

ALUMNI BULLETIN

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1958



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

WHEN NATURE OPENS WIDE THE DOOR
THROUGH WHICH SHE USHERS SPRING ONCE MORE,
IMPARTIALLY, HER KINGDOMS THREE,
COMPRISING PLANTS AND WILD LIFE FREE,
WITH TREASURES HIDDEN IN THE EARTH,
SHE OFFERS MEN BY RIGHT OF BIRTH:
MAN'S LABOR SHOULD SECURE HIS SHARE
BY EARNING WHAT IS JUST AND FAIR,
THOUGH IF DEBARRED FROM LAND AND SEA,
NO CHANCE TO WORK, MEANS POVERTY:
FOR TITLE OWNERS HOLD THE KEY
TO ALL THE WORLD'S PROSPERITY.

ALUMNI BULLETIN

Dear Reader:

Henry George wrote quite a few books, but there were some others he would like to have written, and would no doubt have done had he lived longer.

In an early edition of his "SOCIAL PROBLEMS," there appears a notice of forthcoming works by George. One is an annotated edition of Adam Smith's, "WEALTH OF NATIONS", an idea which he had nursed for a long time but never got around to doing. Another was A PRIMER OF POLITICAL ECONOMY." George finally did get around to writing the more ambitious "SCIENCE OF POLITICAL ECONOMY," but he never produced the shorter Primer.

Among other things George would like to have written (as you may have noticed in the March HENRY GEORGE NEWS) was a more elaborate treatment of THE LAWS OF HUMAN PROGRESS; also a polemic against the materialistic philosophy of life then dominant.

There have been numerous books written by the followers of Henry George including many that could pass as primers of political economy. I believe Oscar Geiger took care of refuting materialism from the Georgist point of view. (There is an outline of Geiger's philosophy in my book, A SEED WAS SOWN."). But That "WEALTH OF NATIONS " has never been issued with notes and comments from the Georgist standpoint. There's a worthwhile project for some aspiring Georgist Economist!

And how about that LAW OF HUMAN PROGRESS? Book of PROGRESS & "POVERTY" contains in embryonic form an entire philosophy of History. All of history could well be re-written in the light of those principles. There's a monumental task awaiting the pen of some Georgist Gibbon!

Any takers?

Robert Clancy

C O V E R --DESIGN--by Neva Bianco; POEM--by Mabel L. Rees.

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Chairman: Roma Bianco; Neva Bianco, Vivian Killaen-Rodney, S.T.Bohee.

WRITE ON THE LINE

By S. T. Robee

Professor Joseph Schumpeter, author of "Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy," warns the American public that capitalism cannot long survive, even tho it has created a better life in terms of leisure and comforts, for the average man. In Schumpeter's view, capital is now being restricted by the shrinkage of investment opportunities; it is being harassed, he states, by the growth of a critical and hostile public attitude; it is distressed by unemployment as a consequence of technological advances; it is apologetic for the evolution of basic industries into gigantic corporate empire; and it is frightened by the invasion of government finance into the areas of labor, industry and agriculture--all these factors are creating the possibility of a gradual transition from bureaucratic corporate monopoly into state monopoly and control over economic life--which is to say Socialism is just around the corner.

Georgists have always been aware of the presence of monopoly and privilege that flourishes in a political system, theoretically founded upon freedom and equality of opportunity, and they too have been alert to the increasing demands for privileges and subsidies coming from industry and agriculture. In brief, incentive for individual effort is constantly being weakened as government intervention and control is steadily increasing.

WRITE ON THE LINE

Mr Randolph Churchill, son of the illustrious Winston Churchill was a recent visitor to New York City, and he expressed his views on the political and economic trends in America. "America is going socialist in a slow, insidious fashion" said Mr.Churchill. He believes that the United States is evolving into a welfare state -- a little more slowly than England, but just as surely. We resent the Socialist label, however, and insist upon a pseudo label of free enterprise, and individualism, as descriptive of our political beliefs.

In the face of these trends, we cannot shrug off, Prof. Schumpeter's conclusions. If confirmation was necessary, we need only to glance at the current Federal budget as proposed by the administration, in order to realize the authoritarian nature of government operation in the field of public finance. The 1958 budget amounts to 73 billion dollars for government spending. To raise this staggering sum, 41 billion will be assessed against the incomes of individuals, 22 billion will be collected from corporations, and 11 billion from excise tax taxes, and all other sources. 4 billion of the tax levy, it is expected will be refunded.

The current recession, (depression is a nasty word) is an obvious indication that individuals, business and industry are in the grip of economic strangulation. Rising unemployment and industrial slowdowns have created uneasiness in Washington.

WRITE ON THE LINE

Some legislators are advocating a tax cut --even the President says this measure might prove to be necessary. If taxes were reduced, it is quite evident that Federal revenue would not be sufficient to meet the budget figures. The only way to offset this red ink operation is to revise the national debit limit, now 275 billion dollars, to a new figure -- say 300 billion. Certainly such government financing will lead to government control of all public financing, and beyond that complete control of national production and distribution of income.

Georgists look at on this economic hodge-podge in amazement. The solution is so obvious, since every tax levy has been employed, except the one that will solve the problem. No one has the temerity, even to discuss the possibility of taxing land value. The chief recipients of land value in the United States are the insurance companies, the banks and the owners of natural resources. All of these protected elite remain adamant to taxing the greatest source of revenue,---- Land Value.

The attitude of these recipients of community income seems to be : let the wheels of industry and business slow down, let the soup kitchens and bread lines be revived once more, but tax the land value--NEVER. The landowners can survive. They can sit back and wait until the rent line has receded to its normal level, to the point where capital and labor can once more go back to work for the bare minimum that economic rent allows them to retain.

continued on page # 10

PEACE STUDY INSTITUTE

For many years a small group of scientists maintained an informal contact because they had one concern in common: world peace. They represented a variety of disciplines such as education, sociology, psychology, psychoanalysis, philosophy, and economics. From time to time they met and compared notes. They became increasingly aware of two facts. First: Social scientists believe that we have reached the state where fundamental principles can be developed for the guidance of a world peace movement. Second: This development will create a new profession, namely the well-trained peace specialist.

When this conclusion was reached the group decided to sponsor—on an experimental basis—the inauguration of the PEACE STUDY INSTITUTE (P.S.I.). It is the small beginning of a big project. It is a start towards the fulfillment of mankind's most critical need: human harmony on a global level.

PURPOSE The purpose of the Institute is the creation of the SCIENCE OF PEACE. The elimination of war is the explicitly expressed desire of thousands of organizations and millions of individuals in every corner of our planet. All peace workers receive inspiration and guidance from their practical experience. We have established a remarkable peace craftsmanship.

The present state of the world peace movement can be compared with the time when great castles, palaces, and churches were built by skilled masons. Craftsmanship made these buildings possible. But architecture as a science of building, was not known. The basis of the vocation was tradition and skill, trial and error. For centuries buildings of many uses and of great beauty were erected. But it was done at enormous cost in time, material, and energy. Because of this wasteful procedure many fine plans could never be realized. And many beautiful buildings could never be completed. The situation in our peace movement is similar. There is practice—but not theory. There is craftsmanship—but not science. There is faith—but no efficiency. And consequently there is the great danger that the work we have to do may never be done.

Our time is called the age of science. In our everyday life science is now an absolute necessity. It is also an absolute necessity for science to work out—here and now—the foundations for world peace.

THE PEACE STUDY INSTITUTE

946 Goodfellow Boulevard
St. Louis 12, Missouri, U.S.A.

EDMUND P. HILLPERN, CORRESPONDENT DIRECTOR
THEODORE F. LENTZ, RESIDENT DIRECTOR

COMPLETION EXERCISES



A GROUP OF TEACHERS AND
STUDENTS LISTEN ATTENTIVELY
TO SPEAKERS AT COMPLETION
EXERCISES HELD AT THE
SCHOOL MARCH 25, 1958.

THE PEACE STUDY INSTITUTE

PEACE STUDY SEMINAR AT THE HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL

Leader: Dr Edmund P. Hilpern, Correspondent Director
of The Peace Institute.

A small group, including several graduates of the Henry
George School, have been meeting in room 33, at 50 East
69 Street, N.Y., to formulate 'A Science of Peace.'

New Members Welcome!! For information write :
Roma Bianco, Editor, ALUMNI BULLETIN, % Henry
George School.

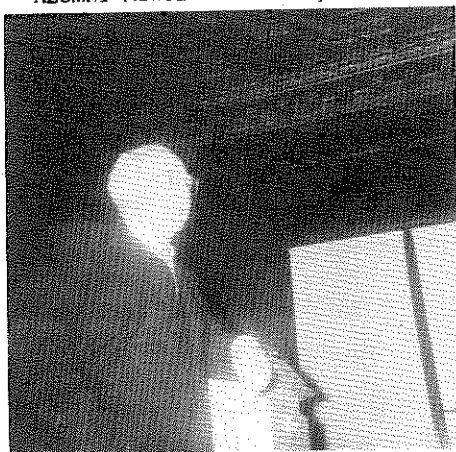
DR. HILPERN, ADDRESSES

ALUMNI MEETING--January 1958-

WHY NOT TRY THIS WAY OF LIFE?

"A good end cannot sanctify evil means;
nor must we ever do evil, that good may come
of it—LET US THEN TRY WHAT LOVE
WILL DO: for if men did once see we love
them, we should soon find they would not
harm us. Force may subdue, but Love gains;
and he that forgives first, wins the laurel."

WILLIAM PENN, "Some Fruits of Solitude"



THE GRIM REAPER PLAYS NO FAVORITES

By S. T. Bohac

There is no escape from death or taxes, so the saying goes. A look at the current tax situation indicates that there is indeed but small chance of escape from the clutching hand of the Federal Tax Grabber, especially if one must earn a living by brain or brawn. It is otherwise as to the treatment of income from property.

Under the present set-up, the worker is treated with rank discrimination as compared to property in tax levy operation. If union leaders really had the interests of their membership at heart, here is a matter on which they could raise an issue.

Regard then the way in which the tax laws treat property. Base income for tax purposes is arrived at after the following deductions are made: a) Depreciation allowances on all forms of capital. b) Allowances for servicing and repairs. For example:-A corporate income return, after labor and material costs, may come to \$12,000. On this amount, total deductions or allowances of \$5,500 can be made, making \$6,500 the income subject to tax.

In calculating the base for salaried incomes and wage earners without property, the method is entirely different. The skilled worker and the professional man usually invests a sizeable amount, and undergo a long training period, in order to acquire proficiency in their chosen careers. This skill, finally acquired, is quite analagous to waht is classed as capital, as it is a proficiency that yields an

THE GRIM REAPER.....

income. In all justice and equity, it seems reasonable, that sufficient deductions from annual earnings of this type, should be allowed, in order that, if invested, these allowances would yield an average annual income at the end of a worker's career.

Similarly, sufficient allowances should be made, in order that the worker, who deteriorates like machines and tools, may keep his labor power and mental ability serviceable and efficient. All of these deductions should be made, just as they are for a machine, before any base amount is arrived at for tax purposes. The point being stressed here seems obvious. One set of deductions are legally permissible for property, but for human capital used for human productive power, no such exemptions are permitted.

It is true that in the group of high level incomes, the tax levy goes up to 50% or higher. Before shedding any tears over this situation, it will be enlightening to glance at some of corporate devices to increase executive salaries and still have them escape the fine teeth of the tax dragnet. For example, a \$10,000 raise to a \$50,000 a year man, under the tax provisions, would net that individual only \$4,052 or a 60% deduction. To offset such shrinkages, the corporations have worked out various schemes, that are aimed to escape the Federal trap. One favored plan is the deferment of the increased income until retirement, when the recipient is in a lower tax bracket. Another method is to provide for profit sharing, and also the offer of bonuses or stock buying options.

THE GRIM REAPER.....

Still a third type includes benefits, furnished gratis, that ordinarily would be paid out of salary. Such benefits are: the use of company cars and airplanes, club memberships, vacations, premiums on various types of insurance, medical programs and also that perennia! standby, liberal expense accounts. Of course, these dispensations are generally tax deductible for the corporations.

The power elite, which is to say the corporate world, along with their political and military minded satellites, are naturally concerned with the wellbeing of the corporate domain. So--as everyone has been so well advised: what is good for the corporate world must be advantageous for everyone else.

Of those who must labor with mind and muscle and without benefit of corporation patrimony, little relief is in sight, unless one can escape from the salaried and wage earning class, and become a property owner. One unique type of property, superior to all others, for speculation or investment remains inviolable. Economic rent, the income from land remains sacred and untaxable to any equitable degree. Other than this the axiom of death and taxes still applies, but the Grim Reaper plays no favorites.

Write On The Line

Continued from page 5

It would seem that Prof. Schumpeter's reasoning has a sound basis. But if capital is doomed, and the Socialist state takes control of economic and political life, the Land-owners will be very unhappy. Some of them may even have to go to work.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY GEORGE.

Shabir A Khan

Although the truth in words of yore has long revealed
That seeing eyes have still not seen the vice, and vile
Corruption of reverent things and golden dreams
As despots loots increase by yet another guile;
That hearing ears have still not heard the voice of truth
Against barbaric plunder of humanity,
Nor listened to the cries of misery and pain
To grant a moment's respite from inequity;
That feeling hearts have still not felt injustice shame --
Exactng more, returning less of God's bounties,
Rejoicing in tyranny's pompous revelry
While under yoke plod labour's poorer destinies;
Although this sadness plagues the earth in man's betrayal
Of his own trust to keep his soul a sacred thing,
And night now violates the day before the sun
Of life enters the golden bosom of evening:
Still do I see a spark of brilliance in the skies
To ignite once more the abandoned joy of life;
A ray of hope piercing through the gloom of ages
To end the bitter conflict of destructive strife;
A clue to unravel the knots of human needs,--
Equality for all, decay for avarice;
A trickle in the desert of happiness lost
To engulf the land with fertility and peace:
These things I see and know and believe to be true,
For how can there not be the awakening purge
When about the land for tomorrow's sake, brave winds
Resound mankind's redeeming song of Henry George?

MEET



T E A C H E R & S T U D E N T

DAVID SKLAR, INSTRUCTOR, (left), AND CLASS SPEAKER, MR KLEIN, POSE ON THE SPIRAL STAIRCASE, AFTER COMPLETION EXERCISES AT 50 EAST 69 STREET, N.Y. MR KLEIN REPRESENTED THE CLASS TAUGHT BY MR SKLAR IN NEWARK.

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