

The Gargoyle



"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

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THREE CONFERENCES

July 1st thru 3rd HGSSS
4th and 5th LEAF
17th thru 20th VGF of A

The 1975 Conference of the Henry George School of Social Science was held at San Diego and reported in the July/August issue "Henry George News".

The first annual membership Conference of Land Equality and Freedom was also held in San Diego and reported in July/August issue "The New Leaf".

A Conference of Georgists sponsored by the Henry George Foundation of America was held in Philadelphia and reported in the Summer 1975 issue "The Georgist Journal".

CHANGE OF NAME

"Tax Free New Towns" has become "Incentive Taxation" - If for short. Instead of emphasizing GLR - government land rental for new towns, the bulletin will now emphasise LVT - land value taxation - for existing communities as well as new ones. This periodical is sponsored by LEAF and Dr. Steven Cord is Editor.

The Henry George News reports the death on May 3rd of Geza C. Szmal, at age 78. He was known to many of the older Georgists.

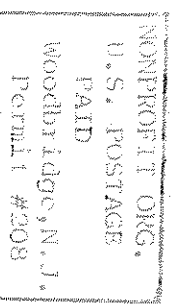
Enclosed with this issue of GARGOYLE is a PNEC reprint "Leo Tolstoy and Henry George" - "the Most Prophetic Letter" - "Uncivilized" and other articles. Altho written originally some years ago, interesting and applicable today.

Arthur Goddard points out in the preface to the English language edition of Frederic Bastiat's Economic Sophisms: "Ever since the advent of representative government placed the ultimate power to direct the administration of public affairs in the hands of the people, the primary instrument by which the few have managed to plunder the many has been the sophistry that persuades the victims that they are being robbed for their own benefit. The public has been despoiled of a great part of its wealth and has been induced to give up more and more of its freedom of choice because it is unable to detect the error in the delusive sophisms by which protectionist demagogues, national 'socialists', and proponents of government planning exploit gullibility and its ignorance of economics."

Quotation from NATIONAL LAND USE PLANNING - by John M. Kelly

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SOLZHENITSYN--DISTURBER OF THE WEST'S CONSCIENCE

Alexander Solzhenitsyn is making a lot of Americans very uncomfortable. He dares to preach such outmoded concepts as good and evil; that communism is an unmitigated evil; that it should be left alone to demonstrate the superiority it claims for itself; that the West should stand up for freedom.

Everyone knows of course that everything is relative so there is no good or evil--merely different ways of looking at things. But Solzhenitsyn says that murder is murder no matter who commits it; that there is a moral standard to which men should adhere; that man is not merely a conglomerate of atoms, but something far above the animals. In other words, that man while he comes from and returns to the earth, has a divine spark within him which should be nurtured and cared for so that it will become a flame, not only of magnificent works of art and accomplishments, but of goodness.

Everyone knows we can live with communism; that it is no menace to us; that it is merely another form of organized society. But Solzhenitsyn points out that the theory and practice of communism are completely inhuman, that communism is anti-humanity. And well he knows how true this is by sad experience. He attained his fame in 1962 during the period of Krushchev's de-Stalinization campaign, with the publication of his autobiographical novel of one day's life in a prison camp in Russia. He speaks with knowledge burnt into his soul by his own terrible experiences.

Everyone knows that communism is able to establish a viable society, just as capitalism is. But Solzhenitsyn says no, it cannot. He says "Let's allow it to show that it is advanced, that it is omnipotent that it has defeated you, that it has overtaken you. Let us not interfere with it,...let it stand on its own feet for 10 or 15 years. Then we will see what it looks like." And he goes on to say that it will have to reduce its military preparations, it will have to relax its system so as to feed and clothe the Russian people. The grain deals which the Soviets are trying to make with the West are adequate proof of the truth of Solzhenitsyn's views. Russia cannot even feed its own people. Without our help the Russian masters could not continue to enslave the Russian people. When the people riot for bread in the streets the system will have to relax so food will once again appear in the stores.

And what has been the reaction in the West to Solzhenitsyn? Have we taken him into our arms and made a

a hero of him? On the contrary. What has happened was precisely what the Soviet leaders hoped would occur when they permitted him to leave Russia. He is looked upon as another tiresome preacher against communism who wishes to continue the Cold War.

The President of the United States actually refused to see him when he was in Washington, D.C. for fear of endangering the detente with Russia. Here is a man who defied the Russian authorities, dared them when he was under their control to do their worst to him; who demonstrated that burning flame of freedom residing in man and when he comes to America--the land of the free--the President refuses to see him for fear of offending the slavemasters of Russia!

As Solzhenitsyn goes about in the West trying to awaken the conscience of those who supposedly are dedicated to freedom, no doubt, increasingly he will be denounced and vilified. No one wants to listen to a man who keeps reminding you that there are certain standards to be followed, especially if you have adopted relativistic views. But men like Solzhenitsyn cannot be stopped. They represent the indomitable spirit which resides within all of us wishing to be free from the oppressive hand of governmental power.

Above all else, whether one agrees with Solzhenitsyn or not, one must admit that there is a man!

OSCAR B. JOHANSEN

SENSE & NONSENSE

A study by a professor at the University of California on auto inspection, concludes that inspections of cars is disproportionately expensive. The poor will pay the most for repairs to their cars if the pollution inspection program proceeds at the present likely 50% rejection rate. The cars of the poor are more likely to be rejected.

Inspections solve nothing for right after the inspection a car may become an excessive polluter and will remain so until the next inspection.

The cost involved are not merely the repair costs but the costs involved in travel to the inspection facility, the psychological effects of the inconvenience and frustration involved in waiting in line and time lost while the car is repaired.

This professor concludes that auto inspections are not beneficial. They certainly do not make the cars safer and those states which do not have inspections do not have any greater or less accidents due to mechanical problems. The biggest cause for accidents is obviously "the nut at the wheel".

How far will this study get? Nowhere. A bureaucracy has been built up. To eliminate bureaucracies requires a major revolution.

Recently a man wrote a letter to The Wall Street Journal pointing out that in 1947 he was in a sanatorium with service-connected TB. He had tuberculosis not only in the lungs but in the throat, which was almost always fatal. The medical director told him of a new drug which might have side effects and was so new the vets would not pay for it. He offered it at cost. The patient readily accepted it. It was streptomycin. The throat specialist on his next visit was amazed at the improvement. Six months later the patient was discharged with no side effects and is alive today.

The patient wryly points out that if present regulations on the release of new drugs had been in effect in 1947, he would have been dead 28 yrs.

Just why people believe that government regulations really solve anything is a question. The few times a regulation may have solved a problem are so minor that in comparison with all the damage done by regulations, we could well afford to suffer the inconvenience involved.

Why is it that men who stand up for principle are so often misunderstood? Bobby Fischer, the world's greatest chess player, is looked upon as some kind of nut, and primarily because he stands up for what he believes is right.

For years thru all kinds of shenanigans and bureaucratic maneuvering he was kept from the world chess championship. And yet all the time it was obvious from the rating system used for chess players he was easily the top player.

Now, the International Chess Federation has taken away his title as world champion because he insisted on standing up for rules which he considered were proper for all chess players. He suggested a match with an unlimited number of games, the winner to be the one who first had ten victories (draws would not count). The champion was to retain his title in the case of a 9-9 tie.

If the number of games is limited draws multiply. When Karpov played Korchnoi, after winning the first two games, from then on he played with only the idea of getting draws. The result was 19 draws out of 24 games. This is analagous to a basketball team which is ahead dribbling away and wasting time until the period is up. There is no real game going on in chess, most masters can usually get draws if they don't take chances.

The fact that Fischer said he should retain his title in a 9-9 tie was based on a rule which prevailed in most world championships. When Fischer played Spassky, Spassky would have won if the games were tied; also the games were limited. Now Fischer wished to give up the games limit in order to make ~~xxxx~~ the match more exciting and only wished to retain the right to win on a tie.

Fischer does not consider himself to be America's standard-bearer. He stands up for the chess player whoever he is.

In a telegram he sent to federation in June 1974, he said he would prefer to pay the cost, whatever it was "to oppose any restriction on the rights of the chess player and the dignity of the game...even if I am the only one to defend them."

Fischer has not taken advantage of offers to make millions as a result of his victories and fame. He stands up for what he thinks is right. He is an individualist. He deserves respect.

SALT OF THE EARTH

When you look at it in one way, colleges and insane asylums are both mental institutions. Of course, one difference is that you have to show some improvement to graduate from an asylum.

American motorists not only take good care of their cars, but they keep the pedestrians in good running condition also.

What this country needs is someone who knows what this country needs.

He: What! Another new dress? How am I ever going to find the money to pay for it?

She: Darling, you know I'm not inquisitive.

Customer: Please bring me another sandwich.

Waiter: Will there be anything else?

Customer: Yes, a paper-weight, the last sandwich blew away.

Scientist (to Druggist) Give me some prepared monaceticacidester of salicylic acid.

Druggist: Do you mean aspirin?

Scientist: Yes, that's right. I can never think of that name.

He: I have a cold or something in my head.

She: A cold, undoubtedly.

John: How is your doctor son getting on in his practice?

Fred: Very well. He's made so much money, he can occasionally tell a patient there is nothing wrong with him.

If the present land-tenure system which is in operation in the United States is the best of any known system then perhaps there ought be no change. However, there are a number of other systems known, and the present system in effect in the U.S. does have many defects.

There is a system of administering title deeds to land whereby the title holder may be required to pay an annual rental for the land to which he holds title. This annual rental, of course, would vary in amount depending upon location and other factors, and would vary from time to time.

The payment would be made to an administrative body which might under present conditions be local, State or Federal Government. This does not imply any of these governmental units would be the "owners" of the land, but merely the administrators of title deeds and collector of annual rent.

The basic assumption here is that the land is owned by, belongs to, the people - all of the people - of the community - the State - the Nation. In theory, those who hold a title deed to land thereby having the exclusive right to a particular parcel of land will pay for such privilege. They will pay to all other persons who surrender their equal right to that particular parcel of land.

By making payment to the administrative unit they are in effect supplying public revenue. They are thus supplying funds which may be used to first cover cost of administration of titles and rent collection, then such services as are determined necessary and desirable for the community, the State and the Nation.

It may well be that the annual rental value of land (including the severance value of other natural resources) will provide sufficient revenue for the necessary services desired and if so it would not be necessary for these governmental units to seek public revenue from any other source. In other words, the annual rental value of land and severance value of natural resources is the natural source of public revenue.

Such a change in the Land Tenure System in the United States would:

- (1) Eliminate buying and selling land, thus there would be no incentive for land speculation.
- (2) Prevent holding of land out of use where there is a demand for using it since the annual rent payment would be too costly.

(3) Enable persons to obtain land for productive or residential use without having to pay out a large sum for land - they would pay only annual rent.

(4) Encourage production and home building - not only because not having to pay out large amount for land, can pay more for labor and materials.

(5) Provide Public Revenue from Natural Source.

When we consider the United States is in the process of changing from the present system of measurement used to the believed to be better metric system; perhaps it is not too much to expect the land-tenure system might also be changed?

JOHN T. TETLEY

DISCUSSIONS AT WOODBRIDGE

Arrangements have been made for a Discussion Group to meet at the main Public Library in Woodbridge, N.J. for ten consecutive Tuesday evenings starting Sept. 23rd at 8 p.m. The group will discuss topics of interest under the guidance of Arthur Hoffer. Invitations have been sent out offering "RELAXING AND ENJOYABLE EVENINGS"

Local readers of the GARGOYLE who may be able to interest any person to attend these discussions - please do so.

PUBLIC REVENUE EDUCATION COUNCIL

Publishes literature to promote truth in Economics and Taxation and how these subjects ought be presented. From time to time reprints are enclosed with the GARGOYLE. If you would like extra copies, write to Mr. Noah Alper, President at the address below:

Room 1103 812 Olive Street
St. Louis, Mo. 63101

Some of the enclosures contain old addresses - note the above for future reference - save it.

BIOGRAPHY OF GEORGE

Bob Clancy, in July/Aug. LAND & LIBERTY reviews Professor Jacob Oser (Economics, Utica College, N.Y. - Henry George by Jacob Oser, Twayne Publishers, Boston, Mass., 1974, 130 pages, \$6.50. One of the "Great Thinkers Series.")

Clancy says Oser gives a good summary of PROGRESS & POVERTY, the biography is written sympathetically, and includes some criticisms. But Bob adds - "Whatever his criticisms, Jacob Oser has shown in his book that Henry George is a great thinker that must be taken seriously, and it is hoped that this work will have some influence in that direction.