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MEMOROK

DEVOTED TO: explaining the
social nature of ground-rent and
the injustice of taxation.
ADVOCATING: the complete
abolition of taxation. The public
collection of the freely offered
and automatically adequate
ground-dues.

Vol 2 #5

May '71

Paul Hellyer, ex-cabinet minister in the Liberal Government, is getting a lot of publicity. He has founded a group named Action Canada. Nice name, reminiscent of a Vancouver municipal group who with a lot of free publicity because of their connections with the media, came to control members of Council. Hellyer too knows how to get publicity, and apparently he has ideas on how to straighten up the sagging economy.

Wage and price controls are the panacea. No word about the continual and shameless robbery of those who do all society's work by those who do nothing useful. Does Hellyer want to "control" wages in an upward direction? You can bet your life he does not, nor does any other Liberal politician we have ever heard about. In fact, when politicians have legislated in the matter of wages, it has always been in an attempt to hold them down.

The experience of the past is meaningless to our present-day politicians. In late medieval England there was an outcry that wages were too high and so politicians ordained that wages should be set by judges at quarter-sessions. Researchers like Thorold Rogers tell us that when the wage set was below what people were willing to pay for scarce labour, extra considerations other than money made up the difference. The only result of legislation was to make lawbreakers of both employer and employee, for the wage situation was left unaltered except in a very few cases where the books could not be cooked.

Hellyer is too stupid to see what is going on before his eyes. As soon as groups of employees win an award of say 7% rise in money wages, the government deliberately increases the circulating money to neutralise the increase. As soon as the inflation takes effect the workers are in a higher income tax bracket, and being worse off than before, again demand an increase, which when granted is again immediately neutralised. This situation is like being on a treadmill except for the fact that the operator of a treadmill always stays put in relation to a datum position. In the inflation battle with government the worker is falling behind.

Methodinks Hellyer has put his nose to the wind and decided that an agitation for wage and price controls would be popular, and maybe he might even ride to power on the crest of this wave. This we state with absolute certainty, that if Hellyer by some mischance ever attains the dictatorial position now occupied by P.E. Trudeau, things will not improve for the people who give service. Their fetters will merely be tightened.

To You

The emancipation of man is a slow process, which in part can be ascribed to man's tendency to absorb new ideas slowly.

Students of economic science know the difficulties of reasoning with others who don't understand the terms used in economics. We find it hard to understand how so many people can remain ignorant of the study of their own relationship to the land they live on and the relationships between man and man.

It is evident that we have not been educated to live in a society. The proof is brought before our eyes every day in the news media. So long as so many can accept the idea that we can solve our social problems by killing each other off, or at best restricting the movements of human beings, while arbitrarily taking from one and giving to another, I can only conclude that we have failed miserably in the most important field of education.

Consequently we ought to concern ourselves with finding the most effective methods of disseminating the knowledge of economics. It should be possible to arouse the interest of many more people, at least in regard to the basic principles, as most of the political squabble centres around one important thing: The Distribution of Wealth.

With more and more of the wealth being divided up according to the whims of a few people put into powerful positions, we should increasingly emphasize the point that people who have to work for a living are failing themselves in not getting acquainted with basic economics.

The penalties of not being able to distinguish between the private and the public sector of life are clearly shown in the type of man-made laws we get. Such laws, attempting to compel people to do things which are against their nature to do, may charitably be said to be due to economic illiteracy or perhaps incharitably, to a ruthless scramble for special privileges for the few at the expense of the many.

But after all the lawmakers are voted in by the victims. The point is: do the victims want to educate themselves?

We must realise that we can not force education on people who do not want to participate in the educational process, so we should strive to make the study of economics interesting and attractive.

It may help to stress that economics is not an exercise in columns of figures, rules and regulations, but a study of the activities of human beings, -- their desires and motivations. We look at effects but we do not stop there. We go as far as humanly possible in an effort to trace effects to causes.

I suggest we use the summer months for a constructive exchange of ideas in this paper. I am of the opinion that everything which holds the slightest possibility of improving our methods should be considered and examined. Consider this an invitation or a challenge if you wish, but speak up if you have something to say for I believe that a relapse into barbarism is looming and if man is to be saved from his ignorance, we can only rely on those who feel they can't remain ignorant. G. Jeberg

STRAWBERRY FAIR

Surrey Council intends to cut over 300 able "Welfare" recipients off the bread-line. They are told they can go berry-picking to earn their keep. Let's have a look at the echelon of command and see who ties in with what.

One of the chief boys in the Social-Credit party is named Driediger. He achieved an unenviable kind of fame in a court action in which he was accused of beating up berry-pickers. He is presently engaged in the strawberry business in a big way. Now it happens that there is great difficulty in obtaining help in the strawberry fields because the pay is too low, only 20% higher than ten years ago when the dollar level of wages was half of what it is now. Even when the pickers get free rides in condemned school buses, it is still extremely difficult to hire workers, for the slickest pickers in the best fields find it difficult to make more than \$1.00 per hour?..

Councilman's Flash of Genius: - let the "welfare" cases provide cheap labour for the berry boys. Perhaps the S.C. Government will be more generous in its cost-sharing with the municipality when good relations have been established.

What No-one Thinks About:- 240 Street, Langley is the centre of a considerable berry-growing area. Ten years ago land here was dear at \$1,000 an acre. Berry-growers made minimal wages because of the high mortgage payments for the land. In 1971, Block Bros. have subdivided an area off 240 Street into 5 acre lots. Now the asking-price is \$4,000 an acre, - bare land serviced with nothing more than a gravel road.

A man must be blind not to see the connection between dear land, low wages and "welfare".

WHORE'S DELIGHTModern girls talking;

- Why weren't you at school yesterday, Joan?

- My folks kicked me out and I went to the "Welfare"

The situation is incomprehensible when a boy or girl can get beyond parental control and because of that be entitled to receive charity payments so that he or she can take up abode in some "pad" with others pooling their "welfare" payments. The moral fibre of these kids has been rotted. Their existence is a search for "kicks", more and more intense sensuous experiences, while the flesh drops from their bones, their minds fail to cope, and their future is dimmed by V.D.

Such are the terminal stages in the social malady of private property in land. Let's shout out against it.

GOOD FOR YOU ARMY!

Vancouver's morning paper quotes an address by architect Arthur Erickson at an international conference in Indianapolis, as follows;

"With the increasing danger to the common good due to the irresponsible use of land, the increase of world population, the subsequent crises of food production, it seems inevitable that we will eventually be looking at the complete public ownership of land."

In practice there would be little change except that all land development would be on a lease basis, rents substituted for taxes, and the control of use and development of land easily achieved."