

Bargyle



HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY

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THE DEAN THINKS

The world today is far different than the world two or three generations ago, and life today for those in Western civilization is a far cry from earlier times. Formerly, the details of daily living, the welfare of the individual and of his community were of all-absorbing interest. The betterment of economic station, of healthful conditions, of equanimity of daily intercourse among people were the goals of most. These goals are still those of the present day. But today these goals must be pursued in the context of momentous events which occur with such frequency and which affect the lives of each person, that the even tenor of daily life is gone and with it, the way-of-life in which the fundamentals of earlier times are questioned.

We all experienced the wave of anti-intellectualism which swept our civilization in which the "Ivory tower" and "egg-head" were held up to scorn. If knowledge had no direct utilitarian value, if it did not serve to advance the possessor in his aspirations to climb economically and socially, then it lost its appeal. Our educational system became, more and more, a vast vocational school or one in which "adjustment to society" became the goal. In the latter, the ability to "get along" with others, to be popular, to be liked were stressed. To achieve these ends, conformity was essential, with only disdain for those "out-of-step."

Trail-blazers, iconoclasts, those who questioned the validity of new ideas and philosophies were outside the pale. A "better-way-of life" implied, not the education of the individual to review the history, the ethics, the philosophies of mankind and the great thinkers of the past, thus leading to a greater understanding of our modern world, but to reliance upon government with the thought "there ought to be a law" as the guide-post of modern behavior.

But the momentous events kept piling up. World War II, the Korean conflict, the cold war, the need to prevent the spread and acceptance of Communism, the emergence of colonial peoples to a fight for political independence, the growth of governmental usurpation of control of human affairs and humans, all these affected every single person, and came with such rapidity and concern that insecurity took the place of equanimity in human relations and behavior.

The launching of the Soviet Sputnik aroused such fears for Western survival that educators and the masses of citizens demanded a "crash-program" to educate more scientists so that they might the better and quicker achieve superiority in missiles and space ships. Little was said or even thought about education as a means to develop the thinkers, the men with ideas, the "sitters on a log", the meditators whose intellectual achievements might make this a peaceful and happier world.

Here and there, in the midst of the explosion of world shattering events, were thinkers and educators who counseled that peace and the betterment of mankind will come, not from more deadly missiles, but from the world of ideas as in all past civilizations. There is a perceptible trend, still a small minority, among educators to restore a "liberal arts education" to prominence in school curricula, to brain thinkers as well as doers. This is evident in the requirements of professional schools training for law or medicine for students to first graduate from a college with minimum requirements in the liberal arts.

If this recrudescence of the high esteem for thinkers will increase, then there is hope for future generations. The emergence of civilization from the Dark Ages was accomplished by the ideas of individual thinkers as these ideas were understood and adopted. The great strides in civilization are always the crystallization of ideas of single persons.

We do need more engineers and other scientists in our highly technological society, but we also need men of letters, philosophers, historians, writers, and thinkers. Yes, thinkers such as Adam Smith, Henry George, Thoreau, and other mental giants.

From statistics emerging from book-publishers, it is apparent that modern Americans, Englishmen and others are reading more and more books with increasing interest. Among the books being sold and read are many thousands of paperbacked copies of old classics. These and some modern books cannot but help to stimulate thought and a progression of ideas.

In this emergence of esteem for ideas provoking thought, the role of the Henry George Schools, most of which for the last quarter-century were hopefully offering philosophical consideration to

usually unheeding people, stands out. Those who gained in understanding by the logical presentation of facts and ideas in the Henry George Schools know that they have benefitted personally and have become better individuals and better citizens.

As the desire for education, not of the strictly utilitarian type, increases, the Henry George Schools can become a meeting place where more and more people with capacity to assimilate ideas and generate new ones of their own can find kindred souls and a further opportunity to develop.

Let us utilize the opportunity and make the most of it.

Alexander M. Goldfinger

THE GARGOYLE

As its name implies, is a throat or mouthpiece for spouting. The articles which appear express the views of the writers and are not necessarily endorsed by the Henry George School of New Jersey. They are intended to provoke thought and readers are invited to send in their comments, favorable or unfavorable.

THE RADIO AND T.V. MESS

In the present discussion of the proper means of controlling radio and TV, it has apparently been forgotten that wavelengths are part of the public domain and, as such, belong to all of us. The Federal Communications Commission was set up to determine who should use them as it is obviously impossible for two stations to operate at the same time on the same wavelength within a particular area.

The method adopted was to grant an exclusive license for three years to any citizen who satisfied the FCC as to certain criteria as legal, technical and financial qualifications and public interest. Thus power was put in the hands of the FCC which it is doubtful if angels could use wisely much less mere men, and the present mess the broadcasting industry finds itself in is largely the result of this unwise procedure.

The only equitable way to allocate these wavelengths among all of us, the equal claimants to them, is to lease them at auctions to the highest bidders for a definite period of time. This would eliminate all questions of censorship and favoritism for it puts the determination of who obtains the use of the desired frequencies in the marketplace.

Just as when a man buys the best seat in the theatre no one inquires as to his ability to enjoy the show, so the man paying for a particular wavelength should obtain it without anyone indulging in highly questionable determinations of his ability to use it properly. That he will use it wisely is assured by the fact that he must pay the heavy rental charge, for in order to earn the rent he will have to operate his station profitably--which means in a way to satisfy the people, the only ones qualified to be censors.

It is largely because the TV stations did not have to pay the proper rental charge that the programs have been so poor. They could afford to be indifferent just as a person if he had the use of valuable land in a city for which he had to pay no rent could afford to be indifferent whether he is making the most efficient use of the land with the improvements he places thereon.

It is ironical that our government which is so zealous in squeezing every cent out of the pockets even of baby sitters has neglected these enormous rental charges which certainly are in the millions, possibly the hundreds of millions of dollars. These rents belong to the people in the local communities serviced by the radio and TV stations and if paid to the local governmental units would enable them to reduce taxes. At the present time as not one red cent is paid for this valuable privilege, the result is that the prices of the securities of these radio and TV stations largely represent the capitalized value of this rent computed at the current rate of interest.

It's time the people reasserted their rights to the radio and TV frequencies, with the marketplace as the determinant and not the bureaucrats.

Oscar B. Johansen

SENSE AND NONSENSE

N.Y. State is now after the Baby sitters, income. In their latest instructions they emphasize that "income of dependent minor children from personal service compensation" must be listed on the parents income tax return. It's not bad enough that they tax the incomes of non-residents who just work there, but now they are going all out to take a share of the pin money young boys and girls earn. This brings up certain problems. Is the money to be withheld by the party hiring the baby sitter? If so, how much? Must the baby sitter's income be reported? Does the baby sitter require a social security card?

It is reported that parents and baby sitters are indignant. Maybe it would be much wiser if they were indignant over paying any income tax whatever for once you start taxing personal incomes there is no limit until you tax just about everything away.

The Federal tax department is installing a \$100 million electronic computer system to analyze the income tax returns. It will "think" about each return. If it decides there's something wrong, it will write the taxpayer a letter about it.

Now, if only they would install an electronic computer which would "think" about the expenditures authorized by Congressmen and send them letters denying the expenditures, then maybe we could do away with the one computing income tax returns, as the government wouldn't need all that money which requires installing machines to "think" about it.

The U.S. Senate engaged in round-the-clock sessions in an attempt to break up a filibuster. The majority of the Senate, in its infinite wisdom, wishes to improve the moral and political climate of the South by passing civil rights legislation. The Southerners are fighting this by a talkathon. Just how does one improve the morals and politics of people by passing a lot of laws? The great religions of the world use moral suasion and education. The reformers want to use the big stick to make people conform to their ideas of living. Which is more powerful? Well, the great religions of the world have existed for thousands of years. The political states which passed innumerable laws regulating people have long since gone out of existence.

The Tuscarora Indians lost their long fight with the bureaucrats who wished to take their land for the Niagara Power Project. By a 6 to 3 vote the Supreme Court held Congress gave the N.Y. Power Authority the necessary authorization to condemn the land. The Indians hold 6,249 acres near Niagara Falls of which the Authority wanted originally 1,383 acres, but now will take only about 550 acres.

On a technicality the Supreme Court enabled the Government to wiggle out of its contractual obligations. It held the land is not a "reservation", because a reservation is defined "artificially" in the Power Act setting up the Authority as land owned by the Federal Government in trust for Indian tribes. In-as-much as the Tuscarora Indians owned the land it was not a "reservation."

This, of course, is typical of the legal mumbo-jumbo indulged in when one has decided beforehand what the decision shall be. The bureaucrats wanted that land and they were going to get it. It was for "progress"--progress in the bureaucrat's jargon being more power projects, etc. Actually, progress is a condition in which you are continually getting greater freedom from the restraints of government--in other words, you are progressing toward freedom.

The poor Indian who "owned" all the land before the White Man came is still being kicked around. Private enterprise would never have forced its will upon these poor Indians, but the bureaucrats know no limitations on their power to do "good".

The little red school house is not entirely extinct. Believe it or not one exists in Westchester County at Bedford Village. It has eight grades in a tiny room. It is not painted red but in all other respects is typical. In 75 years the school never had a case of juvenile delinquency or anything like it.

As is usually the case, a modernized and enlarged school was built and it looked as tho the little school would have to go out of business, but the parents of the 16 pupils resisted the proposal to transfer their children. One argument they advanced was that some of America's great

est figures graduated from just such schools; the other was that the teacher with 44 years of service was indispensable.

The result is that the school will exist for at least another year and the teacher, who was thinking of retiring, is staying on!

The parents apparently realize that education does not depend upon physical facilities but upon teachers.

How many of us realize that?

THE HENRY GEORGE NEWS

This publication brings articles of interest each month and if you do not receive and read it you are missing out. Those who contribute to the New Jersey school, \$10. or more a year are given a subscription. It has just been announced that NEW subscribers may obtain the magazine at a special rate of \$1.75 for one year. Regular subscription rate continues at \$2. Please place your subscription through the New Jersey school.

25 YEARS

The Henry George School of New Jersey was founded in 1935 by Dr. Elizabeth E. Bowen and her husband, George L. Rusby. These, with the following composed the original Board of Trustees: John H. Allen, Wm. L. Hall, Henry L. Grosken, Morris J. Hoenig, Alexander M. Goldfinger, George C. Winnie, Addison K. Barry, Joseph Susskind. The years have taken their toll, several of these persons have passed on; Dr. Bowen, Mr. Rusby, George Winnie, Morris Hoenig, and Joseph Susskind. Messrs. Lurio and Bill Hall continue active in other areas, Lurio in Boston and Hall in New Hampshire. Messrs Barry, Goldfinger and Grosken continue to serve on the Board.

Dr. Bowen, in addition to being a Trustee, served as Director of the school, Dean of the Faculty and its foremost teacher. Other Directors of the school, over the years - Theresa McCarthy (now Mrs. Wm. Witort), Bill Hall, Margaret Tozier Badgley, A. Basil Wheeler, Marjorie Sweet; and since 1948 John T. Tetley, present Director.

Over one hundred and fifty persons have served on the faculty. Alex Goldfinger has for many years been Dean. Henry A. Gieffers and Louis Perna (for a time) Assistant Deans.

The school has maintained headquarters at various locations in Newark including #1 Clinton Street, 1114 Broad Street and presently 78 Clinton Avenue. The last two locations being its own building. Classes have been conducted in some 15 cities in New Jersey.

Publications of the school have been "YOUR SCHOOL", FACULTY BULLETIN, ECONOMS, and THE GARGOYLE.

The fifteenth anniversary of the school was celebrated with a banquet at the

Essex House with Henry George III as the speaker; the 20th at the Hotel Douglas, Lawson Purdy, speaker, and the 25th at Princeton Inn with Professor Richard W. Lindholm of Oregon as speaker.

The final session of the 1949 Annual Conference of the Henry George Schools was held at Newark headquarters, and in 1959 the New Jersey school was host to the Annual Conference held at Rutgers, the State University, at New Brunswick.

The N.J. school was at first an extension of the New York school, but was separately incorporated in 1938. PROGRESS and POVERTY was used as text book for the basic course until ECONOMICS SIMPLIFIED was published in 1942. In 1951 Conference type discussion groups replaced the use of textbook.

As we start upon our second quarter of a century, we are still faced with the number one problem of 25 years ago - how to reach more people. Readers of THE GARGOYLE can render a valuable service to the school by sending in names of prospects. Will you do your part now by sending in at least one name?

SAD NEWS

We are sorry to report two of our Trustees hospitalized - Mr. Henry Grosken very ill, and Mr. Gieffers with leg fracture. Hope will recover fully in due time.

We were very grieved to learn from Bill Hall that his son, age 14 died early this year. Our sincere sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Hall.

GOOD NEWS

Lou Weltzman and Mrs. Weltzman have been enjoying a trip through Mexico and points South.

Bob Ritchy has been spending the winter in Florida.

THE GARGOYLE would like to hear from the rest of you.

SALT OF THE EARTH

The man with money to burn soon meets his match.

If you enjoy work, obviously you're not working hard enough.

The three ages of man -- school tablet asphalt tablet and stone tablet.

Genius: A man who solves a problem you didn't realize you had in a manner you don't understand.

The difficulty with the average budget is that it's so hard to fill up one hole without digging another.

Pessimist: One who gets mad while taking stock of himself.

The only sensible way to lose your temper is permanently.

Isn't it funny but by the time you can write your own ticket, you're too old to.

To err is human--but generally a much better excuse is demanded.

NEW ADVANCED COURSE

A new follow-up course, after the basic one has been developed - conference type, with no text-books. It replaces the two previously given - Trade and Science. The course is designed to cover ten sessions, treating International Trade, Science of Economics, Money & Credit, Government, National Income, Land in Our Economy, and application of principles. In addition to "For Discussion Sheets" and supplement materials, flip charts and sound films will be used.

The course started at headquarters on March 29th at 7 p.m. and readers of THE GARGOYLE, who have completed the fundamental course are cordially invited to come down and sit-in on a session any Tuesday evening, or join up now and continue with the course.

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL of NEW JERSEY
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