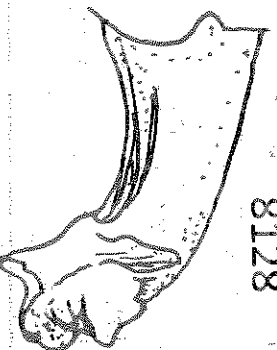


Gargoyle



HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY

No. 2

D E C E M B E R 1 9 5 8

H A P P Y H O L I D A Y S

As 1959 draws to a close and 1960 enters, the Staff of THE GARGOYLE extends to its readers sincere good wishes for Freedom and Prosperity.

START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT

Enroll for one or more of the following Study Groups at Newark Headquarters:

Fundamental Economics

Monday, Thursday or Friday Jan. 26, 29, 30

Applied Economics - Tuesday Jan. 13th

Science of Political Economy Jan. 12th

Philosophy - Government - Wed. 28th

Speech & Writing - Tues, Jan. 27th

Money & Credit - History - Jan. 29th

INFORM YOUR FRIENDS OF THESE

Ask school office for announcements - to mail, or send in list of prospects.

Anyone is invited to attend the opening session of any group without charge or obligation. Nominal fee of \$5.00 is charged for all excepting Economic courses (Fundamentals, Applied, Science)

SOCIAL SECURITY TAXES RISE

People are at last beginning to realize that our social security system is really a system for getting taxes.

Under a new law, bigger benefits will be paid beginning with next February, but the rub is that workers and employers will pay the bill with higher taxes beginning in January.

The wage base on which payments are based goes from \$4200. to \$4800., with the tax rate going from 2% of earnings up to \$4200. to 2% of earnings up to \$4800. For a \$4800. a year worker this means \$120. or an increase of \$25., with the employer putting up another \$120. But this is only the beginning. The tax rate will be 3% in 1960 and rise in successive one-half point increases for three years thereafter so that starting in January 1969, the rate will be 4 1/2%. Assuming the base does not change this means a tax of \$216. a year.

It is obvious from this that the elder-

ly are not being supported out of their past contributions, but are being supported by the contributions of the working element of the population today. This is not an insurance or annuity plan--it is simply a round-about plan of enforced exactions of the young for the benefit of the aged.

How long will the young permit this increasing toll to continue on them no one can say, but certainly as the tax burden gets greater and greater, the desire to get out from under will become more intense. With that will come a feeling of resentment toward the aged. After all, it is nothing new that the young support the aged. That has been true since the dawn of history. But, when the government does not interfere it is done by the young for close relatives, who are repaying their parents for the care given them in their childhood. In addition, the aged by placing at the disposal of the young the capital they accumulated enable the young to produce more wealth than if they had to start from scratch. Not only that, but the maturity and wisdom of the aged are always at the disposal of the young in return for the care received. But the advent of a so-called insurance scheme run by the government to support the aged tends to break down all natural bonds between the young and old, puts the old loving relationship into one of compulsory duty rather than one of a willingly accepted obligation.

All such socialistic schemes which have been tried by other governments have failed. Ours is failing, but in doing so will leave a trail of anger, frustration, and misery. The do-gooder who uses force to attain a good end forgets that means determines ends. If the wrong means are adopted the ends attained will be the wrong ones.

How many more experiments must we undergo before these simple truths are again recognized?

O.B. Johannsen

WELCOME TO THE GARDEN STATE

From "The Life of Henry George" by Henry George, Jr. - "Captain George married Mary Reid, of Philadelphia, and to them were born three children, the youngest of whom, Richard Samuel Henry, in New Brunswick, N.J. in 1798. This Richard Samuel Henry George became the father of Henry George.

(Continued next page.)

It is most significant that one hundred and sixty one years later, in the city of the birth of his father, the Henry George School of Social Science named in honor of Henry George of world renown, will hold its 15th Annual Conference.

Dr. G.W. Esty, President of the N.J. School is General Chairman of the Conference Committee. Plans are now under way to develop a program which will be interesting for all who attend. Are you planning to do so? July 8 - 12, 1959

ALVIN G. SEARLES

IS so busy living and doing, that it looks as if he will be forced to retire next month in order to have more time for his various activities. He is, and has been for many years, with Western Electric in charge of engineering work called quality control.

His training for such specialized effort was done at Stevens Technological Institute. But he says he still has a sentiment for Central High in Newark, and its environs, where he lived before going to Chatham.

There, as always, he was active in politics and local and public affairs. As an instance, while living there, he was treasurer of the Episcopal Church; and also, a member of the Board of Education.

He and his wife, Ethel, have lived in Summit for some years. For six of these, he has been treasurer of the Republican City Committee, also treasurer of the Summit Art Association. He is past president of the Ben Franklin Club, which is concerned with discussion of social and economic problems.

The Searles have two daughters, one on the West coast and one here in the East, and four grandchildren. At one time, his wife was active in Red Cross work. One of their present day personal interests is the enjoyment of hi-fi, in common with so many of us.

About sixteen years ago, he joined a fundamental group led by Una Miller. He was so inspired by the economic ideas presented there, that he later took the advanced courses and went on to lead classes himself in Summit and Newark. He is one of the regulars who participated in every study group over a number of years.

And so, Alvin Searles says that no matter what other current interests he may have, his greatest convictions will always be those associated with our own Henry George School.

Virginia Harvey

THE MANUFACTURER VS THE COLLEGE PROFESSOR ON TAXATION

This is the title of "An Exposition of Two Contrasting Viewpoints on Taxation"

tion" plus an analysis of "A Tax Policy Proposed in the Communist Manifesto vs a Tax Policy Based on Facts and Principles of the Science of Economics" - "The Supreme Tragedy of American Economic Education." Single copy is available free - write to: Public Revenue Education Council, Room 308, 705 Olive St., St. Louis, Mo.

The manufacturer is Mr. Joseph S. Thompson, President of Federal Pacific Electric Co. of San Francisco and Newark, N.J. He is also President of the Board of Directors of the Henry George School, San Francisco. The college professor is Dr. H. L. Lutz, advisor to the Tax Committee of the National Association of Manufacturers. You will want to read this booklet and perhaps send copies to others.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND LAND

It is oftentimes asked - "Do not our government officials know about Henry George?"

In the 1958 yearbook of Agriculture - LAND, published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture on page 249, in an article by Frederick D. Stocker, Farm Taxation Unit, Farm Economics Research Division; titled "How Taxes Affect The Land and Farmers" we find - "Any discussion of land taxation must include a reference to what is probably the most thoroughgoing program of tax reform ever advanced - the single tax. The single tax was promoted in this country in the late 19th century by Henry George, the economist and publicist, is a proposal to substitute a heavy tax on the economic rent of land for the existing tax on capital values of land and improvements "Despite its apparent logic and social objectives, the single tax has not received wide popular support. Among the various reasons is the radical nature of the proposal, which no doubt has turned away many potential adherents."

Radical means getting to the root - thoroughness of method - one who holds the most advanced views of reform on democratic lines, thus belongs to the extreme section of the Liberal Party 1802 - one who does not see the benefit there is in that which he wishes to destroy. - from Oxford Dictionary. X So the derogatory meaning of the word apparently is referred to in the quotation from book. X

To continue the quote - "Second the proposal represents a discrimination against owners of land, for elements of economic rent are now recognized to occur not only in the return to land but in return to any other scarce or limited factor of production. X X The logic in the singling out of land for special treatment is therefore specious. X X More-over, many landowners have bought land in good faith as an investment comparable to many other forms of income-producing property. To expropriate one class of investment X could he mean SPECULATION? X leaving others untouched, hardly appears to be

just. (Is it just to permit special monopoly privilege to rob people of access to their means of livelihood?)

"Finally, the single tax would probably be complex to administer. In a world where market values of land and buildings are hard to determine, the task of determining the annual rental value of the land alone might prove to be well-nigh impossible."

Could Columbia University determine the rental value of the land only upon which Radio City has been built? Can man figure out a univac to compute data in a few seconds which an individual could not calculate in a lifetime? Or build a machine to circle this planet for a hundred years, yet not be able to determine the approximate value of a piece of land?

Yes, some government officials have heard of Henry George BUT NOT AT THE Henry George School. Nor have they been able to understand him if they read him - for he answered all these objections in advance in PROGRESS & POVERTY.

John T. Tetley

HOW ABOUT YOUR TOWN?

Many persons are interested in city planning, slum eradication, and civic improvements which can pay for themselves. A concise booklet on this subject is now available and YOU can help distribute it to such persons. Watch for items in your home town paper, pounce upon the names of those actively interested and send a copy of this booklet to them. It is published by the Economic Education League, Inc., 17 D & H Bldg. Plaza, Albany, N.Y. The publisher has kindly offered to send YOU a dozen copies without charge-please mention THE GARGOYLE. And if you have any ideas as to getting this message to those who can use it, the League would be grateful for your suggestions. Single copy of booklet may be obtained from the school office.

SENSE AND NONSENSE

The gist of Parkinson's Law, recently discovered by C. Northcote Parkinson, professor of history at the University of Malaya, is that the more people there are to do less work, the more time it takes them to do it. He must have watched four husbands in a kitchen on their wives' day off, trying to rustle up a meal.

Headline, N.Y. Times: "Free Trade Plans in Europe Listed". There should be a free trade area but with certain restrictions such as some import or export quotas, some tariffs, "compensatory taxes", and protection from "unwanted imports". How free is free?

Voters were permitted to "write in" candidate Vivien Kellems for U.S. Senate, but not permitted to use one of the 50,000 stickers with her name on which she had printed. Could the ball point pen people be behind this?

Move is underway in New Jersey to abolish personal property tax on household goods because it is collected in some communities and not in others. How about abolishing all taxes for the same reason?

Headline: "Farmers Puzzle the Economist Buy Land as all costs go up." What is so puzzling? If one is paid to hold land out of production, the more land one can hold out - the more he is paid. Why not buy more land?

"Sees Money on Way Out" - new means of financing besides money is called for by a California manufacturer to meet the advent of missiles, rockets and space travel. O.K. - put all money in a rocket and send it out.

EDUCATION AT THE CROSSROADS

One of the more disturbing tendencies today is the increasing number of attacks on private and parochial schools. In California, the people voted on a proposal to start taxing parochial schools. The proposal was turned down, which is a tribute to the people's intelligence, but the very fact that such a proposal was placed on the ballot is an indication of the subtle attempts being made to prevent the individual expressing his right to study at whatever institution he feels best serves his purposes.

There could have been only one real reason for taxing the parochial schools and that was to tax them out of existence. What has been happening is daily becoming more apparent. As our public educational system deteriorates, the comparison between private or parochial education and public becomes so great that the educational bureaucracy is on the horns of a dilemma. Either they must improve the level of public education to that of private and parochial, or eliminate the private and parochial schools so that no comparison is possible.

To improve the quality of education in public schools is a well nigh impossible task. Any governmentally run institution tends, at best, to mediocrity, at worst, to impotence. Thus, to hide the defects of public education, the only alternative is to remove the standard, that is, the private and parochial school.

But, it is obviously a violation not only of our constitutional rights, but even more important of our natural rights to deny us the right to study wherever we so choose. For that reason, a frontal attack on private and parochial schools is impolitic, and the flank attack is substituted. This is the method of making things so difficult, particularly economically, that these schools will be forced to close due to financial inability. The objective of eliminating them is thereby achieved, at the same time the fiction that one can choose whatever educational institution desired is maintained.

The Roman Catholic Church has never

been alarmed sufficiently so that on November 15th an 1800 word special statement was issued by the Catholic Bishops reaffirming the Church's right to teach. The Bishops asserted that its right to teach is "not a privilege" enjoyed by sufferance of any government, but comes directly from "her Divine Founder Himself." And added, "The sanctity of the right of the Church to teach involves all other rights asserted for individuals and institutions. Under whatever form of tyranny, from Caesarism to Sovietism, the subversion of human freedom has almost invariably begun with restriction or denial of the right of the Church to teach.

One does not have to be a Catholic to recognize the force of the fundamental premise of the Catholic Church, which is that the right to teach does not come from the government but from God Himself. That being the case, education is the responsibility of the parent, and his alone. If he wishes his child taught in a private or parochial school that is his prerogative and any attempts to hinder him thru such subtle devices as taxation represent not only an attack on his right to be educated as he pleases but actually is, as the Bishops state, the beginning of an attack on all his rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The Henry George School would not be in existence long if these subtle attempts are successful, for it is in the forefront in defending the right of the individual to do whatever he so desires as long as it does not interfere with the right of another to do as he pleases. The people of California are to be congratulated on their action in this instance. Let us hope and fight to see to it that other such proposals meet the same fate.

Oscar B. Johannsen

HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK

December 10th to 17th has been proclaimed by the President of the United States as "Human Rights Week." All are urged to study the Constitution - the Bill of Rights, and the United Nations Declaration of Rights.

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY
78 Clinton Avenue, Newark 2, N.J.

Handwritten: H. G. School of New Jersey
78 Clinton Avenue, Newark 2, N.J.

Form 3547 Requested

SALT OF THE EARTH

They say there are several ways to handle women. It seems a shame no one knows what they are.

A penny goes a long way these days. You can carry it around for weeks before you find something you can buy with it.

You know, if a politician thinks he can win in a walk, he's anxious to run.

Love is an infernal, internal itching that you can't scratch.

Looks like all we're saving for these days is for the national debt.

The wonder drugs are aptly named. Their prices certainly make you wonder.

Do you know who the greatest women haters are? You guessed it - women.

RIGHT BOB

Bob Ritchey of Albany, N.Y. reprinted an article which appeared in a national magazine. The publisher took Bob to task claiming violation of copyright and requested no further distribution of the article be made, all copies on hand to be destroyed and asked for assurance this be done.

A portion of Ritchey's reply stated: "I am nearing 83 years of age. I have paid for the reprinting of the article out of my meager income, I have given your magazine full credit for the article. I am not selling the leaflet. I am giving it free, postage paid to inform of the coming peril unless drastic and united action is taken at once to stop the politicians and racketeers from taking control of our homes, our land, and making the people slaves of the state." My assurance to you is that as long as God gives me breath and strength to carry on my efforts will be to spread the truth as I find it as far and wide as possible in any way that I can to warn and assist my fellow beings to remain free, and in possession of the fruits of their toil as far as possible."

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #2136
Newark, N.J.

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