X!
   a. Danish
   b. Devanagari
   c. Dutch
   d. DV
   e. Dvorak
7. ALSO: YOU CAN SET UP
   a. Option + "+" + SPACE TO TOGGLE BETWEEN Dvorak and QWERTY

OR, USING OLDER MAC OS VERSIONS...

1. SELECT "SYSTEM PREFERENCES" FROM THE DOCK.
2. NEXT, SELECT THE "INTERNATIONAL" ICON.
3. UNDER THE "INPUT MENU" TAB YOU WILL FIND A WHOLE SLEW OF LAYOUTS.
4. IN THE APPLE MENU FIND THE "CONTROL PANELS" 
   a. File Edit View
   b. Chooser
   c. Control Panels
5. SELECT "Dvorak" AND YOU ARE ALL SET!
   a. Danish
   b. Devanagari
   c. Dutch
   d. DV
   e. Dvorak

A SMALL MENU WILL APPEAR NEXT TO YOUR CLOCK. YOU CAN USE IT TO SWITCH BETWEEN QWERTY AND Dvorak.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PLEASE MEET DR. AUGUST DVORAK!

A DISTANT RELATIVE OF THE FAMOUS CZECH COMPOSER ANTONIN DVORAK!

DR. DVORAK WAS AN EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST AND PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, IN SEATTLE.

IN 1932, WITH FUNDS FROM THE CARNEGIE FOUNDATION, DVORAK SET OUT TO CREATE A NEW KEYBOARD LAYOUT BASED ON RESEARCH AND LOGIC.

NOT ONLY DID HE RESEARCH LETTERS, DIGRAPHS AND WORDS, BUT HE ALSO EXAMINED ACTUAL TYPISTS AND THEIR PRACTICES.

LA TER THAT YEAR DVORAK FILED A PATENT FOR THE DVORAK SIMPLIFIED KEYBOARD LAYOUT.

LATER THAT YEAR DVORAK FILED A PATENT FOR THE DVORAK SIMPLIFIED KEYBOARD LAYOUT.

HOORAY!

THE FOUNDATION OF THE DESIGN IS BASED ON THE "HOME ROW"
IF YOU USE WINDOWS
USE THESE DIRECTIONS.

USING WINDOWS XP...

1. Click on "Start" and find the "Control Panel" under "Settings."

   - Settings
   - Connect To
   - Run...
   - All Programs
   - Control Panel
   - start)
   - Programs
   - Windows Explorer

2. In the "Languages" tab click "Add."

   Speed Language
   - installed Languages and Layouts
   - English (United States)
   - Add Properties Remove

3. Select the "Regional" control panel.

4. In the "Languages" tab click the "Details" button.

5. Then click "Add" and select Dvorak from the options.

6. Click "Apply" and "OK." And a blue icon will appear by your clock which lets you switch from QWERTY to Dvorak.

OR, USING OLDER WINDOWS VERSIONS...

1. First follow step 1 for Windows XP and find the "Keyboard" control panel.

2. In the "Languages" tab click "Add."

3. You can choose any language (we use Danish) just make sure you set the "Properties" to "United States—Dvorak."

4. Then follow step 5 for Windows XP and you’re all set!

5. % in Windows, you can set up ALT + SHIFT to toggle between Dvorak and QWERTY.

WELL, AS YOU KNOW, QWERTY WAS DEVELOPED EXPERIMENTALLY TO OVERCOME MECHANICAL PROBLEMS, SO THE HOME ROW IS JUST AS RANDOM AS THE REST OF THE LAYOUT.

DVORAK, HOWEVER, PUT A GREAT DEAL OF THOUGHT INTO THE DESIGN OF HIS HOME ROW.

DVORAK PUT ALL OF THE MOST COMMONLY TYPED CONSONANTS ON THE HOME ROW, AS WELL AS ALL OF THE VOWELS.

THE HOME ROW IS THE ROW OF KEYS THAT THE TYPIST’S FINGERS ARE OVER IN THE RESTING POSITION.

THE TYPIST THEN "REACHES OUT" FROM THE HOME ROW TO STRIKE THE OTHER OUTER KEYS.

FINGERS START HERE

RESTING

REACHING

IF YOU ARE TYPING QWERTY ONLY 31% OF YOUR KEY STROKES ARE ON THE HOME ROW.

WITH DVORAK, THOUGH, 70% OF YOUR KEY STROKES ARE ON THE HOME ROW.

HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?

NOW LET’S SEE... WHICH LETTERS ARE USED THE MOST?

THAT OUGHT TO BE GOOD ENOUGH FOR NOW.

THIS WAS SMART, BECAUSE EVERY WORD HAS AT LEAST ONE VOWEL IN IT!

AOEUIDHTNS

UP UP UP
IT'S JUST THAT EASY!

WELL... FOR THE COMPUTER

BUT ACTUALLY, IT'S NOT TOO HARD FOR US HUMANS EITHER!

IN FACT, IF YOU USE ONLY THE LETTERS ON THE DVORAK HOME ROW, YOU CAN TYPE MORE THAN 3,000 WORDS!

WITH THE QWERTY HOME ROW YOU CAN ONLY TYPE ABOUT 300 WORDS.

BECAUSE DVORAK IS AN OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED KEYBOARD LAYOUT IT NOW SHIPS WITH EVERY PERSONAL COMPUTER!

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU ARE USING A MAC, WINDOWS OR EVEN RUNNING LINUX! DVORAK IS ALREADY ON YOUR COMPUTER RIGHT NOW!

SEE, THERE IS ONLY ONE VOWEL ON THE QWERTY HOME ROW.

AND SEMI COLON IS ON THE HOME ROW!!??

ASDFGHJKL;

ALEC?!

YOU JUST HAVE TO SET IT FREE!

OR, WELL... SET IT UP!

BUT I CAN SHOW YOU HOW TO DO THAT! IT'S NOT TOO DIFFICULT...

WELL I MEAN, COME ON!
HOW OFTEN DO YOU TYPE A SEMI COLON ??!! IT'S A WASTED KEY ON THE HOME ROW NO LESS!

SERIOUSLY FOLKS, GABE IS PRETTY GOOD AT EXPLAINING THIS STUFF. IT'S HOW HE MAKES HIS LIVING!

HEH... COUGH COUGH! THANKS ALEC.

OKAY, NOW PLEASE TAKE THIS ZINE OVER TO YOUR COMPUTER!

COUGH? NOW WHERE WAS I?

OH, RIGHT! THE HOME ROW

WELL, BY KEEPING 70% OF THE KEystrokes ON THE HOME ROW, DVORAK REDUCES FINGER MOVEMENT BY A FACTOR OF THREE!
AND THAT REDUCTION IN FINGER MOVEMENT MEANS MORE COMFORTABLE AND ERGONOMIC TYPING.

THINK ABOUT IT!

WITH QWERTY YOU START BY PLACING YOUR FINGERS ON THE HOME ROW...

BUT FIRST, LET'S WRAP UP THE HISTORY OF THE KEYBOARD, BRINGING IT INTO THE PRESENT DAY...

NAMELY, THE INVENTION OF THE COMPUTER!!

THEN YOU SPEND 69% OF YOUR TIME REACHING FOR KEYS THAT ARE NOT ON THE HOME ROW.

THAT'S WHY SO MANY QWERTY TYPISTS DEVELOP REPEITIVE STRESS INJURIES!

OWCH!

QWERTY IS SIMPLY UNCOMFORTABLE TO TYPE!

COMPUTERS ARE GREAT!

AND NOT ONLY BECAUSE THEY ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO JAM!

COMPUTERS ARE ALSO HIGHLY ADAPTABLE.

WITH DVORAK THOUGH, YOU PLACE YOUR HANDS ON THE HOME ROW AND THEY STAY THERE FOR 70% OF YOUR KEYSTROKES.

BUT COMFORT IS NOT THE ONLY ADVANTAGE OF DVORAK, IT ALSO LETS YOU TYPE FASTER AND MORE ACCURATELY.

TO CHANGE THE KEYBOARD LAYOUT ON A TYPEWRITER YOU'D HAVE TO PHYSICALLY CHANGE ALL OF THE LETTERS ON THE TYPE BARS!

BUT WITH COMPUTERS IT CAN ALL BE DONE SUPER EASILY WITH A PIECE OF SOFTWARE!

ONE WAY DR. DVORAK ACHIEVED THIS WAS BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF VARYING FINGER STRENGTHS.

DR. DVORAK ADJUSTED HIS LAYOUT SO THAT THE MOST POPULAR LETTERS ARE IN THE MIDDLE, WHILE THE LESSER-USED LETTERS ARE PUSHEOD TO THE OUTSIDE CORNERS.

LIKE THE SEMI COLON!

WHEN YOU PUSH A KEY ON THE KEYBOARD, THIS SOFTWARE TELLS THE COMPUTER WHICH CHARACTER SHOULD BE DISPLAYED.

HERE MR. SOFTWARE, READ THIS INSTEAD!

WAIT! HE'S HITTING THE SAME KEY! BUT NOW IT'S THE LETTER 'S'!
In 1982, seven years after his death, Dr. Dvorak’s simplified keyboard layout was officially recognized by the American National Standards Institute. That at least made sure that Dvorak would not be forgotten.

During his research, Dr. Dvorak also discovered that people can type much faster when they alternate between hands. Hmmm!

You can easily see this for yourself.

Take one finger and tap it on a table as fast as you can.

Ah, Frunchy... It’s okay!

It’s so frustrating though. GCB! It’s a better layout and people still don’t use it!

Now take one finger from each hand and tap them alternately.

Tap-a-tap-a-tap.

So Dvorak has all of the vowels under your left hand.

Ah, cough? Cough!

But there is still hope. Frunch!

New people are learning about Dvorak every day!

And all of the most common consonants under your right.

That practically guarantees at least one alternation per word.

Let’s take an example... hey Alec, what’s something you type every day?

Well, I’ll let you try to convince them.

Hi, my name is Gabe Carleton-Barnes. “GCB” for short.

I’m going to show you how to start typing Dvorak today.

Dr. Dvorak’s 1932 study found that Qwerty typers who switch to Dvorak improve their speed by 20% and their accuracy by 50%!

QWERTY
3 HAND ALTERNATIONS

LLLLLLRRRR

STARWARS.COM

Dvorak
8 HAND ALTERNATIONS

RRLLLRRRLRRRLRR

STARWARS.COM
As part of his study, Dr. Dvorak trained two separate groups of people who had never typed before:

One with QWERTY, and one with Dvorak.

Even so, Dr. Dvorak met with great resistance everywhere he tried to implement his new creation.

Typewriter manufacturers, still doing just fine, thanks!

It took the QWERTY students 56 hours of training to achieve a typing speed of 40 words per minute.

The Dvorak students, however, achieved 40 words per minute after only 18 hours of training.

Even the U.S. government!

Typing classes:

But we’d have to retrain all of our instructors.

Accuracy, meh! Efficiency, nah! The government needs not these things.

Dr. Dvorak also took a third group of people, who were already proficient QWERTY typists and retrained them using the Dvorak layout.

This is my new simplified keyboard layout.

It took only 52 hours of training for the typists to achieve their previous QWERTY typing speeds!

In 1936, Dr. Dvorak tried to gain some public interest in his layout by writing the book “The Writing Behavior”.

Even the U.S. government!

In-depth look at the psychology and physiology of typing.

It provided an in-depth look at the psychology and physiology of typing.

It’s now out of print.

The benefits of Dvorak are obvious:

You type faster, and more accurately, and more comfortably.

Plus it’s easier to learn.

In the 1940s, Dvorak developed his last keyboard layout for one-handed typing.

He died in 1975 a bitter old man...

“I’m tired of trying to do something worthwhile for the human race. They simply don’t want to change!”

Direct quote!