

## NEWSLETTER

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"COUNT THAT DAY WON WHEN, TURNING ON ITS AXIS, THIS EARTH IMPOSES NO ADDITIONAL TAXES." (FRANKLIN P. ADAMS, 1881-1954)

### L.A. TIMES APPLAUDS NEW SALES TAX INCREASE

To the applause of the mighty Los Angeles Times, California's new Reagan-Moretti one percent sales tax increase has gone into effect. We are happy to see that the Times' ecstatic approval of the consumer tax hike was not inspired by the necessary tax savings to be forthcoming to the hundreds of thousands of acres, both rural and urban, owned by the Times. On the contrary, according to a Times editorial, Times support is based on the necessary tax savings to homeowners and renters alike which it claims must result from the new tax shift.

If the Times' reasoning is correct, at last we have found the key to economic Utopia. If the recent one percent sales tax increase (5% to 6%) will cause tax savings to both homeowner and renter alike, which necessarily includes all Californians, a one hundred percent sales tax increase should, according to Times reasoning, bring wealth and riches to all Californians.

Two hundred years ago Adam Smith called the sales tax, "the most ruinous of taxes." Not to the Chandlers and the Hearsts.

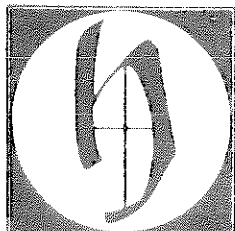
### SAME BACKWARD TREND IN BRITAIN

Almost simultaneously, the new self-styled Labour government of Britain has imposed heavy new sales taxes, all in the name of fighting inflation. Vacant land still is exempt from property taxes in Britain, but we cannot expect the Socialist Prime Minister Harold Wilson, recently involved in a land speculation scandal of his own, to resort to such an extreme measure as placing a financial burden on the favored classes whom he blasted so heavily in campaign oratory.

Wilson's "Watergate" involves 95 acres of reclaimed slag heaps in an obscure village for \$420,000 by Marcia Williams, Wilson's political private secretary (the British equivalent Nixon's Rosemary Woods), her brother (a former member of Wilson's staff) and her sister (once Mrs. Wilson's Secretary). In February, after a short period of non-taxation, the slag heaps were sold for \$2,300,000 as a factory site.

The letters assertedly connecting Wilson personally with the deal are claimed by Wilson to be forgeries.

Since Wilson and the Labour Party had made "Stop Land Profiteering" a



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key plank of their recent victorious campaign, and speech after speech was made attacking the Conservatives for allowing the huge boom in land values to continue, the opposition cannot be blamed for taking gleeful satisfaction in this development.

Former Minister John Hunt is quoted by CSM correspondent Peter Stuart as saying: "When you remember the amount of stick which the previous Conservative government had to take from Mr. Wilson in particular about land deals, it does expose the cant and humbug and hypocrisy of so much of the Labour propaganda."

I am happy to say that our California politicians have no cant, humbug, or hypocrisy. The Reagan-Moretti brand of politicians who run the Golden State would never dream of campaigning on a platform of "stop land profiteering" and their announced platform has always been to shift taxes from the landed interests to the consumer. The cant, humbug and hypocrisy is that of the voters who continue to vote for these men, and then claim surprise when beset by inflation and unemployment.

#### THE PROPOSED SWINDLE OF THE MONTH

The April prize for best display of gall and temerity (International competition) should go to Luis Taruc, former Filipino Communist Guerilla leader, who now seeks \$7,000,000 from the U.S. Federal Government as compensation for the Hukbahalap veterans he formerly lead. "Hukbahalap" means "fighters against everyone", but it should have been everyone except the Japanese. Although they killed many pro-United States guerrillas during World War II and even a few American soldiers when they could get away with it, the Huks carefully watched their men and ammunition against being wasted on the Japanese.

Taruc, en route to Washington, D.C. for a promised hearing before the House Committee on Veteran Affairs stated in a talk before the University of San Francisco: "The Huks were organized as a liberation force during the Japanese occupation and later fought side by side with the Americans."

This is fantasy. The Huks certainly were organized for a Communist "Liberation", if that is what a forcible revolution is called, and we do know with whom Comrade Taruc was side by side on those hectic days and nights but it wasn't the Americans.

#### THE PEACE & FREEDOM PARTY AND THE SLA BIRDS OF THE SAME PSYCHOPATHIC FEATH- ER

At last month's State convention of the Peace and Freedom Party, a resolution was passed approving the Symbionese Liberation Army kidnapping of Patricia Hearst as the "natural reaction to the oppression of capitalism from which we all suffer", and stated that P&F does not "presume to criticize the course the SLA has taken."

The Peace and Freedom nomenclature reminds us of the Orwell book "1984", wherein the Ministry of War was called the Ministry of Peace, the Ministry of Propaganda was called the Ministry of Truth, and the Ministry in charge of torture was called the Ministry of Love.

The goals of the Symbionese Liberation Army (more accurately the Simpleton Liberation Army) as printed in the Hearst press indicate the schizophrenic thinking typical of our California Maoists. The program pledges "revolutionary war against the fascist, capitalistic class, and their agents of murder, oppression and exploitation," and substitution of a na-

tion based on "life, love, trust and honesty, freedom and equality." How kidnapping and extortion fit in with all this love, trust, honesty and freedom is not made clear.

The economic platform of the SLA shows similar muddled inconsistencies. Paragraph 13 states a goal: "To take control of all state land of that of the capitalistic class and to give the land to the people. To form laws and codes that safeguard that no person can own the land, or sell the land, but rather the nation's people own the land and can use it for their needs and interest to live. No one can own or sell the air, the sky, the water, the trees, the birds, the sun, for all of this world belongs to the people of this earth." The sentiments of the last sentence, possibly taken from the sentiments of prominent American Indians, cannot be denied as a philosophy, but nothing is said as to how this goal can be realized. If the SLA contends that the proper method to realize this goal is to adopt the system used in modern Marxist nations of State ownership of all land through a national bureaucracy, we do not visualize this as "giving back the land to the people."

Goal No. 14 of the SLA is stated as being: "To take control of all buildings and apartment buildings of the capitalistic class and fascist government and to totally destroy the rent system of exploitation." Possibly the Lord put the sky, the water, the trees, the birds, the sun, etc. on the earth for all the People, but buildings were erected by the sweat and strain of individuals. The mere supposed epithet "capitalistic" does not change this reality, or inject reason into the chaotic logic of the Maoists.

#### AS BART FINANCIAL WOES MOUNT, CITY TRAFFIC ENGINEER ATTACKS "RAPID TRANSIT" SCHEME FOR L.A.

As San Francisco's highly-touted Bay Area Rapid Transit Authority is inundated with a \$45 million deficit, costly accidents, equipment failures and service delays, Los Angeles City Traffic Engineer S.S. Taylor called the plan to build a similar multi-billion dollar rapid transit system in L.A. a waste of money, Taylor stated: "The public is being sold a bill of goods on the potential benefits of fixed rail 'rapid transit systems'." Taylor estimated that the eventual cost for the Los Angeles area would be from \$25 to \$50 billion rather than the \$6.6 billion estimated by its proponents.

The L.A. transit scheme had won wide support from local politicians, contractors, and from landowners with property near the proposed terminals of the scheduled plan. They contemplated that the scheme would be financed either by the sales tax method used by San Francisco, diversion from gas tax funds, or possibly by largess from the supposedly overflowing cornucopia in Washington.

INSIGHT obtains a possibly sadistic delight in the debacles befalling the Bay area system. San Francisco ignored its opportunity to finance the system under the Mills Bill which provided for taxing a portion of the unearned windfalls coming from the spectacular increase in land values caused by the BART construction. Instead San Francisco chose the politically palatable alternative of a sales tax increase, which supposedly would terminate in 1975.

Now BART general manager B.R. Stokes states that the Bay Area system will have an operating deficit of \$111 million in the next five years, and that BART may have to shut down this fall unless it received additional revenues from the State Legislature. (Stokes qualifications for this gigantic administrative and technical job consisted of being a newspaperman before joining BART). Legislative Analyst A. Alan Post stated that continuation of the  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent sales tax financing beyond 1975 was an "obvious" solution, not mentioning the still available possibilities of using the Mills Bill.

In the meantime, the East Bay to San Francisco train tube is not yet in use, BART's computer-controlled train detection system has failed PUC tests, and Stokes has been more interested in handing out press releases than in correcting the innumerable mechanical and planning failures in the system.

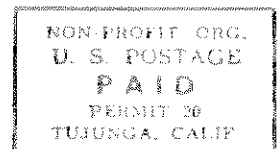
Taylor is almost alone among Los Angeles City bigwigs in his opposi-

tion to similar system for Los Angeles. Taylor stated: "Los Angeles, with its low population density, its decentralization, its employment pattern, its shopping areas and its relatively small central core, does not meet the criteria of fixed rail rapid transit."

We think Taylor is not slated to enjoy long-continued employment. The property owners in the "small central core" with their tremendous political influence, will fight to the death for the proposed "rapid transit" scheme, as long as it is paid for (as contemplated) by sales tax, gasoline tax diversion, or by the Great White Father in Washington. The only way to discourage their zeal would be to use the alternative method of financing offered in the Mills Bill, of a tax on the unearned windfalls which the system would bring to the landowners sponsoring the scheme. The local chapters of the national associations of Architects and Planners have proposed such an alternative, unfortunately political sponsorship of such a plan is hardly likely to attract large campaign contributions.



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