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# FREEFOLK

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## A PUBLICATION DEVOTED TO:

Explaining the social nature of ground-rent  
and the injustice of taxation.

A PUBLICATION ADVOCATING: THE COMPLETE  
ABOLITION OF TAXATION: THE PUBLIC COLLECTION  
OF THE FREELY OFFERED AND AUTOMATICALLY  
ADEQUATE GROUND-RENTS

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## CONTENTS:

Heard on the Radio  
Land Freeze  
Individuals Plan

going to be late because of floods and excessive rain which has made the soil unworkable and chilled in many areas. However, we can trust individual farmers to do their utmost to come up with a crop this year.

In the Fraser Valley the story has been the same, yet farmers have been watching the soil conditions, and as soon as the soil will slide off the plough, they are in their fields working. They work in the evenings and by artificial light, but still last year's stubble is uncultivated over large areas. There will be no corn crop in 1974 unless there is an exceptionally warm and dry fall, but each farmer will try his own alternative for stock-feed. One farmer might sow oats and harvest it unripe like hay. Another will have another alternative.

These weather conditions on a Soviet collective farm where everyone does what the planner decrees, would mean disaster, but where men are free they each use all the ingenuity they can command. They work at any hour of the day or night in order to ensure their individual survival and hence the survival of us all.

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In Bill 31, the B.C. government has imposed royalty charges on mining, and the Society of Professional Engineers has done a most unusual thing in protesting that this will harm the industry and create unemployment. They suggest a tax on profits instead.

Where royalties are charged, an operation just able to pay its way is taxed to the point of closing down. Under a land-rent for revenue system, a marginal mine pays nothing. It would never be hurt. The rent is a surplus which if taken from more advantageous mines will not affect employment or the price of ore. It provides an incentive to use land whereas a tax on profits does not prevent mines being kept idle in order to curtail and monopolise production.

Another alderman's holding sticks out like a sore thumb on the land-use map. In an expanse of green representing "frozen" land, stands forth his startling sliver of white representing commercial zoning.

So much ineffectual and even harmful legislation has been enacted against the vicious effects of land ownership that it seems we must despair of ever finding an equitable solution. But the fact that the measures have been so many and varied merely proves that they have all been based on wrong assumptions. In all cases land has been regarded as private property like a house, a suit, or an avenue of trees, all of which are products of human labour, but land which is not such a product cannot be regarded as the property of anyone. We should have the sense to accept things as they are, and make tenure of land conditional upon paying its publicly created rent into public funds. When all unearned income from land is diverted from private to public hands, no-one will have any selfish interest in fighting to have land-use frozen, permitted at a higher level, or denied. Bitterness and invidious ill-feeling will not be caused by proposals to change land-use which must occur if society is to progress. The interest of all will be served openly by using the land in the way which is best for the whole of society.

#### INDIVIDUALS PLAN

Last month we forecast an easing of the protein shortage in the coming year. However, we did not allow for the vagaries of the weather. Prairie plantings are

#### HEARD ON THE RADIO

An appeal for funds for work with the mentally retarded stated that the aim was to help these people to live a fuller life, to take up jobs and to become good tax-paying citizens.

What hypocrisy! What a perverted sense of values to impose on those who are helpless to control their own future! A person begins to wonder if these advocates are sincere but misguided, or if they are aware of the facts of the situation and are using the retarded as a means of currying favour with those in authority.

What doors to the councils of the privileged might not be opened to those who have worked to convert a group of people who are now non-producers, not only into workers but into tax-paying citizens? What better evidence of worth than to bring forth work where none was before, and taxes where none were before? A leader in this movement would have a unique power. His recruits to the ranks of workers and taxpayers would never question the necessity for drudgery or taxpaying.

Intelligent people like Richard Nixon evade hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxes. Corporations and businessmen spend a great deal of energy and wealth in figuring out how to evade taxation; yet here we have offered the prospect of the full life for the retarded, the attainment of taxpaying status, without mention of the other side of the picture, the fuller life of the pillar of society able to forego an equivalent stature in the taxpaying notables.

There is no-one to speak for the retarded. Any society organised in their name must be controlled by people who are not seriously retarded. Many of the parents of retardates are themselves retarded, ill, or impoverished,

and so presidents of societies and other officers sometimes have little or no knowledge of mental retardation, but they do sometimes have ambition which might be furthered by publicity gained as an official of such a society, or by influence gained through having disposal of funds collected charitably. In such a case we have the revolting spectacle of ruthless individuals taking advantage of the weakness and inarticulate nature of mentally handicapped people.

Already we have farm-training centres where the retarded are taught to work at farm tasks. Such work is very beneficial in many cases, provided the welfare of the retardates is considered and not the contribution they can make to someone's image, or to "society". In Ladner there used to be a Farm-Training Centre, always short of funds until along came a scout from the Variety Club with offers of money to build communal residences. The name of the farm had to change to acknowledge the Variety Club, and their insignia had to appear most prominently. Then an annual "telethon" had to be held and the world had to know what good guys the members of the entertainment profession were.

It is not unknown for retarded persons to be hired out to farmers at low rates of pay, for dirty and monotonous jobs that mentally normal people will not do. Organisers of this kind of activity enthuse about the pride the retardates take, how they will stick at a monotonous task like cleaning manure out of a barn where "normal" people will refuse to work. The truth is that farmers close to such a source of uncritical and cheap labour have an advantage which can be expressed in a high price of farm land locally.

However employment of retarded persons does not always appear in such a bad light. Some people employ

them at a loss in order to help them enjoy a normal life. The line between social acceptance and exploitation is very fine, but it is easy to see on which side of the line the die has been cast when we are asked to support an organisation devoted to converting people of low mental development into some kind of zombies ready to do the tasks that we abhor or find too unrewarding, - tasks like cleaning out manure or paying taxes. In effect we may be giving in a tacit desire to convert retarded persons into taxpayers so that our contribution may be less. What a debased philosophy!

#### LAND FREEZE

We have castigated the land measures of the new "socialist" government of B.C. ever since they were adopted and our prediction of their evil effects continues to be borne out. Recently six acres in the agricultural land "freeze" area east of 232nd. St., sold for \$80,000. At this price no-one can afford to farm it. The rent of six acres of farm-land is around \$450 a year, and since the rate of interest is something over 10%, the capitalisation of the rent, which should give us the farming price, is less than \$4,500. It is certain that this land has not been bought for farming, but in expectation of the lifting of the "land-freeze" as increasing population puts pressure on a limited area of land.

There is much acrimony where people who wanted their holdings to be zoned other than agricultural find themselves "frozen" and others unexpectedly rewarded. In Langley municipality, one land-speculating alderman fought unashamedly tooth and claw to have his large viable farm kept out of the freeze, but to no avail. He is now very bitter against the N.D.P. member of Parliament for the area who has a small acreage of rural land west of 232nd. which is in an area of wilderness, but not "frozen".