

The People



"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

Issue #191

J U N E / J U L Y 1 9 7 5

FREEDOM is a far more Heady Emotion than a Sense of Security.

IS THERE AN AMERICAN DREAM? - Dr. Art

Rybeck

WHAT HAS LAND TO DO WITH FREEDOM? -

Carl Shaw, Jeff Pick, Dr. S. Cord

HOW MUCH GOVERNMENT? - Karl Hess and

Mark Sullivan

GOALS & DIRECTIONS - Dr. Patrick

Norris, Univ. of Minnesota.

WHAT EDUCATION? - Dorian Freve of

Nova Scotia

LEAF

LAND

EQUALITY

FREEDOM

The newest coast to coast Henry George organization, will hold its first annual meeting July 4th & 5th on the campus of the University of California San Diego, in beautiful La Jolla.

All of this at Six-Day Seminar -
"COMPLETING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION!"
at School of Living, July 5-10 1975
Total Cost \$50. Reserve Now - Write:
Wildred Loomis, Box 129 Freeland, Md.
21053 Combine a vacation in the
country with stimulating Conference!

Robert Tideman has become National Coordinator of this new venture and the projected goal is for 30 chapters. And - the Coordinating Council for Survival Research and Education has offered LEAF the opportunity to become national sponsor of EARTH DAY.
CONGRATULATIONS - LEAF!

EFFECTS OF TAXATION

Tax manufacturers, and you check production
Tax building and improvements and you slow development
Tax trade and you hinder or prevent exchange.
Tax Capital and you raise the cost of production.
Tax wages and you lessen incentive.

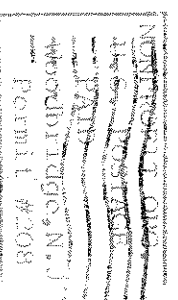
But you may take the whole annual rental value of land and the land will not diminish nor be any less productive
On the contrary, land-value taxation will reduce the selling price of land and make more land available, stimulate trade and open up new opportunities to labor and capital for the production of wealth.

PROGRESS & POVERTY - Henry George

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY

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DO-GOODISM GONE WILD

By: Oscar B. Johannsen

Were the early Americans who came over to the forbidding forests of our country to be reincarnated so they could see what is going on here today, no doubt, they would be absolutely dumb-struck.

They expected and did stand on their own two feet and wanted as little interference as possible from the government. What interference they did get was not designed to help them, but rather to take from them. The English government was run for the benefit of the English and not for the Americans.

Today, however, we have a government which interferes constantly but presumably for the benefit of the people. It seems to spend more time enacting do-good legislation than to do anything else.

And back of it, constantly urging ever more of this type of legislation are the do-gooders, some amateurs, but the more important professional do-gooders who make a comfortable living out of it.

Do-goodism has been with us so long that now some of it is backfiring so spectacularly that even the most naive must question its validity. A case in point is the huge Pruitt-Igoe Public Housing Project in St. Louis. Around July 4th, it will be dynamited out of existence.

This project consists of 32 high rise buildings with 2870 apartments which cost \$52 million to build twenty years ago. More millions were poured into the project not counting the money required to remove it. And when it is gone the Department of Housing and Urban Development will still have to pay off a bonded indebtedness of \$32 million until 1990.

The reason for destroying the buildings is that due to crime and vandalism, the project became uninhabitable. Everything was tried including hiring guards, counseling the tenants, giving them a share in management and spending money on modernization. But the vandals destroyed faster than laborers could build.

This project is typical of the housing projects throughout the country, which the Department of Housing and Urban Development has under its control. The projects are crime ridden and filthy beyond description. They are worse than the slums which they were supposed to have eradicated.

The do-gooders proclaimed that public housing was going to eliminate the slums and create well organized communities. At the time they sold the nation this bill of goods, it was pointed out that what is public property is nobody's property and that at-

tached to anything, whether it is housing or business, there must be responsibility. Public housing is administered by bureaucrats so they do not have the interest that a private owner would in making a project viable. The tenants have no overriding interest in the project as they feel it is a gift to them which they deserve because they are mostly poor. Public housing is a form of socialism and it was pointed out that such being the case inevitably it would suffer from incompetence, mediocrity and losses. The results have been worse than even those opposed expected.

Since it is obvious what a mess public housing is, you would expect that the do-gooders would be more circumspect in advocating new forms of do-goodism. But such is not the case. They have indulged in what amounts to a mania for anything and everything that seems to them to have merit. They are back of all this ridiculous environmentalism which has been such a large contributing factor in the current business downturn. They are back of all these attacks on smoking, altho they apparently have not taken up the cudgels for prohibiting liquor. This is probably because so many of these do-gooders are members of the liberal set and if there is one thing they enjoy it is cocktail parties.

Slowly, some of the people are beginning to fight all this do-goodism. It isn't that they are against people advocating this or that reform. It is that they are opposed to having the reform legislated. It is one thing to educate the public to the dangers of smoking; it is another thing to legislate cigarette out of existence, or to prohibit advertising or any perfectly legitimate form of business.

The people should have a choice. The essence of freedom is the freedom to make a fool of oneself. If I am foolish enough to smoke and thus ruin my health that's my business. I know the dangers and possibly have made a foolish mistake. But that's my right as an individual.

Labor is beginning to fight some of the environmental do-good legislation as it has meant the loss of so many jobs as plants were shut down. It simply was too expensive to make the changes which the bureaucrats insisted upon. Business is putting on an increasing fight against all this do-goodism even by companies which ordinarily steer clear of any involvement. Tiffany & Co. surprised the business community by an ad labeled "The Nitty-Crity About Socialism" in which it points out that bureaucracy is making it impossible to solve the energy crisis that it has crippled the automobile industry, ruined the railroads, etc., etc.

But plain people as you and I have the greatest impact, so let our voices be heard against all this do-goodism.

FOR LAND'S SAKE

General MacArthur brought a Harvard Professor, Dr. Abernethy, to advise the Occupation on land reform. Abernethy expounded his theories of land reform. "What General MacArthur is up against here is a classic medieval concept of land ownership. In each area half a dozen wealthy men control the land and parcel out portions of it according to their own economic interests. Where the trouble comes in is when personal economic interests, usually of an arbitrary nature, override national survival interest. Example: when a landowner in an area that needs more food holds back his land for speculation or does not use it all. Even during Japan's war for survival this landowner held his land back. In France the land was held so irrationally that the French Revolution was required before the whole rotten system could be swept away. In England, the same result was accomplished by taxation. In time the hugh landowners simply could not hang on to their land. Taxes were too high. So they were forced to sell. That's the logical way to accomplish land reform."

The relationship of man to his land is simple and universal. Every nation began with land evenly distributed among producers. As a result of superiority or mentality or manipulative skillable landlords began to acquire large holdings, in which society confirms them.

In the western United States the cattlemen started to protect heir immoral holdings with gunfire, but in time the common sense of the townspeople applied through taxation defeated them. No nation can avoid land reform. All it can do is determine the cause it will take; bloody revolution or taxation.

What General MacArthur will do could turn out to be his greatest accomplishment in Japan - for it could distribute the land equitably.

Michener's HAWAII

GAMBLING WITH GAMBLING

As I look to the future, one fact about our society is clear to me: Our country's priorities, the things we are willing to spend our money for, are widely out of kilter. The billions we spend for military hardware, which somehow always exceeds estimated costs and then quickly becomes obsolete.... the billions we sink into never-ending roads, paving over what's left of green and fertile land... the billions of dollars we shoot into outer space.... all these things have to be put into clearer perspective.

How can we rationalize these expenditures when we still virtually ignore the below-subsistence poverty of millions of Americans? Consider how many schools just one billion dollars will build and staff. Consider, too, that we still do not provide health services very effectively nor do wretched and callous record in the care of mental incompetents. There is so much that is good in this country, yet so much more to be done. I think we must take a long, hard look at how our tax dollars are being spent.

John Gambling

SENSE & NON-SENSE

The Newark Star Ledger recently ran a series on regulatory boards. These boards are legislated to protect the public but sooner or later wind up protecting the industry they are supposed to protect the people from.

As an example, the New Jersey Board of Pharmacy is now before a federal panel to determine whether it is constitutional or not, because the Board's membership is controlled by owners of small drug stores who are in effect able to regulate their competitors. The suit was brought by a competitor which operates 37 discount drug stores. It claims the Board discriminated against it by hindering new applications for licenses to establish stores and discriminating against it by disciplinary action.

Critics claim it not only tries to regulate competition, but it opposes the publication of prescription prices and it created a unique "patient profile" system, which is the only one in the country. This system requires each pharmacy to keep records on all people for whom prescriptions are dispensed. The presumed objective is that the pharmacist will study the profile before filling out a prescription so as to be sure the patient is not allergic to the drug to be administered. One would assume that it is the prerogative of the physician and before issuing a prescription he would have ascertained the likelihood of any bad reaction.

Some believe the real reason is to "lock" customers into their local pharmacies. They would tend to go to the one which has their histories. One pharmacist who has no use for the system said it is a bookkeeping chore which has raised prescription prices 25%. The cost doesn't justify the rare instances when a problem might arise and anyway it's the physician's responsibility.

The Board has fought the law which prevents the publication of prices of

prescriptions. The result is that prescription prices are at a higher level than necessary and prevents us from shopping around.

The Board has seven members. Ironically after the Board found that the discount chain had violated some rules such as refilling prescriptions without physicians' authorization, an investigation was made by the Enforcement Bureau of the Division of Consumer Affairs and it found that five of the seven members were guilty of multiple violations--the same as those lodged against the chain drug stores.

The Pharmacy Board is only one of 21 professional licensing and regulatory bodies in New Jersey. No doubt if an investigation is made of the 20 other boards it will be found out that instead of the public being protected it will be paying more and getting less than if the boards were abolished.

For over 12 years the Interstate Commerce Commission has attempted to merge the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific R.R. with other lines as it has been in the red since 1965 and was clearly in trouble long before 1965. In all that time the ICC could never say yes or no to any plan put forward. Finally at its invitation the heads of 23 railroads got together in Washington and in less than 24 hours came up with a split up of the Rock Island. Hundreds of details were ironed out in short order which details the ICC gas beeb graokubg wutg fir tears, While the ICC could still reject the plan it seems likely it will finally be adopted. Just another example of the impossibility of government running businesses.

SALT OF THE EARTH

Do you know what the compulsive shopper needs? A credit card that self-destructs after \$100. is used.

Isn't it true:

that there's never a time to do it right, but always time to do it over.

that any tool dropped while repairing a car will roll under it to its center.

that the man who can smile when things go wrong has thought of someone he can blame it on.

that nothing is impossible for the man who doesn't have to do it himself.

that the result of improved and enlarged communication between different levels of governmental bureaucracy is a vastly increased area of misunderstanding.

that an order that can be misunderstood will be misunderstood.

that the probability of any happening is in inverse ratio to its desirability.

that the usefulness of any meeting is in inverse proportion to the attendance.

that no matter how many expense account employees share a taxi, each will put the full fare on his expense account report.

REVITALIZATION RALLY

The Henry George Foundation of America has announced that as its next step in its extraordinary effort to accelerate and expand the Georgist movement in America, Philadelphia, the birthplace of Henry George has been selected for the 1975 International Conference.

It will be held at Harcum Junior College, Bryn Mawr (surburb of Phila.) Thursday, July 17 to Sunday July 20th

Program being arranged is expected to include such speakers as Dr. Robt. V. Andelson (Alabama) Dr. James Busey (Colorado) Judge James Clarkson(Mich.) Russel Conklin(Montana) Dr. Steven Cord (Penna. Dr. Mason Gaffney(British Columbia) John M. Kelly (Pa.) Frank Nelson (Del.) Floyd Morrow (Cal.) Wm. Newcomb (Fla.) Mitchell S. Lurio(Mass) Perry Prentice (New York) Dr. Raymond Richman (Penna.) Rev. Wylie Young(Pa.)

An informal dinner and reception is to be held Thursday evening and the conference will close with luncheon on Sunday. A visit will be made to Arden, Del. and to the Henry George birthplace in Philadelphia.

Please reserve immediately with Percy R. Williams, Executive Secretary Henry George Foundation of America, 336 Fourth Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.15222

Cost of room and meals is not to exceed \$60. Agenda and full details will be sent to all interested.

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The Henry George School of N.J. has made arrangements for a series of 10 weekly Discussions to be held at the Main Public Library in Woodbridge on Tuesday evenings starting September 23rd. at 8 p.m. There will be no charge or obligation. Please inform any persons you believe may be interested. Discussions will cover topics of current interest.