

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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Der Musty Curator

of the Henry George birthplace and the self-styled "Misdirector" of the Henry George School of Philadelphia, died on Jan. 14th. Joseph A. Stockman, beloved by all who knew him - witty - talented - inimitable - leaves a void which probably never can be filled.

To Mrs. Stockman and the children, THE GARGOYLE extends its sincerest sympathy.

The home address is 3164 Prospect Avenue, Trevoose, Pa. for those who might wish to write the family.

PETITION

To The Weatherman

1. No snow or ice on city streets.
2. No snow or ice on highways.
3. No snow, sleet, hail, rain, high-winds on nights classes, meetings or other events are held under auspices of the Henry George School.
4. The best of weather conditions for H.G.S. activities.
5. The worst of weather conditions for those misrepresenting or ignoring the philosophy of freedom.

Signed _____

Please sign and mail promptly.

MY CREED

I do not choose to be a common man. It is my right to be uncommon - if I can. I seek opportunity--not security. I do not wish to be a kept citizen, humbled and dulled by having the state look after me. I want to take the calculated risk; to dream and to build, to fail and to succeed. I refuse to barter incentive for a dole. I prefer the challenges of life to the guaranteed existence; the thrill of fulfillment to the stale calm of utopia. I will not trade freedom for beneficence nor my dignity for a handout. I will never cower before any master nor bend to any threat. It is my heritage to stand erect, proud and unafraid; to think and act for myself, enjoy the benefit of my creations and to face the world boldly and say, this I have done. All this is what it means to be an American.

Dean Alfange

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY
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Contents

Outlaw Poverty
Paul S. Nix, Jr.
New #1. Federal Reserve Note
U.S. Urges Property Tax Reform

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OUTLAW POVERTY

Under President Johnson's leadership the Administration is embarking on a campaign to eliminate poverty in the United States. It is to be geared to programs submitted by state and local communities. The Government will provide money and leadership but only after cities, towns, neighborhoods and rural areas submit plans. The President wants more than \$1 billion this year for an "unconditional war on poverty". \$500 million would go for new programs, the rest for expanding those in existence. \$365 million in new funds would go for education, health, welfare and related programs, and the balance for housing, rural projects and other efforts. Funds could be used to hire more teachers, erect school buildings, expand clinics and other health facilities, provide better housing, etc.

The Mayor of the City of New York has jumped on the bandwagon pointing out the "social dynamite inherent in chronic poverty and unemployment." "This urban association of poverty next door to luxury is both corrosive and explosive", he warned.

Well, it's all rather interesting inasmuch as Henry George stated over 80 years ago that the association of poverty on the one hand and tremendous wealth on the other hand could only lead to gigantic social upheavels unless something constructive was done about it.

It is important to note, however, that Henry George did not simply declare a war on poverty and then rush headlong into a series of recommendations for makeshift programs to spend money. Instead, he approached the problem much as a scientist would. Here is a problem. What is the cause of it? After a careful and rigorous analysis he determined what he believed to be the principal cause. Knowing the cause he was able to come up with what he believed to be a reasonable solution.

This is the method of attack which is used by all men in their ordinary affairs whether in business, in their homes, or in anything else. Unfortunately, this is not the method apparently used in the social science or in politics. Therefore it is not surprising that in all this discussion on fighting poverty little attention is given to trying to determine what is its cause. If anyone has the temerity to broach the question, it is brushed aside lightly with such statements as that people are poverty stricken and unemployed because they do not have the necessary education; they are discriminated against; they suffer from physical or mental disabilities, and similar reasons. Little or no proof is adduced to verify these assumptions.

However, it should be obvious to all that while most people in America are not in abject poverty, nonetheless the

majority are just able to get along and any depression would certainly result in millions of them becoming poverty stricken. Most of these people are educated; they are not discriminated against, and they do not suffer from significant disabilities. Why, therefore, would they become unemployed? No one even thinks of this for it is assumed depressions are a thing of the past, an assumption which may prove to be seriously in error.

What will be the result of this anti-poverty campaign? The usual one. Another bureaucracy set up with lots of jobs for the party faithful, much sound and fury giving the impression that something is being done but with little actual accomplishment. How could there be since none of the suggested remedies have any remote connection with the actual cause of involuntary poverty?

We live in a world of causal relationships. For every effect there is a cause. Since we have poverty, there is a cause. What is it? All the bureaucrats and politicians need do is to read Henry George's "Progress and Poverty." Will they? Oh, yes, in the millennium.

Oscar B. Johannsen

SENSE AND NONSENSE

In New York some citizens are planning a march on Albany to force the legislature to raise the minimum wage from \$1.15 to \$1.50 per hour. One wonders why they are so modest? Why not make it \$10. an hour and make everyone happy? Seems that somehow or other they recognize that wages aren't determined by acts of the legislature, although they are not sure what determines them. But, anyhow they think if the legislature raises the minimum a little bit it will work. The fact that it means those who cannot produce enough to justify wages of \$1.50 an hour will be discharged is something they do not understand.

Well, miracles occur everyday in Washington, Albany and Trenton. Maybe Albany can raise the minimum and not cause unemployment, but then again, maybe a man can jump over the moon.

A man owes it to himself to become a success. Once successful, he owes it to the government.

Have you noticed the \$1.00 Federal Reserve Notes which are gradually replacing the \$1.00 Silver Certificates? It is most instructive to read them carefully as you will discover the gentle art of changing money from a weight of a commodity, such as metal, gold or silver, to merely words on a piece of paper.

A \$5.00 Federal Reserve Note says "The United States of America will pay to the bearer on demand Five Dollars". The \$1. Federal Reserve Notes merely states at the top "The United States of America". At the bottom it states "One Dollar."

The \$5. Note also says "This note is legal tender for all debts, public and private, and is redeemable in lawful money at the United States Treasury, or at any Federal Reserve Bank."

The \$1. Note merely says "This note is legal tender for all debts, public and private."

It is important to recognize that in the case of the \$5. Note, it is recognized that the note itself is not "five dollars", but merely a promise to pay five dollars, whereas the \$1. note implies that it is a dollar.

People who have tried to get the Treasury to pay them "five dollars" for the Federal Reserve Note get the same note back on the contention that it is legal tender, which makes the promise to pay "five dollars" silly.

The point is that the \$5. note recognizes that five dollars is actually $5/35$ ths of an ounce of gold, for a dollar has been defined, in effect, to be $1/35$ th of an ounce of gold, so the \$5. Federal Reserve Note promises to pay a certain weight of gold to the party presenting the note.

The \$1. Federal Reserve Note ignores the definition of the dollar as being $1/35$ th of an ounce of gold and implies that it, itself, is a dollar.

The back of the \$1. FR note states "In God We Trust". One wonders what trust we can put in these FR notes?

Money talks and in most families it's the mother tongue.

People who believe a government contract is a one-way street to prosperity will have to do a bit of re-thinking. With defense contracts being cancelled, shipyards being closed, production of enriched uranium being curtailed by the Atomic Energy Commission, people are sadly awakening to the fact that overnight they may be out of work, or their businesses practically ruined.

Private businesses involves risks, but usually if they cater to the public, it is quite evident long before catastrophe actually hits that they may be in trouble. When dealing with the government, however, a business or a community may one day be on the top of the world and the next day at the bottom.

The academicians like to call government business the "public sector" as contrasted with business generated by people which is called the "private sector". Many of them think there is not enough "public sector" business and want to increase it at the expense of the "private sector". Before they do this, however, they had better talk to a former employee of Republic Aviation Corp. in Long Island who said, "I haven't looked at defense

plants. I was at Arma before and lost my job and now I have no interest in the defense industry. I'm looking for a place to hang my hat. I'm looking for a company that I can call home."

None of us like everything in Government service, but we certainly have to hand it to the Internal Revenue people.

PAUL S. NIX, JR.

I hope that Mr. Nix is typical of the new blood which is permeating the whole Henry George movement. In his attitude toward our central concept, he is serious and devoted; but he also has youth and enthusiasm, so necessary to the future.

He has just finished leading a most successful group in the fundamental course in Berkeley Heights, N.J., not far from where he lives. His home-base in connection with the school however, is New York headquarters, which he will again represent in a few weeks by leading the second advanced course.

In 1961, he attended his first class in Philadelphia under the wonderful tutelage of our always-to-be-remembered, Joe Stockman.

At that time he, with his wife and three sons, lived near Camden in Woodbury, N.J. Subsequently, he travelled the length of New Jersey to the New York school for the two advanced courses. This was the strenuous result of a casual visit to East 69th Street.

Shortly after that, as luck would have it, Mr. Nix was transferred to New York by his company; but Paul located in that lovely North Jersey town of Summit; possibly because his wife is a native to that locality.

Paul Nix is a chemical engineer; and he is with the operations research department of the Socony Mobile Oil Co. He received his training at Cornell, while living in Connecticut.

Aside from such interests as economics, he has enjoyed bowling; but currently is involved in choral singing from which he naturally receives much pleasure and satisfaction.

He has also become a do-it-yourself man, with respect to his house. But here the reward is not so personal as it is just plain economic in nature.

We all wish him the greatest success in his career and his leadership in the Henry George School.

Virginia Harvey

Complain less about conditions as they are and work harder to better them where you are.

- Clifton's Food for Thought

U. S. URGES PROPERTY TAX REFORM

The CALIFORNIA HOMEOWNER, publication of Statewide Homeowners Association, Inc., California, reports The Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations urges Governors and State legislatures to accept the leadership responsibility for property tax reform in order to give individual taxpayers a fairer deal and to strengthen local governments' finances.

In a report on "The Role of the States in Strengthening the Property Tax", based on a two-year study of property tax practices in the 50 States, the commission views property tax reform as a priority problem.

The property tax is by far the most important State-local tax source. It now yields over \$20 billion a year and provides 88 per cent of all local tax dollar and almost half of combined State and local taxes. The assessed value of taxable property determined by thousands of assessors throughout the country is the basis against which this \$20 billion is raised. That base now amounts to over \$350 billion and represents property with a market value of over a trillion dollars.

Among steps the commission recommends as remedies are:

- 1 -Rid the property tax laws of features that (a) cannot be administered, (b) oblige tax administrators to condone evasion, and (c) encourage taxpayers to ignore the law;
- 2 -Take a hard critical look at tax exemptions which fritter away property tax revenues and repeal those exemptions for secular purposes which would not be justifiable as a continuing State budget appropriation;
- 3 -Reimburse local governments for revenue lost when, in order to express its esteem for such groups as veterans or senior citizens, the State mandates that local governments exempt the properties of these taxpayers;
- 4 -Provide a strong State supervisory and coordinating agency headed by a career administrator of recognized professional ability;
- 5 -Shift to the State agency responsibility for assessing property which customarily lies in more than one assessing district or requires specialized appraisal skills not available to most local districts;
- 6 -Consolidate small primary assessment districts into districts large enough to support an efficient assessing operation;
- 7 -Require local assessors to be appointed to office on the basis of professional qualifications rather than elected; and
- 8 -Simplify assessment review and appeal procedures for the protection of taxpayers.

The Advisory Commission consists of 26 members representing all levels of government - local, State and Federal - including four governors, four mayors, three State legislators, three elected county officials, six Members of Congress, three

officials of the Executive Branch of the Federal Government, and three public members. (Mrs. Florence P. Dwyer, Member of House of Representatives from New Jersey is on the committee.)

Note: As a preliminary to effecting Land Value Taxation - and as a step which could immediately increase taxes on land, with reduction of taxes on improvements - better assessing practices with proper valuation of land may be taken at once.

Of course, those of us who feel that Land Value Taxation will go far toward a better economy, will devote our efforts to education in this field. However, many can do something to demand and encourage immediate reforms in assessing practices and procedures.

SALT OF THE EARTH

Come to think of it a bill collector's life isn't all bad. Almost everyone asks him to call again.

A fool and his money are soon parted. After all, he's no better than the rest of us.

The U.S. is the only country where businessmen get together over \$10. steaks to discuss hard times.

We all love a good loser if we don't have any bets on him.

People have no use for a rainfall or snowfall, but they keep looking for a windfall.

He who laughs last probably had to have it explained.

Taxpayer: Someone who has the whole government on his payroll.

If you really want to test your strength lift your mortgage.

DAFFYNITIONS

Pacifist: A flag-waiver.

Pal: An acquaintance who is about to do you a favor.

Parachute: It don't mean a thing if you don't pull the string.

Parasite: The lesser of two weevils.

Politics: The art of looking for trouble finding it everywhere, diagnosing it wrong, and applying unsuitable remedies.

Posterity: Nothing to worry about. The national debt will make it strong and inheritance taxes will make it self-reliant.

Quack: A wolf with a sheepskin.

Quarantine: A concentration camp for germs.

Queen bee: The power behind the drone.

Quinine: The bark that is better than its bite.

Quiz: A game for grownups who like to play school.

Civil War

To the Editor:

The cartoon-drawing by Freeman in your issue of April 21st is of tremendous strength in content and artistic communication. As if etched on the back of a strong Negro tied by his hands high on a pole by a branding iron are the words "Negro Economic Social Slavery." The title given this is: "Who Did Win The Civil War?"

Particular issues face man endlessly and man must face them. But we must not ignore the larger wine out of which these particular issue come forth; and we must not fail, as best we can, to relate them to the whole of which they are part. I would be curious as to how this artist would, in the same fashion, depict the slavery not of one race but of the human race. Perhaps in deeper perspective of a like drawing there would be many poles and to each would be tied in like fashion one man, symbolic of each identifiable race; and on the backs of each the words "Human Race Economic Social Slavery".

While that portion of the human race identified as the white race has had, in the past, the greatest opportunity to establish a true individual freedom based primarily on freedom from economic exploitation, this race has been a magnificent failure in this regard; whenever they traveled and conquered others they introduced economic exploitation along with whatever good they may have done in other facets of civilization. But can we honestly avoid this question? Would people of other races and their leaders have done differently? There is a possible yes answer to this question since some races, under some conditions, had a non-exploiting land tenure and wealth producing system where each had equal access to land and its bounty, with private rights to what was produced. Yet we could not be sure that if their economic system turned to growing and rearing plants and animals which, in justice, demanded private rights in pre-determined areas of land, that these races, too, would not have taken the same path which was established

by the white race. This, too, we must consider, however; the white race, largely, had first possession of the Bible and with it came the most demanding precepts of economic justice—that the land was the heritage of all. With this well in their possession, they fell far short of even an approximation of justice in economic matters. Would people and leaders of other races, given the same basis of economic growth and moral potentials, have done differently? Perhaps the least said, the better; perhaps the opinion should be that they would not have done better. Such a viewpoint leaves open the concept that now, perhaps—just maybe—we can begin a movement by which we can "Go and sin no more."

Now, we must begin the long confessional of our sins. We must bring forth the precept that while the "Heaven is the Lords" the "earth hath He given to the Children of Men?" We must happily admit that, as to all created by God we must, as quickly as possible, establish equal rights to each baby of woman born and to all soon to depart this earth. We must cultivate the "garden" again so all have their heritage, not in fifty year periods, but in each moment of each day. So long as the land tenure system of man and the tax structure that can only profit holders of title of valuable income land persists, such economic social justice is denied all men.

Moses proposed a way, good for his time, but which is completely futile today; but in the method is something most precious to all, the ethical spirit of the proposal. While the methods must change, in this too, in accordance with scientific principles, also of God, the spirit must not be changed. It only needs to be written in letters on high such as artist Freeman might conceive it.

While land reform of the "agrarian" type was suitable to the conditions of Moses, it is sadly lacking in equality for today's conditions. It is shameful in great degree than when American experts have been called on in Japan, and in other areas to establish land reform they were so narrow in vision and lacking in

science—so it seems—that they, too, acted in the way of the ancient land reform proposal found in the law of the Year of the Jubilee. Ignored was land known as urban—industrial, financial and commercial, and land known as resource in rural areas where oil, minerals, timber, water power, chemicals and the like are such, that front feet of land equals in value hundreds and thousands of acres of land to which "Agrarian" type reform or redistribution of the land itself can be applied. Fortunately provision is given by God in creation of a method by which not land itself, but its rental, can be shared. All economists worthy of the name, and all teachers in the social field and in history, should know of the Law of Rent in Economic Science and how it lends itself to a most perfect establishment in justice for all of mankind—the human race—in land. Why has economic education, in which this falls, failed us? Would it have been different under the rule of people of any known division of races?

Somehow, I feel, those who now miss liberty most, should take it as their task to serve the Human Race by making honest, dedicated and scientific inquiry, such as George Washington Carver would possibly have made where this his problem. How can we live in freedom and economic justice, with the most possible individual liberty and dignity? What do we do wrong which prevents it now? How can we correct what is wrong which prevents it now? How can we correct what is wrong so what is right and just more nearly prevails? Who will work to free the White Race of its economic slavery? What an amazing thing it would be if men came forth as leaders of the Black race who would do this. Could it be this honor might come to them? If to any people of any race, I would like it so to be. Why? Because, today, it is their turn to seek out the Liberty environment and conditions — they wish it so badly. Maybe the last CAN be first.

Sincerely yours,

Noah D. Alper

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