

The Battle



"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

Issue #153

AUG./SEPT. 1971

Another Annual Conference of the Henry George Schools has come and gone. This time in San Francisco, Calif. The program included "The Economic Causes of War" with presentation by Dr. Mason Gaffney, Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin, "Land Reform and the Reduction of Conflict" presented by Robert L. Coate, former U.S. Economic Advisor to United Nations - "The Land Question in History" a five screen audio-visual story presented by representatives of Berkeley Unified School District. Other topics discussed included "How Broke are American Cities?" - "Must City Growth Be Curbed?" and "The Economics of Pollution." At the concluding banquet, the speaker was Pierpont Penrice of Time Inc., who was presented with the annual award given by the Board of Trustees of the New York School to a person contributing outstanding achievement in our field of activity.

It is with sorrow we report the death of Virginia Harvey, in June. Mrs. Harvey was extremely interested in economic, social and political affairs, particularly from viewpoint of those familiar with Henry George's writings and the Henry George School. She was a graduate of and instructor in the New Jersey School. She was a member of the original editorial staff of THE GARGOYLE, and a member of the Board of Trustees of the N.J. School from Jan. 1957 until she moved to Derwood, Md. in 1963. At that time she was voted Trustee Emeritus.

It is with regret that we also report the death in July of Emanuel Choper, Director of the Henry George School in Albany, New York.

As noted in the Henry George News, Betty Breeze, formerly assistant to many Choper died in April this year.

HELP YOUR CITY ON BELOIT, WISCONSIN

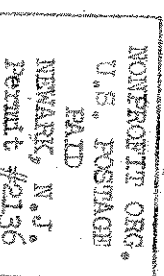
This community of approximately 35,000 persons is about to hold a voter referendum (November) permitting complete site-value (land value) taxation! This is the result of the Beloit Chapter of the Wisconsin Property Owners League. To quote from PROPERTY TAX NEWS LETTER, June 1971 - "The plan faces formidable opposition from real estate interests land speculators and some businesses."

DO YOU WANT \$1,500. or \$3,500.?

The Henry George Foundation of America is offering a first and a second prize for the best novel built around land value taxation in terms of anti-inflation. It is the thought of the Foundation that such a prize might encourage top professional writers become dedicated workers for freedom within part of their journalistic career."

The grant is subject to a tentative deadline - Sept. 15, 1971, so hurry. Contact the Foundation at once - 356 Fourth Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15222

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY
50 WASHINGTON TERRACE
EAST ORANGE, N. J. 07017



Address Correction
Requested

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

THE VOICE AND THE TAX COMMITTEE

This is the title of an imaginary dialogue by Noah D. Alper, President of Public Revenue Education Council. In pamphlet form, it records a meeting of the Council of Rabbis, Priests and Ministers and "The Voice, the heavenly Comptroller of Natural Laws and Their Use." Single copy free - 5 copies \$1., 10 copies \$1.50, 25 or more 10¢ each. Order direct from PREC Room 308, 705 Olive St., St. Louis, Mo. 63101,

FREE - NO CHARGE

"The Best Things in Life are Free" - "Whatever you get for Nothing is Worth that Much". - "There is no such thing as a free-lunch." Almost everyone has heard these familiar sayings, the question of making a charge for courses at the Henry George School or to continue to offer them free has been debated over and over again. There has never been a subscription price for GARGOYLE. The policy of the Henry George School of N.J. has been to send the publication to those who make contributions to this school, and to any others who request to be put on the mailing list. We will continue this policy so long as we are able to do so. However, in view of the continually increasing cost of paper, supplies, and postage, those who receive THE GARGOYLE and do not make financial contributions to the N.J. School might wish now and then to send along a dollar or so in order to assist. Thanks in advance.

AN UP-AND-DOING FILM THAT COMES

WHEN YOU CALL

People are talking more about ecology than the weather these days. But - is that all people can do - just talk about it?

If it's better cities you'd like to do something about, there's an award-winning movie going the rounds titled ONE WAY TO BETTER CITIES, that is supposed to inspire people to do something really earth-shaking about it.

What ONE WAY does is start you thinking about what causes slums and what concerned citizens can do to let beautiful parks and homes and offices bloom on the rubble of ratty old neighborhoods. There's an all-star cast that comes across more like enthusiastic neighbors than college professors which they mostly really are.

We want give away the plot by telling what this Silver Medal Winner at the International Film and TV Festival in New York and the American Film Festival as well is all about. But perhaps you will be interested to know that free showings of this 30 minute slum buster are available to schools, business and church and civic groups of all kinds.

Contact your HGS headquarters.

BOOKS TO BORROW

Some recent additions to the HGS Library - available for loan:

All The News That's Fit - Dinsmore
Time Will Run Back - Henry Hazlitt
The Roots of Capitalism - Chamberlain
Great Myths of Economics - Pearlberg
Religion & Capitalism - Ed. A. Opitz
Christian Counter Attack - Lunn/Lean
Property Taxation USA - Edited by Richard Lindholm
The Assessment of Land Value, Edited Daniel M. Holland
Power and Market-Government & Economy Richard N. Rothbard
Edmund Burke (Reconsidered) R. Kirk
American Century of John C. Lincoln Raymond Moley
America is in Danger - Genl. C. LeMay
Hungry Nations - Wm. & Paul Paddock
Uncle Sam The Monoply Man-Wooldridge
Adventures in Free Enterprise-G. Ard
The Elephant Valley - Finis Farr

"When modesty ceases to be the chief ornament of one sex, and integrity of the other, society is upon a wrong basis."

Sir Roger DeCoverley Papers-1890

"There has never been a civilization without cities; but our cities have grown too big, too full of dust and smoke and poison, so that the trees we plant in them wither in a few years and we are driven to provide sunlight centers, build garden suburbs, and at any rate talk a good deal about smokeless fuel."

Man & His World 1935

THE ART OF PLAIN TALK

How can you tell if a word is abstract or concrete? It is a question of meaning and degree - language consists of two parts; the things we say and the machinery by which we say them - if a word can form a sentence it refers to something outside language; if it cannot, it is just a language gadget. This has nothing to do with abstractness and concreteness it is a linguistic difference. Abstract word - sin. What was the sermon about? Sin. What did the preacher say? He was against it. Against or dis - language gadgets - no meaning except when combined with meaningful words in a sentence. I admit that it is not easy to write about economics or political science in easy language. Gifted writers are rare in this field. - Flesch

All those who feel more secure because their social security tax has gone up will please raise their hands.
Ashley Cooper; Charleston News & Cour.

We have already spent enough money on our war in Vietnam to have bought the entire country - an acre at a time.
Arthur Godfrey (radio 12-5-68)

THE MORAL CRISIS -- A CRISIS OF JUSTICE

By Oscar B. Johannsen

Open almost any intellectual periodical, watch any serious TV debate, listen to almost any sermon, and you cannot help but be assailed with some aspect of what is generally called the moral crisis of our times.

Usually these discussions deal with the most obvious manifestations, as the increasing number of movies and shows dealing so blatantly with sex and its deviations, the young people's revolt against the standards of dress and deportment, and the riots and disorders occurring on the least provocation.

What do we mean when we say we are in a moral crisis? What do we mean by moral?

Although it is quite usual to equate "moral" and "just" as though they were synonyms, the fact is that while they may be related, they are not the same.

Justice is concerned with standards which arise out of the nature of man. Because man requires access to the earth to obtain the goods necessary to sustain his life, then access to the earth is a right. It is just. Man requires wealth in order to live. Therefore, it is right--it is just that he own wealth. Justice has to do with that which is absolutely necessary for man to live.

Morality, on the other hand, deals with standards which arise out of man's experiences and customs. In a monogamous society, polygamy or polyandry is immoral since it is not in accord with the society's standards. Questions of justice do not enter, as there is no natural necessity requiring that a man or woman have more than one spouse.

There is nothing just or unjust about a sex play. It is moral or immoral, depending on the customs of the society. If the play violates the standards, it is immoral. Thus, there is nothing incongruous about a play being immoral in one society and moral in another. It is merely evidence that the customs of the two societies differ.

However, though it probably cannot be proved, there does seem to be some connection between a just society and one which many people would call highly moral. From an historical viewpoint it does seem that a society which adheres fairly closely to the standard of justice does tend to have morals or customs which most approve. America, in the 15th Century, probably adhered closer to the concepts of justice than did European countries.

At the same time, it was noted that America had more puritanical standards particularly in contrast to Europe's more sophisticated attitude toward such matters as sex.

Now, if there is this connection between justice and morality, then to say that the country is going through a moral crisis implies that it is going through a crisis dealing with justice. And it certainly does appear that Americans do not respect the rights of others to the extent that they once did. One hardly needs cite any examples, as the newspapers are full of cases where the rights of individuals are being invaded. To be robbed is to suffer an injustice. Yet, how often do we learn that the thief seems to be given more consideration than the victim.

The moral crisis is really a crisis of justice. It is not, merely that the customs are changing--the concepts of what is just and unjust are under attack.

Those seeking to solve the moral crisis would do better if they concentrated on what is just and unjust in our society. To denounce young men for wearing long hair is pointless and to imply that short hair is one step toward a more moral society is absurd. Instead, if they studied the injustices which afflict our society, the results will be much more satisfactory. For example, if they recognize the gross injustice of private property in land and work to eliminate it, as well as other injustices, then it is quite likely that our country will come through the moral crisis successfully.

With a just society will come the highly moral society, the hallmarks of which are good manners, consideration, toleration and kindness.

SENSE & NONSENSE

One disgruntled citizen after learning of the law passed permitting the U.S. Government to guarantee a \$250 million loan for the Lockheed Aircraft Corp. cried out disgusted, "It looks as though we have socialism for the rich; capitalism for the poor."

Maybe his comment was only too true for when popular revulsion at the news that millions of dollars in the form of farm subsidies were being paid to rich farm landlords and corporations, when the purpose behind these handouts was to help the marginal farmers, Congress, in its infinite wisdom passed a law. It put a limit of \$55,000 per crop which any farmer could receive.

Did this stop the rich landlords from getting their usual share of the gravy? Hardly. It just made a lot of smart lawyers richer as they sought out the loopholes. How has the law been circumvented?

The case of the rich southern Senator is illustrative. He carved up his farm into eight new business outfits, each of which was entitled to a subsidy. It is estimated his subsidies this year will be about \$160,000. What was his subsidy in 1970 before the limitation? About \$160,000.

It seems quite likely since he is not the only one indulging in these legal maneuvers that the subsidies will cost the people as much this year as before the new law. And what is Congress' answer? Well, some legislators are trying to pass a bill reducing the limitation to \$20,000. No doubt, if passed, it will be a bonanza for the legal profession as the lawyers figure out new loopholes.

How's come nobody seems to give much consideration to abolishing the subsidies? Is that solution too simple for our august legislature, or could it be that farm landlords have too much political clout?

As prices keep rising, more and more pressure is being brought on the government to institute wage and price controls. Since today the use of wheel words is the order of the day, it is not usually referred to as such but rather as an incomes policy--which means nothing to the average individual.

To his credit, the President, so far, has resisted this pressure. He learned the hard way in his younger days what a farce controls are. In 1944 when the Office of Price Administration was in its heyday, it had 65,000 employees. In addition, another 325,000 served as part-time policers, and they got into everything. Red tape was so great, no doubt, the astronauts could have walked on it from here to the moon.

Of course, it did not keep prices down. It merely created a "black market" in which prices were probably higher than they would have been if the market was free. And it also created great opportunities for graft.

To show how impossible controls are to administer, the case of the automobile industry is instructive. There are some 13,000 parts in an auto which are produced by hundreds, probably thousands of producers. It is related that at one time the OPA could not seem to get around to determining the price of seat springs for a car. The result was that at one plant, there were 500 cars completed but without seats because they could not buy the springs required until the OPA acted. So the cars could not be sold.

The stories are legion of what happens to reduce production, not to mention the assinine rulings and definitions.

If Congress would pass a law controlling wages and prices, it could pass a law abolishing rain on weekends. There is one price control law they ought to pass. That is a law putting a ceiling on taxes. Do you think any such law would ever be passed?

(Note: This was written prior to the 90 day price and wage control announcement of August 15th)

SALT OF THE EARTH

Modern Living: That's when you go to a friend's house to watch TV and pay a baby sitter to watch it in your home.

Income tax: It's a fine paid for reckless thriving.

Capital punishment: That's when the government sets up business in competition with private entrepreneurs, and taxes away all of the businessmen's profits in order to make up its losses.

Newspaper: A daily periodical in which the same old things keep happening, only to different people.

The young physicians these days are certainly becoming socialistically oriented, possibly as a result of being educated by the government. One young doctor was thrown over by his girl friend. So he sent her a letter requesting the return of his presents together with a bill for 35 visits.

Bride: I took the recipe for this cake out of the cook book.

Groom: You did right, dear. It never should have been put in.

Real Estate Agent: What do you think of our little town?

Prospect: Well, it's unusual, it's the first cemetery I ever say with lights.

Isn't it the truth? All that the Constitution guarantees is the pursuit of happiness. You have to catch up with it yourself.

ATTENTION HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL GRADUATES LIVING IN NEW JERSEY

You are cordially invited to a discussion of current topics in the light of basic economic principles - to be held once a month at East Orange HGS headquarters on the following dates:

THURSDAYS AT 8 PM
SEPTEMBER 16th OCTOBER 21st
NOVEMBER 18th - DECEMBER 16th

Come out and enjoy an evening with others who share the desire to continually improve their own thinking and to freshen up on basic principles.