



"A thrust, not a piece, a point." Opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and not necessarily endorsed by the Henry George School.

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY

Issue #176

D E C E M B E R 1 9 7 3

John T. Tetley, 580 Alden Street, Woodbridge, N.J. 07095 (201) 634-2404
Oscar B. Johannsen, 825 Walnut St., Roselle Park, N.J. 07204 (212) 558-4213

BORING WITHIN

By William W. Newcomb

In reading the Conference papers of the Intl. Union Conference held in Sept., I noted the gloom expressed by many, in sections of their papers. I, too, suffer this frustration, but my frustration lies in the fact that I, like P.I. Prentice, believe that this should be a time for action and not just education. At the Toronto HGS Conference last July, Prentice said: "Henry George was almost 100% right in almost everything he said about the need for uptaxing land... In all the 95 years since his PROGRESS & POVERTY... neither he nor his followers have been able to apply his teachings... This 95 years record of almost complete failure... should make it more than obvious that it is high time to try a better sales approach and a smarter political strategy."

Because I have tried to weld 44 years of cumulative experience into a specialized approach: I sum this approach into one central thesis: **MARKETING.**

Of the more than a hundred socio-civic-political reform groups in America, the following five best meet my criteria of promoting good causes, use successful marketing techniques, and know how to raise the money to market their programs:

- (1) John Gardner's Common Cause
- (2) Ralph Nader's Public Citizen, Inc.
- (3) Fred Harris' Tax Action Campaign
- (4) Americans United for Separation of Church and State
- (5) Saul Alinsky' Industrial Areas Foundation

Take the ingredients of the above five organizations, mix them judiciously, and it is my contention that the Georgists would have an unbeatable combination for achieving success.

Suggestions: (1) Pamphleteering - the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation.

(2) A national weekly prestigious newspaper is publishing an editorial before 1074 in favor of land value taxation. Mr Perry Prentice loaded this paper's editor with background material.

(3) A network documentary producer has told Stowe Phelps, producer of the film "One Way to Better Cities" that, given the opportunity, he would produce a land value tax film.

(4) Several Georgist cartoonists right now because some of the syndicates are

(5) I am subsidizing a Georgist to take the two weeks cram course at the Saul D. Alinsky Training Institute in Chicago.

I say it is time for professional marketing. To sell a good package to politicians you must have a groundswell. It must come from the print and electronic media. Americans like Prentice, Steve Cord, Gene Brewer, C. Lowell Harris, Robert Hutchins, Dick Netzer, Mason Gaffney, James Clarkson, Carl Madden, and many others should be appearing on Public Television and on talk shows on commercial television.

The land value tax movement is notoriously negligent in not using foundation monies available.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY
50 Washington Terrace,
East Orange, N.J. 07017

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
East Orange, N.J.
Permit #18

HENRY GEORGE INSTITUTE, INC.
55 W. 42ND ST., N.Y. 10018
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036

FOR LAND'S SAKE!

Jack Tetley

EQU RIGHTS - Autumn 1973 sets forth much for those concerned with the Henry George School to think about.

Walt Rybeck, Editorial Director, The Urban Institute gives "Sound Advice to Assessors and Legislators" - "Assessments should follow the market religiously and unswervingly....If land prices have gone through the roof today, they would go right through the stratosphere to-morrow in the absence of property tax restraints."

"Missouri Legislator urging Graded Tax Plan" - reports Noah Alper, President of Public Revenue Education Council. "Ohio City Officials Interested in Land Value Tax" says Verlin D. Gordon, former Director of Ohio Henry George School.

"A New Proposal for Political Action" is advocated by Gaston Haxo - "George conceived the idea that taxation could well be employed as the means to achieve fundamental reform" states Percy Williams of the Henry George Foundation of America.

Steven Cord, in "The Three Impacts of Land Value Taxation indicates (a) Taxes on improvements and income would be decreased (b) Land prices would decline (c) Land rent would be collected by the government rather than the individual landowner...Isn't it now the time for action?"

And James L. Busey (Professor and Chairman, Dept. of Political Science, University of Colorado) in the Editorial "R/x for Political Paralysis" reiterates four years ago he stressed the need for the Georgists movement to organize for effective political pressure group activity. He writes, "I stated that 'to the best of my knowledge, the single tax movement is the only one in the United States, perhaps even in the world whose proponents think they can secure adoption of their program' without such pressure group or lobbying activity."

"Unless the advocates of land value taxation undertake to influence legislators and other political authorities to adopt this program, absolutely nothing will ever occur to bring it to reality."

"Of course it is essential that numerous citizens come to understand our ideas, whether by political propaganda, by reading the works of Henry George or their condensed versions, by taking lessons with the numerous Henry George Schools, by correspondence, or by discussion with friends - but without effective political pressure-group activity and vigorous lobbying among legislators and other political leaders, it would make no difference if every citizen of the United States favored free trade and the shifting of taxes from producers to parasites. No legislation would be passed, and hence there would be no change in the tax structure."

"If Georgists, including the many graduates of the fine Henry George schools would give substantial support to the Henry George Foundation of America, and if they would form or become active in Affiliated or co-

operating state-local organizations for political action, the followers of this philosophy might become a movement in reality as well as in name. They might, in other words, recover from what appears to be hopeless political paralysis."

= = = = =
(BORING WITHIN - Continued from Pg. 1.)

While the forty years spent in education by the Henry George Schools has been eminently worthwhile, it is an interesting corollary that with the schools weaker in number and student-body, the university community, the business community and, yes, some of the political community, are ready to do business.

But why hasn't a marketeer--public relations counsel--been hired with money that should be at hand from an American land value tax foundation that has \$20,000,000 in assets?

There is a vast boring within job to be done. A public relations counsel helped by us Georgists could infiltrate at least one hundred American socio-political groups if only a foundation would finance it.

Perry Prentice said at Toronto: "Property tax reform won't get very far until property tax reformers begin paying more attention to it, politics." All politicians seeking high office hire public relations counsel. We must do the same.

HENRY GEORGE GROUPS

There is another Henry George Group in Pennsylvania - that while perhaps not too well known, should be. It is the GRADED TAX LEAGUE of PENNSYLVANIA - 494 Magee Building, - Pittsburgh, Pa. 15222. William E. Schoyer, President Emeritus, Robert J. Grier II, President. John C. Weaver, Vice-President, Percy R. Williams, Executive Director and Treasurer. Its letterhead reads-"Reduce Taxes on Homes and Buildings - Stimulate Private Enterprise - Rebuild our Cities. It has a State Advisory Board with representatives for Philadelphia, Scranton, Erie, Easton and Allegheny County. Best wishes to this organization-may it prosper and expend.

Mr. C.O.Reinhart, a former Trustee of the HCS-MJ, now living in Florida writes-"All the Henry George Schools ought to look into showing the 30 minute film-DAMNED FOREVER, which portrays the damage done to the Columbia and Snake Rivers and surrounding land. The film was produced by The Steelheaders (referring to steelhead trout) of Spokane, Washington. The steelhead trout and chinook salmon which come in from the ocean to spawn in the headwaters of the Columbian river and the fact that the fish ladders have been destroyed by the dams to produce electricity.

These fish may soon be gone forever and concerned citizens should protest the activities of our government in this respect."

THE ENERGY CRISIS AND FREEDOM

The New Year always brings with it a spate of predictions by the economic seers of what the ensuing year will bring forth, and this year is no exception.

Until the prospective and actual fuel shortage became apparent, in the main, the predictions were that there would be a slow-down in 1974, but nothing catastrophic. However, as the possibility arose that energy might not be available in quantities deemed necessary for production and consumption, and it thus became obvious that there might be a serious drop in actual production, the seers have decided that it is almost impossible to predict what 1974 will be like.

Of course, it has never been possible for anyone to predict the manner in which a nation's economy will operate for a year, and the guesses of the economists have always been that--guesses more often wrong than right. If the energy crisis has installed in them some humility about their ability to have a God-like vision of the future, that will have been one good which will have come out of this energy shortfall.

The energy crisis is significant of something much deeper and more profound than merely lack of energy. It is one more sign that our society has reached a point of development too sophisticated to tolerate deliberate conscious interference in the market place.

As airplanes became more elaborate, they became too complicated for any human being to control merely by conscious direction. They now require numerous automatic devices which respond to the forces operating on the plane and which make whatever corrections are necessary. The actual controls which the pilot consciously manipulates have been reduced as much as possible and efforts are constantly being made toward a minimal degree of pilot control.

In the case of something as complicated as an airplane, it is obvious that this must be done. What is not so obvious is that as society develops, it too must operate automatically, with the people hardly aware that they are in operation. This means that society must rely on the free and uncontrolled marketplace to control the flow of goods and services.

No human being, no matter how brilliant, and no coterie of human beings no matter how wise, nor how well equipped with the most sophisticated computers can determine in advance.

When the environmentalists were in full swing preventing the production of this commodity, as coal, or another commodity, as coal, or another commodity as petroleum on the grounds that such would contaminate the environment, they did not foresee the energy crisis. True, they are not wholly to blame. Other factors operated as price controls, import quotas and the like. But all these factors had one element in common. They constituted an appeal to conscious deliber-

ate control over the production of a commodity by means of governmental fiat. And since the government is merely a collection of men, and as men cannot determine the full effect of any action taken, the result was that things unforeseen occurred.

Just as a very simple airplane possibly can be controlled entirely by the pilot, supposedly a very simple primitive society might be controlled by a small group of members impossible when the plan becomes complicated, or when the society becomes a highly sophisticated one.

At the present time there appears to be little recognition that society is too sophisticated for it to be run by government fiat. In this energy crisis, all eyes are focused on Washington for it to solve it unless it eliminates all its interferences with the marketplace.

Some influential politicians and bureaucrats are well aware of this fact. However, they are forced to fight the ignorance and cupidity of others as well as the lack of understanding on the part of the people.

It is too early to tell if the energy crisis will force people to re-think their blind faith in the ability of human beings consciously to operate the marketplace, that is, their faith in the ability of government to solve the problem naturally produced.

If the people do lose their faith in the ability of government to control and regain their faith in the automatic controls of the marketplace, there will be a rebirth of freedom in America. Possibly this will lead to a more careful analysis of the marketplace to determine a boom and bust develops. If such occurs it may lead to a study of the system of land tenure and its effects on the distribution of the wealth produced.

Possibly it is a bit too naive to hope for such an eventuality, but certainly the possibility exists. And if it does occur, then an era of growth will ensue which will make the first two hundred years of the development of our country seem infinitesimal by comparison.

Oscar B. Johannsen

SENSE & NONSENSE

Gaston Haxo, a Geologist of many years standing has written an excellent 66 page booklet entitled "AMERICA AT THE CROSSROADS" in which he gives the fundamentals of the Geologist philosophy in extremely readable terms.

Included in the booklet is some very interesting history of land tenure systems of many civilizations as well as a discussion of the enclosures in England.

The booklet is modestly priced at \$1.00 postpaid and can be obtained by writing to him at 250 - 58th St., North (906) St. Petersburg, Fla. 33710

The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond issued a booklet summarizing the economic forecasts for the year ahead by institutions and wellknown economists.

When one reads the 1973 forecasts, it becomes obvious how absurd it is for people to make these forecasts.

Most of the experts expected a significant improvement in the U.S. trade balance. No one foresaw the devaluation in February. All assumed the first devaluation was sufficient. Most thought the dollar would get stronger when it weakened most of the year and only due to the energy crisis in strengthening somewhat. The litany could go on showing how far off base the experts were. Will that stop them from making forecasts? Don't be silly.

In Biblical times, 5000 people were fed with two fish and five loaves of bread -- and it was called a miracle. Today, it's called the company cafeteria.

Possibly you have been disturbed about the condition of the nation's railroads, and well you might, but by comparison with the nationalized systems of foreign countries, we're not doing so badly. In 1971, the British Railways lost \$198 million; the French National Railways, \$128 million; the German Federal Railway \$725 million, and the Japanese National Railways \$884 million.

As for shipping rates, were they lower than in the U.S. No. The freight rates are much higher, often twice as high.

As for operating efficiency, the ratio of employees overseas compared with U.S. average ranges from 3 to 1 in France to 12 to 1 in Japan.

All of which goes to show that nationalized an industry solves nothing but merely adds to the woes of the taxpayers.

I know one manufacturer who isn't the least bit worried about competition from Russia and Red China. He makes voting machines.

After reading the newspapers where the Governor of N.J. is to have his salary increased to \$65,000, being raised \$15,000. whereas you and I are tied to a 5% increase formula, it is obvious that the new look in Trenton is the same as the old look. Get as much out of the taxpayers as possible.

A teacher complains that she has a lot of students who would obey their parents if they could find them.

* * * * *
H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

To all readers of THE GARGOYLE.

Why not in 1974 send along a contribution - news item - article - question or even cash?

Daffynitions:

Childhood--that wonderful time when all you had to do to lose weight was to take a bath.

An angel: My wife, give or take a few feathers.

An electric broom: the newest thing for the modern witch.

Stock market: The sophisticated Chinese Water Torture. A lot of little drops can drive you crazy.

Prices are getting higher every day. I bought a steak at the market and needed a co-signer.

Formula for being a successful politician: Find out where the public is going, take a short cut across the field, get out in front and make them think you're leading the way.

Where do clothing stores get those trick mirrors that make our old suits look so shabby?

On the wall in an Indiana school: In case of atomic attack, recent Federal warnings prohibiting prayer in schools will be temporarily suspended.

+ + + + + POVERTY & PROGRESS

Two men were discussing taxes and government waste of money. Just then a school bus passed them. "See what I mean?" exclaimed one. "When I was a boy we walked three miles to school and three miles back home each day. Now we spend \$5,900. for a bus to pick up the children so they don't have to walk - then we spend \$50,000 for a gymnasium so they can exercise."

PROGRESS - Australia

POETIC PLEASURE

A new publication by Arnold Kleiner, who has always been fascinated by the Power and Beauty of Poetry. During his busy career as an Electrical Contractor he attended evening classes and sharpened his knowledge of Semantics, Public Speaking and Economics. His love of the Rhymed Phrase, prevailed above all other academic pursuits.

Ultimately, Mr. Kleiner extricated himself from the world of wires and launched a whirlwind new career as an expert in Poetic Recitation. His evening classe at Miami Beach's Ida Fischer School have become a weekly highlight in the lives of the region's senior citizens.

Encouraged by students and admirers, Arnold Kleiner commenced to create his own original poetry. His books and records are well worth adding to your collection.

AMERICA AT THE CROSSROADS

By

GASTON HAXO

A critical examination of our system of land
tenure and how it affects our democracy
and its chances of survival

CONTENTS

FOREWORD

CHAPTER I

IS OUR FREEDOM A DELUSION?

1- Our Revolution a limited success 2- Political freedom not enough 3- Why free land? 4- What should be private property 5- Rent and the price of land 6- Speculation multiplies land monopoly evils 7- The concentration of wealth and power 8- Present land system is undemocratic 9- Old-World land system creates Old-World problems 10- Many great minds have pointed to solution 11- What is to be done 12- How rent socialization works 13- Effects of rent socialization 14- The road to peace 15- A Jeffersonian government 16- No hope for the future unless.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CHAPTER II

PRIVATE PROPERTY IN LAND HISTORICALLY CONSIDERED

1- Primitive land tenure 2- Greece and Rome 3- Germanic tribal land tenure 4- Feudalism 5- The inclosure of common lands 6- The modern latifundia.

CHAPTER III

PROPERTY IN LAND IN AMERICA

CHAPTER IV

HOW MODERN CIVILIZATION MAY DECLINE

CHAPTER V

THE CENTRAL TRUTH

CHAPTER VI

AMERICA AT THE CROSSROADS

A famous book - A meaningful title - The poverty of our progress - Time for a change of course - The great delusion - Success or failure? - What we could do -- What we must do - Whither America?

* * *

I want to compliment you most highly on a very readable, very well written job. It is clear, effective, persuasive. (Mitchell S. Lurio. Director, Henry George School, Boston)

My hearty congratulations on a much needed job well done. I recommend it unhesitatingly. (John T. Tetley. Director, Henry George School, East Orange, N.J.)

I congratulate you on producing such a strong presentation of the case for the Henry George cause. (Percy R. Williams. Executive Secretary, Henry George Foundation, Pittsburgh.)

* * *

Price (postpaid) \$1.00 - 5 for \$4.00 - 10 for \$7.00.

Gaston Haxo-250 58th St.N.(908)- St.Petersburg,Fla. 33710.

I herewith enclose \$_____ for _____ copies of "AMERICA AT THE CROSSROADS"

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date		Description		Amount	
10/01/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/02/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/03/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/04/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/05/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/06/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/07/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/08/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/09/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/10/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/11/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/12/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/13/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/14/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/15/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/16/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/17/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/18/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/19/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/20/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/21/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/22/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/23/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/24/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/25/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/26/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/27/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/28/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/29/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/30/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		
10/31/2023		Bank of America	1000.00		