

Barryople



HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL of NEW JERSEY

No. 61

A P R I L 1 9 6 2

The Businessman - The Politician's Scapegoat.

In order for politicians and bureaucrats to build up an empire, they must have some scapegoat on whom they can blame all the troubles which they have caused the people. In Nazi Germany, the scapegoat was the Jewish people. In Communist Russia, it was the bourgeoisie. In America, it is becoming increasingly clear that it is the businessman.

And the politicians have excellent weapons at their disposal. One is the income tax. Another, almost as effective is the anti-trust laws. These laws are particularly pleasing to the politicians because they are so vague and contradictory that nobody knows if a businessman is violating a law until he is tried.

Recently, 44 fine businessmen had their careers ruined as they were sentenced for a "crime" which they had jointly committed. They and their companies had been found guilty of conspiring to fix prices on electrical equipment. Yet the very month in which they were sentenced the same Department of Justice which prosecuted them demanded that five of the companies sign a consent decree which would force them to refrain from selling "at unreasonably low prices". That is, the Justice Department was trying to force these companies to keep up prices, when it had just prosecuted them for doing that very same thing!

Absurd? Of course. What started it all was the passage of the Sherman Anti-trust Act on July 2, 1890, the purpose of which was to prevent monopolistic practices and encourage free competition. It was to protect the consumers from having to pay too high prices, and here, the Department of Justice is, in effect, forcing companies to "conspire" to keep prices up.

But the real menace under these laws, is that any ambitious Attorney General, anxious to make a political name for himself, can use the power of prosecution of businessmen to accomplish his aim. The laws are so vague and the punishment so severe that businessmen are afraid to act. Not only can a businessman be sent jail, but he can be sued for three times the amount of damages a customer is assumed to have suffered.

The result is that businessmen are being frightened into silence and acquiescence in the passage of legislation which would put more control over them and their businesses. Thus, we see the politicians getting greater control over private enterprise and gradually building up a socialistic society with themselves and the bureaucrats as the kingpins.

The real monopoly at which the anti-trust laws were directed was the land monopoly, although it is doubtful if it was recognized as such. Most of the companies which seemed to make such control necessary were powerful land-owning companies, as railroads, oil trusts, and other big owners of land which was the source of much of the raw materials used. Although George lived at the time the Sherman Act was passed, his ideas of the proper means of controlling the situation were ignored, if indeed they were understood. Instead, a straight-jacket was placed on business, which, today, is being used increasingly as part of the pattern of discrediting businessmen so as to increase the politician's power.

If the politicians really want to do something useful, let them abolish the monopolies which gave rise to a demand for antitrust laws. Then it would be obvious that such laws are unnecessary. But no politician will go to bat for such a program unless an informed, articulate populace demands it.

We can hope that with the resurgence in conservative thinking that this attempt on the politicians' part to make the businessmen the scapegoat for their lust for power will boomerang. If so, it will be an excellent opportunity for the people to discuss what brought antitrust laws into existence, which if followed thru will lead directly to the land. If the people will once consider how the land should be treated, then there is hope that something really constructive will be accomplished.

Oscar B. Johansen

THANKS

Dr. George Kaden, says I have that quotation re: "I do not choose to be a common man" etc.; near my desk blotter. In the latest GARGOYLE you have author unknown. Mine says it is by Dean AlFouge.

I AM A CITIZEN

I am a resident of THEITOWN. I live here because it is convenient to my work. I work in BUSYCITY. I commute most of the time by railroad but occasionally I drive my car to the city. So I am a resident. I live here.

I own a modest home in a fairly good middle class neighborhood which I keep in pretty good condition. I think the taxes I pay are a bit high, but I know the reason they are high is largely because of the increase in population of THEITOWN and need for new schools. I have no kids of my own in school, but I guess it's my duty to contribute to schools anyway. Somebody did when I was in school - my folks owned no property so they paid no taxes to support the schools when my brothers and sisters were in school.

I am not a member of any political party. I do vote. At municipal elections, I read a little about the candidates and endeavor to vote for the ones I think will be better than the ones I don't vote for. I do not bother much to find out what they are doing, except what I read in the papers. I don't bother about any "hearings" nor do I vote in school board elections. What difference does it make? Some people want to be Mayor or Councilmen, or on the School Board. So elect them and let them do the job. Some will be good - some crooked, I suppose - but that's the way things do go.

All I'm interested in is making enough money so I can enjoy life a bit. Oh, I'm a member of a lodge and a couple of other civic things. I pay a dollar a year for membership in a taxpayer's association. They do a good job - so I'm willing to contribute financially, but I can't be bothered attending meetings or being on committees. I'd rather watch television, play cards, or have a few beers with the boys.

So, I pay my taxes and live my life as I want to. THEITOWN does all right without my help.

I said "I am a resident" - I suppose you could call me a citizen - because the dictionary says a citizen is "a resident of a city or town". But you probably noted this burg is called "THEITOWN" and so far as I'm concerned it is "theirs" - why should I consider it my town - they apparently are satisfied to let me live here - and I'm satisfied to let them run it.

Life's too short to get involved - leave me alone to enjoy myself as I see fit and I won't bother you.

I. M. Satisfied

* * * * *

"LAND...AND SPACE TO GROW" the documentary film to create interest in Henry George's land value taxation is available for any group wishing to show it. Write or telephone school office for booking.

PEARL ANNIVERSARY

1962 marks the 30th (traditionally "pearl") anniversary of the Henry George School. Says Robert Clancy, Director New York - "Indeed we do have 'pearls of wisdom' to offer the world".

Three decades - how many lives have been changed because they have studied at this school? How many persons have devoted how many hours to the endeavor to spread economic enlightenment?

The New Jersey school was founded in 1935, three years after Oscar Geiger established the New York School - our "pearl" anniversary will not occur until 1965. Some of you old timers will recall the 15th anniversary of HGS-NJ celebrated with a dinner at the Essex House in Newark at which time Henry George III was guest of honor. In 1955 the 20th anniversary celebration was at The Douglas Hotel and a pageant "Roll Call of the Years" was followed by an inspiring address by Lawson Purdy. Our 25th Anniversary was opened at the conclusion of the 15th Annual Conference of the Henry George Schools, when our new headquarters building was dedicated - speaker Dr. Glenn E. Hoover.

So, anniversaries come and go, as do individuals. As long as there is the need to offer the fundamental principles of economics - may the Henry George School be here to do the job.

COMING EVENTS

The 1962 Annual School Conference will be held at Chatham College, Pittsburgh, Pa. July 11th to 15th. Perhaps your vacation schedule will permit you to "take it in"? It is too early as yet to set forth the program but it seems to be the policy to make each annual conference "the best one yet" - so it should be an affair worth attending.

Nearer to home is the Annual Banquet of the New York School, to be held on June 21st. This will be at The Governor Clinton Hotel, New York city. The speaker will be Harry Golden, author of many delightful best-sellers, including "2¢ Plain". New Jersey people should enjoy this.

NEVER HEARD OF HIM

How often have we heard people say - "Henry George, never heard of him". I wonder how many readers of THE GARGOYLE have heard of Emanuel Swedenborg? It would be interesting to me if any reader would be good enough to drop me a card and tell me briefly what they know of Swedenborg. Thanks. J. Tetley, Director

* * * * *

Dean Goldfinger recently spoke at the meeting of Roselle Park Kiwanis Club. He reported much interest in August 1960 - HOUSE & HOME from which he quoted.

SENSE AND NONSENSE

In order to improve the efficiency of his employees, the Internal Revenue Commissioner is thinking of having background music played in the offices of the agency. But what to play? Some suggestions - "Just A Kiss In The Dark" - "You've Meant To Me" - "Stormy Weather" - "Heartache" - "Money Burns A Hole In My Pocket" - "I Can't Give You Anything But Love".

Hardly had the storms caused havoc on the east coast, than various areas were called disaster areas and eligible for federal aid. Union County, N.J., was advised that it was a disaster area and eligible for federal aid, but nobody ever asked for it. New York City is considering having parts of it considered a disaster area, so it too can get federal aid. It looks like storms can cause manna from heaven--Washington, D.C. heaven.

From Peru comes more evidence of the fact that people are land hungry. Near Cerro de Pasco, in the Andes mountains, are four huge cattle ranches. Indian peasants have seized the ranches and claimed ownership. Much of this property is held by absentee landlords. The Peru Government sent troops and were attacked by the peasants. Of course, taking over the land this way is no solution, but it is indicative of the absolute need of people for the land. Very often the communists are back of these outbreaks, but that is merely because they realize how important land is to the people. Misdom demands that the people's needs be recognized. However, such is not usually the case, which is why the communists very often take over, after promising the land to the peasants. When will the capitalists wake up and promise peasants access to land?

Khrushchev last October made a very significant speech. It dealt largely with the farm problem because the Russians can't get enough to eat. He seems to be trying to build up sentiment for an extension of private control of the land for he said it is possible to achieve "socialistic change in the countryside without nationalizing the land, and with consideration for the long-standing traditions on the part of the peasantry of deep attachment to the private ownership of land.

In view of the fact that the first of the principles that Marx and Engels listed as the means to change a capitalist society into a socialistic one is the nationalization of the land, it would seem that possibly Khrushchev is turning his back on socialism. Actually, he is not, but the force of circumstances is making him recognize that to get production, he must permit private control of land so there is incentive for the peasants to work.

Poland was the only Communist country to fulfill its agricultural plan last year. Why? Because it turned its back on collectivization of the land.

Pravda recently stated "the present-day production level of agricultural products cannot wholly cover the ever-growing demands of the population". Well, if they can't do it after over a generation of collectivization, when will they do it? They won't unless they take the out Khrushchev seems to be pointing to, and that is more private plots for the peasants. But that's private enterprise. What has happened to this vaunted socialistic society which was to make a Utopia here on earth?

The difference between Communism and Democracy is plenty.

BARBARA AND EDWARD BIGOS

Since this is a column concerning personalities, I usually find myself talking with a single individual, and occasionally with both a husband and wife, sometimes deeply involved in the same interests.

Today, it was a pleasure to visit with Barbara and Edward Bigos, who are just such a couple. I sensed a spirit of harmony, of enthusiasm, and of consciously felt satisfaction with life.

They have both always lived in the area of Union, New Jersey. They have two small daughters, ages six and eight. Currently they are weighing their prospects in the public school system with the scales beginning to tip in favor of private schools.

Mr. Bigos was a major in economics at Temple University. He is the owner of B and B Enterprises, a commercial window cleaning company. Also, he is manager of a commodity mutual fund, called Dynamic Futures.

Although they have often visited with both the Henry George Schools in Newark and New York, most of their studies were accomplished through the N.Y. correspondence courses. Mr. Bigos subscribed to at least five of these.

He feels that, by comparison with university economics, the George concept views society as an aggregate of individuals rather than so many human statistics. He believes, as the H.G. schools teach, that the study should treat of economics as it could and should operate, based on justice, in comparison with the way it does, top heavy with all its dislocations. He thinks the logic of our views are in no way weakened by the inclusion of an element of metaphysics.

Their devotion to the supremacy of the individual is of first importance in their mutual avocation. In this, the first necessity is attention to physical perfection insofar as it is humanly possible. And, as I understand it, secondly, unbelievable concentration is brought to bear on development of the mental, philosophical, or spiritual human potential. This is the system of great personal attainment called Yoga.

If the results are as tremendous as its proponents say, it can do for the individual what the understanding of fundamental economics and the proposal for correcting maladjustments set forth by Henry George can do for the body politic. It would seem that at least a modicum of the latter should precede the possibility of practicing the former! For Mr. Bigos said that Yoga was developed by the upper class in India and the oppressed masses were never able to participate. And so, again it seems true, that relative economic stability must prevail before personal improvement of any kind can take place.

Barbara Bigos teaches a class for women at the Plainfield YMCA, while her husband also teaches Yoga at the adult school in the Watchung Hills Regional High School. They have taught Yoga privately at their home for about five years.

They continue with their own studies in New York with the world-renowned Yogi Gupta. He is the author of what is said to be a fine dissertation on the subject, "Yoga and Long Life." I am looking forward to a serious adventure of the mind with this volume.

Mr. and Mrs. Bigos are anticipating a trip to India soon. They say the greatest concentration of its ancient wisdom is still to be found there.

But they are well aware, as are we all in the Henry George Schools, that the greater the economic justice for people in general, the greater will be the surge toward the wisdom of all the world that is waiting for all individuals.

Virginia Harvey

"In Australian boroughs where land value taxation was tried all slums were gradually eliminated within a year."

Lancaster M. Greene - in
JAMAICA'S LAND WAITS -
HENRY GEORGE NEWS, MARCH '62

Incidentally, the March issue of THE HENRY GEORGE NEWS is packed with good stuff.

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL of NEW JERSEY
78 Clinton Avenue, Newark 14, N.J.
John T. Tetley, Director. MA 3-9333

Notify THE GARGOYLE
if you change your address.

SALT OF THE EARTH

We spared the rod for so many years and look what we have -- the beat generation.

Money may not help you make friends, but it will get you a higher grade of enemies.

Did you know that alimony is a married man's cash surrender value?

Do you know why Robin Hood only robbed the rich? The poor had no money.

Bud: Say, that girl over there certainly is electric.

Bill: She ought to be. Everything she has on is charged.

John isn't bothered any more with relatives coming and staying with him. His formula is to borrow money from the rich ones and lend it to the poor ones. The result is that none of them come back.

The man who laughs at the boss's jokes may not have a sense of humor but he certainly has a sense of direction.

There's one good thing to say about a miser. He makes a wonderful ancestor.

Do you know what the motto of the Bureau of Internal Revenue is? "Remember, America is a land of untold wealth."

Isn't it true? By the time a man can afford one of those nifty little sport cars he's too fat to get into one.

A family man is one who replaces the currency in his billfold with snapshots.

* * * * *

From N.Y. Times - "Mississippi Puts Tax on Sale of Illicit Beer -- State Tax Commission to collect tax on beer sold in the state's 54 counties in which its sale is illegal.

From Newark News: "Survival Class Set Up for 400 draws only 4. -- West Side Adult School prepared a course on survival in a disaster --- only four registered. The board advised Gov. Hughes that "appalling public apathy" had forced the school to cancel the course for second time.

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
• 014 CTS. PAID
NEWARK, N.J.
Permit #2136

LIBRARY

Henry School of Social Science
50 E. 69th St.
New York 21, N. Y.