

The Baroque



"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

No. 185

D E C E M B E R 1974

DEAN GOLDFINGER DIES

Alexander M. Goldfinger, a graduate of the second class held at the New Jersey Henry George school died while on an extended ocean voyage. Mr. Goldfinger was the second teacher in the N.J. school, selected by his very dear friends, Dr. Elizabeth Bowen, and George Rusby, founders of the N.J.HGS. He was one of the original members of the Board of Trustees and served continuously until his death. He succeeded Dr. Bowen as Dean of the Faculty.

Public Speaking courses at the N.J. school for many years. We shall miss our Dean who so well served the Henry George School of New Jersey.

L E A R

Current issue "Continuing The American Revolution", publication of Land, Equality And Freedom, is most attractive. Pictures, typography, and articles very good. Chapters of this new Georgist organization are being formed across the United States and prime movers are: Floyd Morrow, Steven Cord, William Truehart, Robert Andelson, Dr. James G. Busey, Joseph Trento, Louis E. Freeman, Tom Sherrad, Harvey Valasek, Robert Tideman, Philip Finkelstein.

For information as to joining, etc. write to LEAF, 454 Mission Valley Center West, San Diego, Cal. 92108

Alex, as he was affectionately known to his friends, was an attorney and for many years conducted his practice from offices adjunct to the headquarters of the school. The School was close to his heart ever since he attended Dr. Bowen's class and later he taught the Teacher's Training and

M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S !

Among our Christmas blessings are memories of good friends for whom we wish happiness, peace and love and joy that never ends.

C H R I S T M A S B L E S S I N G S

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FOR LAND'S SAKEJack Tetley

Ernest A. Bryan, Secretary Commonwealth Society, British Columbia addressed a long friendly letter to The Editor, THE GARGOYLE. He said he likes GARGOYLE "because it is an honest publication depending on no power or wealth for its support." Friend Bryan went on to "express my uneasiness at the trend among many who believe in equal freedom for all mankind to be seduced from the path of logical action in favor of methods sanctified by popular consensus. Many Georgists favor action within political parties, probably unaware of what this involves. He sets forth good advice, pointing out futility of any efforts the Georgists might make in endeavor either to affiliate with a political party or form a new one. Briefly he mentions the Justice Party of Denmark which seemed to offer hope but declined as membership grew. They accepted new members who had little knowledge of economics in order to gain numerical strength. Soon the consensus of the party was little different from that of any other party.:

Ernie is quite firm in his view that great change in "politics" must be made before the least social change can come through the ballot box." "So be sure there is great need for political "change" - but I am wondering if, as Henry George stated - the land reform must come first; then all other reforms will be more easily affected. I am sure Ernie and I will continue to exert our greatest efforts to put Land Reform first!

FREEFOLK is the title of publication of CS for EE, editor and publisher, E. A. Bryan; from which GARGOYLE frequently quotes, such as: "Daily the lessons of the past repeat themselves then pass unheeded. Too few people have learned that control of production and marketing by governments always results in inefficiency, with high prices and waste."

"It is in the cutting and marketing that there exists a monopoly. Three years ago the cost of cutting was one half of what it is now, while the price of beef stands about the same."

"Only when confidence is restored supplies will flow freely again and efficiency will return. Inflation will not stop until governments learn that the way to cure unemployment is not to print more money to create jobs, but to free the land so that people may create their own jobs."

Keep up the good work, Ernie, and try for you and some of your associates to get to the States for one of these annual conferences of Georgists.

"Alan Greenspan, the soft spoken, scholarly business economist who is chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors to the President of the United States is, in his own words, 'an advocate of laissez-faire capitalism.'"

"He believes, deeply, that the growth of Federal spending threatens this country's entire democratic system. He views with disfavor such encumbrances to the free market as antitrust laws and progressive income tax."

"Mr. Greenspan has made one major change in function of the Council of Economic Advisors. It is keeping it out of politics."

Philip Schabecoff, N.Y. Times 11-17

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"Insight" - published by Alumni Group HGS - Los Angeles, Vol. IV #1 contains an excellent article - "The Struggle for Progress" by Frank Goble, President, Thomas Jefferson Research Center.

One statement he makes deserves careful thought by all Georgists - "Georgists have failed for at least two reasons, to bring his truths to light. First because they have not fully understood his ideas, and secondly, because they have not sufficiently understood the process required to translate ideas into action."

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THE GEORGIST JOURNAL, published by the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, and the Henry George Institute of New York, in Autumn 1974 issue reported an award of the J. Rupert Mason Award for Journalism. It was won by Jerome S. Medowar and presented at a dinner in New York City. However - "The contest for 1973 was nation-wide but in future will be limited to entries from California."

This is regrettable. As a friend of J. Rupert Mason, I rather think he would prefer the award include the entire nation, and would have wanted all journalists to be eligible.

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"We rapidly approach a juncture in history. As world economic conditions further deteriorate, another chance will arrive to build a free, prosperous, egalitarian society. If people remain unaware of the true principles of society's relationship to the land, the opportunity will again be lost. With the crumbling of the economy, the forces of depotism stand ready to take advantage of chaos and despair. Will the Henry George movement be ready?"

Joe Husar - THE ANALYST
HGS Northern Calif. July 74

RECESSIONITIS

Currently, the nation is beginning to suffer from that new disease, recessionitis. It used to be that when hard times came, people called such times depressions, but today, we indulge in euphemisms, and call them recessions. Somehow, they don't seem so bad when you describe them in such relatively inoffensive terms.

But whether you call it a recession or a depression, there is no doubt that people are increasingly losing their jobs. The automobile industry is in a very bad shape, partly because government rules force the manufacturers to put into the cars expensive environmental-control devices as well as costly safety gadgets. With the cost of a new car skyrocketing, it is hardly surprising the sales are down. Housing starts are way off, and related industries as appliances are suffering.

There is no question but that the economy has been declining. Whether it is a depression or not, as yet, is still questionable for while some industries are suffering, others as steel and chemicals have been booming.

Prices have been rising despite the slowdown in many fields, but there are indications that prices may have peaked for the time being, and may, even decline.

Probably the smart thing for the government to do is to do nothing and let the marketplace make the necessary adjustments inasmuch as certainly nothing will be done about the influence of land speculation on the business cycle. But will the government stand by and do nothing?

The chances are not good. While the administration might be willing to do so, Congress may force its hand. The Democrats have been elected by great majorities and they, no doubt, feel they must do something. Thus, it is quite likely they will pressure the President to adopt an expansionary policy. The administration, already, has gone along what line as the Federal Reserve System has been expanding the money supply at a faster pace than it did during the early part of the summer. If Congress keeps pressing it, no doubt, it will increase the flow of money into the economy. This will tend to raise prices again, or at least prevent them from falling. If the expansionary economy narcotic is big enough, it probably will revive business, but with prices tending to rise, or at least not fall, great pressures will be built up for wage and price controls.

Ironically, it could well be, that the pressures built up in 1975 will result in these controls being established in 1976, the year this country celebrates the 200th anniversary of that superb cry for freedom, the Declaration of Independence.

Whether people will be aware of the irony of celebrating freedom at the same time economic restrictions on one's freedom to buy and sell are imposed is questionable. The people do not understand economic freedom, and probably only will learn thru sad experience.

No one knows whether the country is going to slide into a depression or not. The assumption is that if things worsen, the government will pull all stops to turn things around. It is because this feeling seems so widespread that businessmen do not appear to be panicking. Instead, they appear to be taking a wait-and-see attitude.

So, as the year 1974 draws to a close, recessionitis seems to be the dominant economic disease, but more and more people seem to feel that the witch doctors in Washington will inject enough economic narcotics into the economy so by 1976 we may be suffering from inflationitis once again.

The more things change, the more they remain the same. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Oscar B. Johansen

SENSE & NONSENSE

Lenin must be a whirling dervish in his grave in the Kremlin these days. He laughed at gold as money, betraying thereby his economic ignorance. Since he is revered as almost being a God, the party line has been to ape his views. However, the facts of life have a way with them which cannot be ignored. The present currency situation is so chaotic that the Communists party newspaper, Pravda, has actually urged the western powers to return to the gold standard.

Why is Russia now advising the West to use some good economic sense? Because the current financial and economic crisis afflicting the western powers is affecting the Soviets. The volatile fluctuations in foreign exchange rates makes it difficult for the Soviet planners to carry on long-range trade with western countries. Planners do not have the resiliency to change as the exchange rates change so they prefer fixed rates.

While most have assumed that Russia would like the price of gold to keep rising so it could sell its gold at a higher price, it now develops that she recognizes that some kind of stability is of greater advantage to her than the instability of a free market. So, suprisingly, she is suggesting more economic common sense right now than are the western countries.

And what about Lenin? Well, as events develop, more and more of his ideas will have to be discarded, and as the Russians begin to appreciate how little he really knew, possibly they will remove his body from the ghoulsh display which has been going on since his death and put it in the Kremlin Wall, as they did Stalin. Then maybe, subsequently another Russian leader will denounce him as Kruschev denounced Stalin.

* * * * *

Newspaper reports indicate that Peru's land reform is far from a uniform success. Rather, it is another example of what happens when land is expropriated and merely divided among a portion of the people. Those who get the land do well, but what about those who do not?

Five years ago the Peruvian military government appropriated the 375,000 acre holdings of the Gildemeister family in the Case Grande. This was the largest of the eight sugar estates owned by four Peruvian families and the W. R. Grace Co. The Peruvian government carried on one of the most extensive agrarian reforms in the history of Latin America. Over 170,000 families received the land, but there were a million families remaining landless.

To the chagrin of the Peruvian government, the fortunate peasants are acting pretty much like the old landlords. They want to keep what they have and not share with anyone else. Overnight these 170,000 families have become a middle class, with new homes, television sets, good wages, and many of the amenities of life.

And they are producing much more than the Casa Grande was owned by a few. This year it will produce 245,000 tons of sugar, almost 60,000 tons more than the best annual output previously.

This new middle class fights the government, and it has been accused of exploiting part-time workers. In some areas, it has actually erected barriers preventing the landless peasants from entering.

So, now, instead of the government having to deal with a few wealthy landlords, it must deal with thousands who are not anxious to lose their privileged status any more than did the few Grantees.

Apparently, no one ever had read PROGRESS AND POVERTY. Had the military government done so, possibly after expropriating the land, it would merely have rented it out to the highest bidders. In that way all would have had an opportunity to share for the rent could then have been distributed among all on a per-capita basis, so those without land would have at least received some thing. Today, they receive nothing and they constitute a potent force of discontent which some day may destroy the new middle class.

SALT OF THE EARTH

Happiness: It's when your neighbor takes 1000 slides of his European vacation -- with the lens cap on.

Distant relative: One to whom you lent money.

Foolish sky-driver: One who argues with his wife when she's packing his chute.

Communist country: One where everything which is not forbidden is compulsory.

Cheap politician: There isn't any such thing.

Sixth marriage: The triumph of hope over experience.

John: My wife always has the last word.

Tom: Lucky man! Mine never gets to it.

In peace time, the military leaders claim they have the people behind them. In war time, of course, the positions are reversed.

Husband: We've got to get rid of our chauffeur. He nearly killed me four times.

Wife: Oh, give him another change.

Sally: I've got a new job so I can't do your cleaning any more.

Madam: What job is it?

Sally: I'm on relief.

TAX FREE NEW TOWNS

Have you received a copy of this new magazin. If not, write to Dr. S. Cord, 580 N. Sixth St., Indiana, Pa. 15701 and ask him to rush a copy to you - no charge, or better still, send \$3. for a years subscription. TFWT is different - it has great prospects of going "to town" fast! Steven Cord has, as Editor gone to considerable expense personally in getting the first issue out, and it is now sponsored by LEAF.