
The NEW LEAF

"EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL" "SPECIAL PRIVILEGE FOR NONE"

Volume 4, No. 1

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The General Assembly of the United Nations, on the 21st of December, 1976, proclaimed 1979 the International Year of the Child. They resolved that the people and governments of the world: Renew their concern for children; review their local and national programs for children; and reaffirm their determination to increase services benefiting the child on a permanent basis.

It may be coincidental that the United Nations chose 1979, the Centennial Year of *Progress and Poverty*, to concentrate on the plight of our children, but it is appropriate. Both events relate to the same issues: world poverty, economic depression, social injustice, and the lack of equal opportunity. It is frightening to think that the issues may fade with the year.

OUR CHILDREN DESERVE A BETTER WORLD. We have brought them here but are not prepared to provide for them. We have given them life, but not the goods to maintain it. Instead of becoming their own persons, independent and free, most children born into poverty live out their adult lives in poverty. The sadness of childhood gradually becomes the anger and despair of adulthood.

The latest survey by the World Health Organization in 1975 found that 700 million children were without adequate water supply, while 300 million suffer from malnutrition.

Never have there been so many children living in poverty; never have we been more able to influence the future; and never has our future been more uncertain.

(continued on page 4.)

1979



International Year of the Child

ON CHILDREN

(*The Prophet*, Kahlil Gibran)

And a woman who held a babe against her bosom said,
speak to us of children.

And he said: Your children are not your children.
They are sons and daughters of Life's
longing for itself.

They come through you but not from you,
and though they are with you,
yet they belong not to you.

You may give them love but
not your thoughts.

For they have their own thoughts.
You may house their bodies but not their souls,
for their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,
which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.
You may strive to be like them, but seek not
to make them like you.

For life goes not backward
nor tarries with yesterday.
You are the bows from which your children
as living arrows are sent forth.
The Archer sees the mark upon the path
of the infinite, and He bends you
with his might that his arrows
may go swift and far.

Let your bending in the Archer's hand
be for gladness;
For even as he loves the arrow that flies,
so He loves also the bow that is stable.

Pittsburg Scores Again

Becoming more and more a show case, not only for professional sports, but also for the benefits of land-value taxation, Pittsburgh, Pa. has taken another step toward economic good sense and social justice.

The January-February 1979 issue of *Incentive Taxation* reports that the Pittsburgh City Council voted 8 to 1 to place 85% of a tax increase upon land, and only 15% upon wages.

People familiar with the goal of *Incentive Taxation* to educate government officials and politicians realize the importance of publicizing such breakthroughs. Not only is it a source of hope and encouragement to georgists but it gives politicians and government officials who receive *Incentive Taxation* an example to follow in their own jurisdictions. It educates them as to the economic wisdom of collecting economic rent to finance community services, instead of penalizing the factors of production with higher taxes. More important to the politicians it provides a window for them to safely view the political consequences of such action.

Incentive Taxation is an important publication, and could

be even more important with a wider circulation. It could be a tool for you to influence your own local tax policies. Whether your particular state constitution permits local governments to set their own tax rates will determine which level of politicians you need to educate.

If your state legislature sets the property tax rates for local governments then you need to take steps to change the state laws. Find out who are the state legislators representing your district, visit them, and offer to send them *Incentive Taxation*.

If your local government has the right to set its own tax rates, visit them and offer to send them a few issues. Emphasize that you will visit them again after they have received a few issues and discuss the matter again.

Subscriptions of *Incentive Taxation* sent to politicians or government officials cost \$2.00 per year; for georgists it costs \$6.00 per year. Write *Incentive Taxation*, Box 655, Tujunga, Ca, 91042,

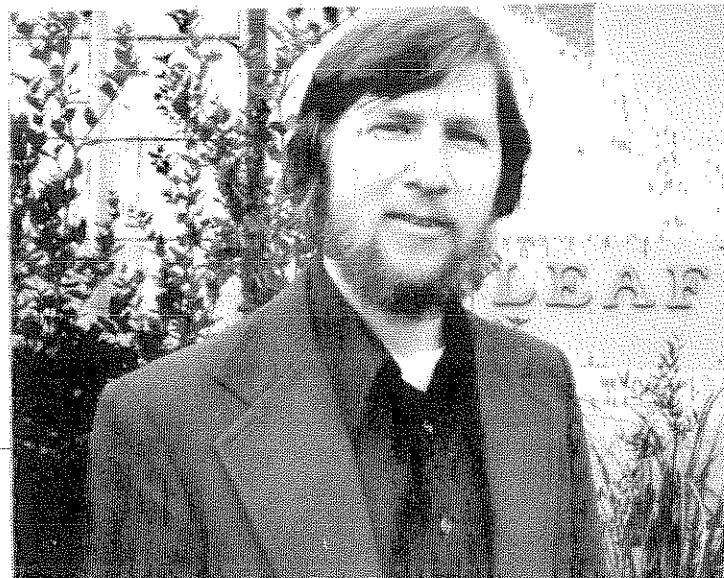
The High Cost of Security

Sixty-five percent of federal income taxes the American family paid in the 1960s and through much of the 70s went for military-related expenditures, a Michigan research group says.

Marion Anderson, Director of Employment Research Associates of Lansing, Michigan, said that according to her group's figures the average American family of four (with average income), filing a joint return and claiming standard deductions, paid \$19,450 in taxes from 1960 through 1976. Of that more than \$12,000 went

for spending by the Defense Department, veterans benefits, and national debt payments derived from military expenditures — a total the research group calls the "Pentagon tax."

This new study differs greatly from government analysis of military spending since it arrives at its results by expanding the traditional definitions of military expenditures and tax payments to include veterans' pensions, social security, interest on the national debt, and military highway construction. (Taken from the Associated Press without permission.)



Tony Meis, New Executive Director of LEAF.

Letter to the Members

Dear Members of LEAF,

It is a privilege to have this opportunity to serve as your Executive Director and to work closely with you in achieving our common goals; affording equal access to land and its resources, and eliminating penalties on industry and labor. A day does not pass in which the need for such action does not become more obvious and more crucial.

As your executive Director my immediate objectives are twofold: to assist LEAF in becoming a more unified organization by encouraging clear and complete communication within LEAF; and to assist LEAF in becoming a more vital organization by developing and suggesting strategies of action.

In conclusion I would like to make my first suggestion for action; one that is simple and trite, but important.

We are nearing the midway point of the Centennial Year of *Progress and Poverty*. If you haven't already done so, please write newspapers and magazines calling attention to the Centennial Celebration of Progress and Poverty and especially the relevance of its ideas to today's issues. None of us know how much time we have to make the needed changes to our economic system. You will agree that we cannot let this occasion go by without making an all out effort to be heard by as many people as possible.

Sincerely,

Tony Meis, Executive Director

Membership Form

You can count on me as a LEAF member at the level checked below:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular \$15 Yearly | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend of LEAF |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining (\$5 mo.) \$60 Yearly | <input type="checkbox"/> Contribution \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing (\$10 mo.) \$120 Yearly | <input type="checkbox"/> Check Enclosed |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Me |

Name: _____ Branch: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

In Memoriam

I am a strong believer in the view that a person can and should be master of his own destiny . . . moreover, of the many social goals toward which I have constantly worked, one such goal is the taxation of land rather than buildings. *Dr. Arthur Becker*

Dr. Arthur P. Becker
1918 – 1978

Dr. Becker died on November 17, 1978. While the shock of his passing has eased, our grief from his absence remains. To those who worked with him, to those who knew him as a friend, and especially to his family, we send our sympathy. In his memory we dedicate this issue to you.

Dr. Becker was a dedicated man. He was dedicated to his family, his wife Bernita and their six children; he was dedicated to education, teaching in various colleges and universities, and serving as Chairman of the Department of Economics at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee from 1948 to 1963; and he was dedicated to land-value taxation, which he actively promoted to the end of his life. He wrote numerous articles for professional journals and was the author and editor of *Land And Building Taxes*, in which he developed the rationale for land-value taxation using the economic categories of our day. In addition to writing, he served on the Board of Directors of both the Schalkenback Foundation and Land Equality

and Freedom, and was Chairman of the Committee On Taxation, Resources and Economic Development.

Floyd Morrow, Chairman of Land Equality And Freedom, said this about Dr. Becker: "He was the balancing force on our Board of Directors. His intellect and insight, combined with dry wit and good humor, will be missed. His contributions to education, to the land-value movement, to humanity in general, will be long remembered."

Dr. Becker's life, in this writer's view, seemed to be a living testimony — a visible expression to all who came under his influence — of the truth of something written by a man he greatly admired and modeled: "Social reform is not to be secured by noise and shouting; by complaints and denunciation; by the formation of parties, or the making of revolutions; but by the awakening of thought and progress of ideas. Until there be correct thought, there cannot be right action; and when there is correct thought, right action will follow." (Henry George, *Social Problems*)

We hope that Dr. Becker's spirit will continue to strengthen us and encourage our efforts.

Tony Meis



Then Almitra spoke, saying, We would ask now of Death. And he said: You would know the secret of death.

But how shall you find it unless you seek it in the heart of life?

The owl whose night-bound eyes are blind unto the day cannot unveil the mystery of light.

If you would indeed behold the spirit of death, open your heart wide unto the body of life.

For life and death are one, even as the river and the sea are one.

In the depth of your hopes and desires lies your silent knowledge of the beyond; And like seeds dreaming beneath the snow your heart dreams of spring. Trust the dreams, for in them is hidden the gates of eternity. ...

For what is it to die but to stand naked in the wind and to melt into the sun?

And what is it to cease breathing, but to free the breath from its restless tides, that it may rise and expand and seek God unencumbered?

Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing

And when you have reached the mountain top, then you shall begin to climb.

And when the earth shall claim your limbs, then shall you truly dance.

(The Prophet, Kahlil Gibran)



International Year of the Child 1979

Scattered Leaves

CHARITY NO SUBSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE

Most remedies to poverty being applied around the world are based on charity; those that have giving to those who do not have. These efforts are important and necessary but they can seldom provide more than temporary relief. The fact is that poverty is caused by the lack of justice, and no amount of charity can fill the void. Unless we first establish a just social order where equal opportunity is a reality; where everyone has equal access to the land and its riches; where everyone is free to make a living of their own choosing, all the charity in the world cannot save it from poverty. "As the individual must be just before he can be truly generous, so must human society be based upon justice before it can be based on benevolence." (Henry George, *Social Problems*).

WE CAN INFLUENCE THE FUTURE. Considering our many resources, both natural and human, we can shape our world to become a suitable place for our children to grow. The basic problems are known; there is a world body, the United Nations, in which various remedies are discussed and sometimes implemented. The realization that every nation is dependent on every other nation is encouraging closer cooperation around the world. It is happening now and will happen more in the future.

In this International Year of the Child, the Centennial Year of *Progress And Poverty*, those who believe they have an idea that will guarantee equal opportunity to the good life, must let their voices be heard. The time is now; our children are waiting.

In accordance with the provisions of the LEAF bylaws, the Board of Directors, at their meeting of April 21, 1979, instructed the Executive Director to hold the annual meeting of members during the week of July 4, 1979, in San Diego, Ca. The purpose of this meeting is to announce the results of the election, plan strategies for action, and prepare for the Centennial Celebration. Upon completion of these items the meeting will be adjourned to be reconvened in San Francisco sometime during the week of August 20, 1979, in order to formally install the new Board of Directors, plan follow-up activities to the Centennial Conference, and carry on any other business agreed upon by the membership and its Board. Details will be forthcoming.

At its meeting on May 26, 1979, the Board of Directors, assisted by Dr. Frank Goble, will consider how best to serve you, the members. The results of this meeting will be reported to you, and the LEAF Central Offices will effect whatever action-plans are determined as soon as possible.

In the meantime, we ask you to think about what you want to do in your own locale. How can the Central Offices help? What kind of information can The NEW LEAF provide that would assist your efforts?

In order for LEAF to attain its overall goals of affording equal access to land and its resources and of eliminating penalties on industry and labor, we need to continually update our plans. The Directors are meeting to set their objectives in this regard. We invite you to share your plans with us.

There are seven directorships to be filled by this year's election to the Board of Directors. Names of nominees (members may nominate themselves) are to be submitted by mail, postmarked no later than May 18, 1979, to the LEAF Central Offices, 2242 Morley St., San Diego, Ca., 92111. Between May 18 and June 1 the Executive Director, Tony Meis, will contact nominees, solicit their acceptance and biographical data and prepare the final ballots to be mailed to all members by June 1, 1979. Return ballots must be postmarked no later than June 15, 1979, and received by June 20.

"Let no one imagine that he has no influence. Whoever he may be, and wherever he may be placed, the man who thinks, becomes a light and a power." (Henry George *Social Problems*)

THE NEW LEAF
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Land Equality And Freedom
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San Diego, Ca. 92111

Editor: Tony Meis

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Harry Pollard
Marion Sapiro
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George Collins
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Everett Seeley
Robert Clancy
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