

INTRODUCTION

For the past 15 years, the Henry George School of Long Island has devoted its energies towards formal education in Adult Education programs. Our courses have included basics in our economic system, plus the contemporary economic scene. For those taking the courses, we feel that they have received insight into many of our economic dilemmas. However, for the rest of the population, the message has been slow in coming. It is with this in mind that we wish to disseminate our philosophy.

The Henry George School of Long Island proudly presents, to the mass media its first bi-monthly newsletter. It is done in recognition of the tremendous need, on Long Island, for discussions and solutions*to residents of both counties who are caught in a vise between rising costs of land, taxation and unfair assessment valuations. Our materials, speakers and courses provide interesting news items, editorials and the teachings of Henry George.

THE TAX MESSAGE

Simply stated, it revolves around our entire system of taxation, but it is but one part of the story. Rather than tax the products of labor, via an income tax or sales tax, or the rewards of capital through various business taxes, only one factor of production should be taxed--the value of land. By freeing the productive process of these onerous taxes,

production would increase. That's what supply side economics is all about, but its attempts are futile and minimal. By taxing land values, a passive element in the productive process, we can reverse the process by encouraging production, rather than by inhibiting its growth. It is a concise message, but one that raises an avalanche of questions. Subjects that can be dealt with in this message alone could encompass:

1. Property Taxes and Alternatives.
2. Supply-Side Economics Re-examined.
3. Nassau County Property Tax Study.
4. Land Speculation on Long Island: One Cause of the Problem.
5. Pine Barrens: A Case Study in Speculation.

ECONOMIC ISMS

In 1879, Henry George wrote the all-time bestseller in economics, Progress and Poverty. Strangely enough, although it has received endorsements from many notables, it is still not as well known as other economic works. Why have economists such as Karl Marx, who has been disproven in many respects, received wide coverage in many economic textbooks, and yet scant mention is made of Henry George? High school and college students are innundated with Marxist philosophy and socialist thinking, while one of America's truly great thinkers is ignored. Some interesting topics on this area could include:

1. Henry George vs. Karl Marx
2. College Economics: What Are They Teaching?
3. Capitalism vs. Communism.

PROTECTIONISM AND FREE TRADE

Land is one factor recognized by all economists as crucial to our survival. It is a gift of nature, needed by all, not just a few. Henry George pioneered the effort of having all society benefit from the use of land, but he also did everything in his power to show that free trade, not tariffs and trade barriers, was best for our country.

In Protection or Free Trade, George stated the case for complete trade--an argument made by many, but usually with "ifs." A number of topics can include:

1. Should Foreign Cars Be Kept Out?
2. Will Free Trade Cause Unemployment?
3. Do Trade Restrictions Protect Us?

DEFICIT SPENDING

Before it was fashionable to speak out against deficit spending, well over one hundred years ago Henry George wrote about the dangers of government spending more than it receives. Borrowing, as opposed to taxation, as a means of paying for the cost of government, has been a technique used extensively for the past fifty years.

As to its relation to inflation and the interest accrued on principal, it is certainly a factor connected with debts. However, there is also an ethical and moral question rarely mentioned in the public debate. Both the economic and moral issues ought to be considered together:

1. Morality of Defense Spending.
2. Pros and Cons of Deficit Spending
3. Can We Borrow from the Future?

CONCLUSION

These are but many of the issues we will discuss in our periodic newsletter. It will be concise and to the point. There are many news stories around town, but perhaps we can trigger off another angle. Keeping you informed of what is developing throughout the country concerning land value taxation will be part of our message. Commenting on the public scene, with criticism where warranted and accolades when deserved, will be routine in our pithy newsletter.

For radio and particularly talk shows, our philosophy is both controversial and cogent for today's world. Our speakers, well versed in this philosophy, all have been teaching this material for many years and are capable of responding to challenging questions. Either as a single, or part of a panel, our speakers have had extensive experience, having produced over fifty radio programs on station WHVC.

For TV, our speakers have had experience in this media, having appeared on public TV and cablevision.

As for local newspapers, we are at your service to provide you with any materials germane to our philosophy and also are readily available for interviews.

Please let us hear from you.

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