



"A throat, mouthpiece, a 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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IN BETHLEHEM

There were two men in days of yore,
Far off and long ago,
Who hurrying through the lonely night
Saw gleaming from a stable door
Such light as never shone before
So glorious and so bright.

One urging on his coursers fleet
King Herod's feast to share,
One dragging home his weary feet
From long day's toil and care,
Neither would take the time to stay,
Neither would turn aside;
One driven by Care and one by Pride,
They never saw the manger side
Wherein the Christ Child lay;
And as these did once far away
So do we here -- and every day.

Frank Stevens, from ARDEN LEAVES 1924

TO MY WONDERFUL FRIENDS

In all the Christmas scrambling
To shop and trim the tree,
I stopped and took a minute out
To spend in memory --
I thought about our friendship
And the years we've known each other,
I thought of happy times we've shared,
And one thing and another --
Well, I sat there smiling to myself
Because, you see, I knew
That half the joy of Christmas comes
From having friends like you,
And so, dear friends, I'm wishing you
The gifts of love and laughter,
Not just at Christmas time,
But every day thereafter!

Author unknown

S E A S O N S

G R E E T I N G S

ON WHOM DO TAXES FALL?

"A tax on land values does not add to prices, and is thus paid directly by the persons on whom it falls; whereas, all taxes upon things of unfixed quantity increase prices, and in the course of exchange are shifted from seller to buyer, increasing as they go.

"The tax on land values is the only tax of any importance that does not distribute itself. It falls upon the owners of land, and there is no way in which they can shift the burden upon anyone else.

"High prices for land tend to decrease instead of adding to the wealth of the community.

"Destroy land monopoly and industry must become the competition of equals. A tax on land values tends to increase the competition between owners and thus to reduce the price of land."

-- Henry George

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SOCIAL POWER VS STATE POWER

At this time of the year when Christmas is in the offing, it is particularly appropriate to take a good look at the gradual loss of social power to state power.

All the great religions of the world stress the relationship of the individual to the Almighty. This is especially true of Judaism and Christianity. This inculcates in the individual a sense of responsibility not only as regards his spiritual needs but also as regards his relationship to his fellow-man. He is responsible to so conduct his life that it will meet with the approbation of the Deity; he is also responsible to so adapt his conduct that it will meet with the approval of his peers.

What this means with reference to those with whom he comes in contact is that he recognizes that there are certain things he should do and should not do. The simplest example of this is ordinary courtesy. One listens politely to the other without interruption. One does not have to agree, but in expressing disagreement it is done with consideration of the other's feelings. If thru unfortunate circumstances, one becomes impoverished it becomes almost a duty of others to help the stricken one until he is able to fend for himself. Contracts on the sale and purchase of goods are often made merely by the nod of a head, often involving huge sums of money as is done daily on the stock exchanges. It is expected that these contracts will be fulfilled even if at the time of consummation of the deal, serious losses may be involved.

Conduct and actions of this order come under the general heading of social power. And this social power of course, is predicated on freedom. One cannot act responsibly if one is not free to act.

Thus, part of the essence of the Christmas message is that the integrity and responsibility of the individual is to be stressed, i.e., that the development of social power is to be encouraged.

The contrast to this is state power. This is the substitution of social power by rules and regulations of the state. Instead of the individual feeling that he is responsible for helping those less fortunate, the state assumes that function and forces him to help, either directly or indirectly in the form of paying for the costs involved. Hospitals, housing business relations,--all come under the control of the state. It directs what shall or shall not be done.

It is apparent that in the United States, there has been this increasing tendency for shifting away from social power to state power. Contrary to the expectations of those naive do-gooders the result has been almost uniformly bad. State built housing has resulted at best, in uniform drabness; at worst, into veritable jungles in which the inhabitants are fearful of their very lives. State operated charity is not only demeaning, but marked by so many scandals, that welfare is almost a dirty word. Those on welfare either hate it and accept it grudgingly, or have lost so much self-respect that it becomes a way of life. The taxpayers instead of having that feeling of consideration of having which is always attached to true charity, tend to look with annoyed indifference, if not anger at the recipients. Business contracts strictly regulated by law become involved legal tangles almost impossible to treat with any degree of justice.

Sweden is the outstanding example of a nation which has replaced to an exceedingly great degree social power with state power, and still maintaining a certain degree of freedom. It has come to be known as the socialistic state contrasted with the communistic states. In those states, state power has taken over from social power but there is no freedom.

Sweden gives us some idea of what the U.S. may become unless this erosion of social power is stopped.

An article in the N.Y. Times paints a bleak picture indeed. It is developing into a rigid conformist society with narrow individual freedom. They permitted to criticize with freedom of press and political rights, yet the Swedes are fearful of the bureaucracy. They feel that actually there is constricted freedom. Too much planning seems to have a psychological effect on people. Of course, to pay for all the welfareism, taxes are phenomenal. A prominent judge pointed out that 50% of his salary is taxed away. His children are living outside the country and have no intention of returning. Everyone has a six digit number, like our social security number, from the day they are born till they die. Homes built since WW.II are functional, well designed and similar. It is as though the homes were all designed in 1951 by the same architect. To buy one, you fill out 192 forms, and you can not even paint the outside of your house without getting official authority as there are laws concerning color schemes. Private schools are disappearing in favor of the state schools. In contrast to communistic Russia, no doubt, they are well off, but in contrast with America, it is a regimented land.

(Continued Page 3, Col. 2)

From: A Fourth-of-July Address by
Dr. John Hospers, Presidential Candidate
of the Libertarian Party.

Referring to the composing of the United States Constitution - "another flaw was the absence of any reference to economic freedom. This was not because the Founding Fathers opposed economic freedom--quite the contrary-but because it would have seemed wildly implausible to them that their Constitution could be interpreted in such a way as to permit such restrictions on it as have since occurred. The Bill of Rights should have contained one other article: "Congress shall pass no law abridging the freedom of production and trade."

Finally, the references to the "general welfare" and the "public interest" were not sufficiently spelled out so that later interpreters of the Constitution were able, in utter violation of the spirit of the original document, to permit the economy of the United States to be managed, as it is today, by an enormous bureaucracy, whose whim is law, whose ostensible aim is power; and which now holds the productive people of the nation in its control.

Our economy is governed not as much by Presidents and Congressmen as by a self-perpetuating bureaucracy whose power and privilege persists even when administrations change, and whose all-pervasive influence stifles incentive, maims productivity, encourages dishonesty as a way of life, and regiments the lives of its citizens.

The only function of government is to protect the rights of individuals; the right to life, and the right to property, because property represents the fruits of one's labor, and the man who is not permitted to control what he has is still a slave who exists only by permission of his masters; any government that takes it from him is taking away the means by which he must live.

(Thanks to Vic Wasicki, St. Louis,
for sending this reprint to us.)

WILL HISTORY REPEAT?

"Just before the crash in 1929, an article in the Magazine of Wall Street said: "Every panic in our country has been preceded by an orgy of land speculation---the culmination of every period of prosperity is a land boom, and then comes a panic."

ECONOMICS SIMPLIFIED _ Bowen & Rusby

Una Miller, a former member of the faculty and a Trustee of the Henry George School of New Jersey calls attention to two articles published in The Arizona Republic a short time ago from which the material quoted below has been taken:

"The nationwide land boom has made land development a \$6 billion industry this year, and is one of the fastest growing industries in the nation."

"The nationwide land boom, gathering impetus from mounting affluence and from what appears to be a fundamental urge among millions of Americans to own part of the shrinking landscape, has made land developments for investment or retirement or second homes a \$6 billion industry this year."

SOCIAL POWER VS STATE POWER

Continued from Page 2.

It is not surprising that Sweden has a very high suicide rate, and that the number admitted to mental hospitals has increased alarmingly. Dulness, conformity, bureaucracy cannot help but gradually break the spirit of people. Men were born to live vital lives--not that of vegetables.

Since social power is so largely a child of religious principles, it is probably to the spiritual teaching that we must look if we are to fight the growth of state power. No doubt because of the intimate connection between social power and religious convictions, socialistic societies tend to attack all religions.

So, as we look toward the Christmas Season, if we do it with appreciation of the importance of social action for attaining happiness, we may gain a better insight of the importance of the message which the Prince of Peace gave to the world. It is not only a message of hope, a source of spiritual nourishment; it is a way of life.

OSCAR B. JOHANNSEN

SALT OF THE EARTH

When a man breaks a date, he usually has to. When a girl breaks a date, she usually has two.

Isn't it true that it is better to try something and fail than to attempt to do nothing and succeed?

Some women take up the study of law; others just lay it down.

Daftynitions:

Real Excutive: A man who can hand back a letter for a third re-typing to a redhead.

Nepotism: Togetherness with pay.
Slacker: One who always grabs the stool whenda piano is being moved.

It wasn't too long ago that Americans were happy. They made an easy living and all without welfare or government aid. Then the white man came.

Stu Woolley, Moderator for Thursday Discussion Group - December 21st. says "Get your Christmas shopping done early so you can attend - 8 p.m."

SENSE & NONSENSE

Oct. 20, 1972 - Headline in the New York Post - "Prices Soar Here: Worst in 33 Months".

Oct. 20, 1972 - The Wall Street Journal - "Reports that the government is considering a plan to buy cotton in the open market to bolster prices prompted buying of cotton futures."

The election is over and what has been the result? Probably the most obvious fact that emerged is that once again it has been demonstrated that people ordinarily will not accept radical change in too short a time-span. Only under the stress of grave crises, such as the depression of the early 1930's will people as-sent to major changes in their modes of thought, habit and economics. If conditions are relatively stable, changes must be gradual for the people to accept them.

But other than having had this truism demonstrated again, nothing essential was decided. The same problems which existed before Nov. 7th are still with us with little or no direction from the public as to how they should be solved.

Apparently, the Vietnam War will be over shortly, which may mean that the problem of unemployment will worsen as the military machine winds down somewhat. This will probably aggravate the increasingly serious problem of inflation of the money supply. The usual answer to unemployment and business downturn is to increase the rate at which so-called money is printed.

At no time in the campaign was this discussed. This is because to almost everyone inflation means rising prices, rather than the increase in "money". So, all we had was the administration trying to prove that price rises were slowing down or leveling off, with the opposition trying to show that prices were rising inordinately.

Prices are rising, of course, and as long as money is printed, they must go up. So what will be done? More of the same. Reliance on wage and price controls to give the appearance of fighting inflation. Jawboning labor and businessmen to keep wages and prices down, giving the impression that they are responsible for price rises. The overall result will be that there will probably be increasingly severe actions brought against business and capital, and ever more grave civil and social disorders as people discover their incomes are insufficient to cover rising costs.

As for the land problem, since only the Georgists know it exists, nothing will be done about it until some crises erupt.

So, millions of dollars were spent in order to insure that the same erroneous policies will be continued.

A surgeon, an architect, and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest.

The surgeon said: "Eve was made from Adam's rib. That surely was a surgical operation."

"Possibly, said the architect, "but before that, order was created out of chaos. That was an architectural job."

"But", exclaimed the politician, "someone had to create the chaos first".

Canada has just sealed one of the holes in the "backdoor" by means of which aliens were migrating to that country. Under a program to encourage the immigration of highly skilled people, visitors to Canada were permitted to apply for immigrant status while inside the country. The result was that thousands of visitors from Asia, the West Indies and Latin America started to arrive in Canada with one-way tickets.

Instead of being happy that their program was working so well, a cry went up from vote-seeking politicians that these "backdoor" immigrants were taking jobs away from Canadians. So, with the unemployment rate up to 7%, this "backdoor" was slammed shut.

Canada has a relatively sparse population and a tremendous land area, so it could easily permit millions of these poor people to enter the country. They would help to build it into a mighty civilization. But with land treated as private property, the vast land area of Canada is, in effect, reduced in size so it seems that there are more people than there are jobs for them.

Everyone suffers. Canada would boom; these poor people would regain their birthright, which is access to the land, and the terrible conditions in countries of the #East and Latin America would be eased. But this is predicated on an intelligent system of land tenure.

Until men understand their relationship to land, the crime of forbidding people to have access to the land which the Almighty made will continue. Sadly, people do not even consider immigration barriers to be criminal. What General Amin did in kicking 50,000 Asians out of Jganda is criminal to deny people entry into a country. Why?