

The Baroque



"A throat, mouthpiece, spout." Opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and not necessarily endorsed by the Henry George School.

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY #113

A P R I L 1 9 6 7

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

2nd Tuesday in April - 11th
2 to 4 P.M.

78 Clinton Avenue, Newark - Anyone welcome - come and bring a friend.

FLM: "Nigeria: Culture in Transition"
See "Mdari houses" mud houses - erected not for human habitation, but as a creative tribute to Alta, the Goddess of earth and creation - see dances, drama and culture of this newly independent nation - Plus - Discussion of the leading topics of the day.

* * * * *

Yet to come - "Denticare" and "Renticare" - after that whaticare.

WORDS OF WISDOM

Man's political problem remains forever the same; the reconciliation of freedom and order.

Man's creativity is enhanced by an equality of opportunity, an opportunity to be free to achieve and yet safe in his achievements.

The point of a constitution is to lay down fundamental principles limiting everyone, majorities as well as minorities, to playing the game by a fixed set of rules. George A. Roche III

Oh no! - N.Y. World Journal

dateline Trenton - "Housewives will be able to deduct the cost of sewing at home from their income tax, according to a bill to be submitted to the state legislature shortly."

Does this mean the exemptions to New Jersey's income tax, which we do not now have, are to be approved before the tax legislation is set-up?

C A P I T A L I S M

von Mises - HUMAN ACTION - The system under which the keenest and most agile minds are driven to promote to the best of their abilities the welfare of the laggard many.

"In America...it may be said that the township was organized before the county, the county before the state, the state before the union."

"No one can become really educated without having pursued some study in which he took no interest - for it is a part of education to interest ourselves in subjects for which we have no aptitude." T.S. Eliott

"Everything comes if a man will only wait." Disraeli

Sometimes the waiting involves years.

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY
78 Clinton Avenue, Newark, N.J. 07114
623-9333, John T. Tetley, Director

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
01¢ CTS. PAID
NEWARK, N.J.
Permit #2136

LIBRARY
Henry George School of Social Science
50 East 69th St.
New York, N.Y. 10021

Two More Gone From Our Ranks

On the same day death claimed from us, on the East coast, Leo Cohen and on the West coast, Sid Evans. Leo was a graduate and teacher at the New York school. He lived in Oakland, NJ where he received considerable publicity in connection with his success in obtaining lower assessments and taxes for his townspeople. With a tape-measure and The State Assessor's Manual, Leo called upon 47 families discussed the history of their properties and received their permission to measure their land and buildings - then make his own valuation. Then he arranged for a hearing at the local Board of Assessor's and succeeded in having 45 assessments reduced to a more equitable level and the 2 remaining assessments partially reduced!

He also conducted classes in Fundamental Economics in connection with the Oakland Adult School. At one of these classes the Chairman of the City Planning Commission was a student.

Oakland's Mayor appointed Cohen the Chairman of a Tax Study Committee to study the tax structure and act as liaison between the Borough of Oakland and the State Tax Commission. The Oakland Postulate was the report, which recommended a graded tax plan over a period of years lowering the tax on improvements and increasing on land. Cohen was in correspondence with Tax Assessors all over New Jersey; he was speaker at the Tax Assessors Conference at Rutgers University. He ran for Mayor but did not win the election in his local community.

Leo, unknown to Dr. G. W. Esty, President of the N.J. HGS, appeared at the hearing a few years ago, of the New Jersey State Tax Policy Commission and an Advisory Committee on State Tax Policy. Both men proposed a serious consideration of Land Value Taxation which was favorably reported by the press, but ignored by the government committees.

Cohen extensively studied assessment practices and procedures and conducted a Seminar in Newark which was attended by a number of persons of the faculty of the New York HGS.

In June 1964 Leo Cohen was elected a Trustee of the New Jersey school and became Chairman of the Special Activities. In this capacity he arranged a Graduate Dinner Dance at the Hotel Suburban in Summit which was an outstanding affair, and a picnic at Forest Park.

Leo leaves a void in the ranks of the New Jersey school which is going to be very difficult to fill.

Sidney G. Evans, the Squire of Windmere, La Jolla, California was a bachelor who always lived modestly but contributed hundreds of thousands of

dollars to educational foundations. In 1963 he made a single donation of more than a quarter of a million dollars for educational purposes.

Because of his strong beliefs in "free enterprise" and strong locally controlled governments, he opposed all State and Federal Programs. These basic beliefs led him to the teachings of Henry George, and Sid devoted not only his money, but all of his time and energy to work with the Henry George School and movement. He was a most familiar person at the annual conferences of the school and was on the Executive Committee of the International Union for Land-Value Taxation and Free Trade.

Sid assisted in promoting and financing many organizations both for education and political action to promote the tax proposals of Henry George the most successful of which is the Statewide Homeowners Association of California. To say that Sid Evans will be missed by his host of friends throughout the world is to put it most mildly.

"P R O F I T S"

Profit isn't a cost borne and paid for by consumers. Profit isn't added on to the market price of what we buy. It is a residual. Profits are earned by companies which are successful in reducing and keeping production costs under market prices. Because profits are so hard to come by, some businessmen occasionally say something to the effect that "every company is entitled to a fair profit." If so, who is to determine what is "fair"? The owners of a company?...certainly not. The workers?...no again. The government?...heaven forbid!

No, only consumers can fairly determine what rate of profit a company should earn. They do this through buying or refusing to buy the company's products on the competitive market. Sometimes this rate of profit will be very high. Other times it will be very low - or even nonexistent. Whatever it is, if consumers determine profit by free choice, it is sure to be fair. When allowed to function freely, the free market is absolutely fair to all concerned.

Tom Rose, Director of Economic Education, Associated Industries
THE FREEMAN - March 1967

Headline: New York Times:

"A.T. & T. PROFIT CURB URGED"
How about the profits of A & P
or of Joe's Beanery?

And do not forget, being allowed to make a profit also permits of incurring a loss! Unless, of course, there is a Government subsidy.

SOCIETY'S MALAISE

Teachers in a New York City public school recently went on strike demanding protection from their pupils. Students who had attacked teachers had been handled with kid gloves instead of being severely punished. Whether this sweet reasonableness was the result of a fear of inhibiting the free spirit of the pupils or the result of politics was never made clear.

In Chicago, the situation in some of its public schools is so chaotic that the biggest problem is teacher dropout rather than student dropout. One high school's staff of 85 had 41 teachers who were in their first year of teaching.

Art which consists of blank spaces, or lines, or smudges which convey no meaning to the viewer is praised by critics who apparently have the ability to understand the inner expression or compulsion of the "artists" who created such "masterpieces."

"Underground films", very often with no plot but merely a montage of images are the rage. Some are shot without plan representing the directors spur of the moment inspiration, much as poetry is supposed to represent the flash of inspiration of the poet at the time of writing. Instant coffee, tea and soup are now equated with instant art.

Raucous sounds played in a psychedelic atmosphere by beatniks is the vogue and the prevailing philosophy appears to be a form of iconoclasm with a vengeance.

This is the rebellion of youth, or at least a large segment of youth--so we are told.

Of course, there is nothing startling about youth revolting against the ideas and standards of their elders. There would be something wrong with young people if they didn't. What is unique, however, is that the older generation is so unsure of itself that it seems to be afraid to defend itself or its standards. Some of the elders actually are part of the rebellion.

Young people are such worshipers of freedom that they want to be free not only to do what they please but free from responsibility for their actions. This is absurd but what is even more ridiculous is that many of their elders condone such nonsense.

Why is this? No doubt everyone has his own ideas but to the writer the basic cause is economic. Just as some serious cancer may first be recognized by some eruption or problem far removed from the cancer itself, so these peculiar actions of young and old may be related to the economic cancer afflicting society.

Since the land in the U.S. has been enclosed for all practical purposes, the opportunities to utilize one's talents have increasingly become restricted. But men, particularly in their youth, are possessed of so much energy that they must seek an outlet somewhere. If they cannot find that outlet in taking the gifts of Nature and molding them into the things men want, then they will turn more and more inward. This leads to all kinds of rationalizations for one's behavior.

If it is difficult to make a living so that one must live in a slum, then a slum is the kind of life that men should live. If despair leads one to neglect one's personal appearance, then it is an easy step to rationalize such and almost make dirt, sloppiness and carelessness the accepted norm.

When it is difficult to make a living then any love of true independence turns into a hate of that self-reliance which comes from men making a living by applying their talents to the earth. Instead, a cynical acceptance of welfareism is the order of the day, and the hero is the one who can wheedle the most from the bureaucrats administering the welfare programs. So pervasive becomes this concept that those who have the opportunity to make a decent living and do so are almost ashamed of their success. Businessmen are afraid to point to their profits with pride as tho they had done something wrong. ((See "PROFITS" Page 2))

Our society is increasingly coming to the point where it sneers at taking advantage of opportunities. It is in the position of a man who has trained to run in a race and then finds he is not permitted to enter it for some reason or other--possibly because he is not a member of the elite, or because of his religion or some technicality. When this occurs others in a similar position decide it is not worthwhile developing their running abilities as they will never be able to compete. This leads eventually to despising the race as a form of compensation for not being permitted in it.

The enclosure of the land so restricts opportunity that more and more people see little reason to develop their capacities. Instead, they turn inward. They develop all kinds of neuroses, and philosophical rationalizations, and in the unhappiness which results blame such abstractions as capitalism, religion or the bogey of the day.

Sociology, psychology, even psychiatry are called upon to solve the problems of modern civilization. But they cannot do so for they are not equipped to deal with the fundamental problem. They may help individual cases, but not the malaise from which our society suffers.

It is the economist who can set into effect the means for creating a healthy society. But he must be one who understands the true science of economics--not the pseudo-science of economics taught today, which is really economic astrology. The economist who understands man's relationship to the land and its effect on his entire psychological makeup is the one who can point the way to a cure. But, today no one wants to listen to him. Only after society has gone further down the road toward chaos will he have a chance to show what he can do. And even then it won't be easy for his solution is so simple that it will be distrusted. But, someday he will have to be heard and listened to if society wishes to develop instead of to retrograde.

Oscar B. Johannsen

SENSE & NONSENSE

Governor Ronald Regan of California is discovering how difficult it is even to take the first few faltering steps toward dismantling the welfare state. He is still the target of abuse from many of the students and faculty of California's state colleges and universities for daring to attempt to levy a small tuition charge.

Now, he is being accused of creating a "snake-pit" for he has just announced that 2,632 state mental employees would soon be relieved of their jobs. His plan envisages no undue hardship on any of the patients but that does not prevent dissidents from raising all kinds of dread contingencies as the likely outcome.

No one liked to be taken off the gravy train! Since those involved are voters, Gov. Reagan is due for some unpleasant surprises.

Only after you've weathered a real storm do you realize how much you've worried over squalls.

Professor Arthur P. Becker, of the University of Wisconsin, called for a property tax for Milwaukee based on land values alone. He pointed out that eliminating taxes on buildings and improvements would provide a potent spur to construction. The Milwaukee Sentinel in an editorial on February 4th stated that his proposal deserved "serious consideration." It stated "basing the property tax on land values, determined by its location and its income or satisfaction producing potential, would tend to serve as an incentive to the owner to put his land to the best use possible."

This is just a straw in the wind. Maybe it presages a more intelligent attitude on the part of the press and the public toward land value taxation.

The United States is indulging in gold diplomacy. In order to stem the flow of gold from the country, it has been asking the major dollar-holding nations, Japan, Canada, Britain, and West Germany not to redeem their paper dollar holdings in gold except for some dire emergency.

Our country is in the unenviable position of a debtor humbly begging his creditors not to present his IOU's for redemption. Of course, there is always one creditor who is reluctant to wait until the debtor can make good, particularly when the debtor does not make any strenuous efforts to cut his fiscal coat to fit his financial cloth. France is that reluctant suitor. It's attitude is that this monetary patchwork solves nothing. Rather it merely postpones the inevitable day when the U.S. will either have to straighten out its financial affairs or devalue the dollar. Judging by the political shenanigans being practiced, the dollar will be devalued with economic repercussions which will be world-wide and detrimental to all.

The most powerful nation in the world can create atomic bombs, can dare to probe the moon, and yet it can't solve the simple problem of making its revenues equal its outgo.

Which reminds one of what Benjamin Franklin said, "If you would know the value of money, go and try to borrow some."

Come to think of it, wouldn't it be a good idea to put the designer of ladies' bathing suits in charge of government budgets?

SALT OF THE EARTH

Any abnormal children in your class, a harassed-looking teacher was asked. Yes, she replied, Two of them have good manners.

He: But dear, haven't I always given you my pay check on the first of the month?

She: Yes, but you never told me you were paid twice a month.

With all the modern conveniences making cooking so easy, chances are a bride can't make a good cup of coffee. But that's not too bad for it's practically certain that the bridegroom wouldn't know the difference.

Isn't it funny that everyone is some kind of an animal. Mom is a deer, the baby's a little lamb, the boy is a kid and dad -- well, he's the goat.

Now that Spring is here it reminds you that summer will soon be on us. That is the time of the year when the highway departments close the regular roads and open up the detours.