

Baroque



HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY

NO. 52

MAY 1961

GO THOU AND DO LIKEWISE.

Dr. H. A. Lazaar, Trustee, Faculty member and Chairman of Promotion Committee, writes "Attended meeting (and joined) Metuchen Taxpayers Association. Purpose of meeting to discuss pros and cons of personal property tax. General sense of futility prevailed. One man said 'let's all return to living in tents!'. Another quoted Senator Dumont's anguished comment 'Show me how to shift \$15,000,000 tax off the shoulders of business!'. This provided my opening wedge. There is a way and hope does exist. The meeting reminded me of people at a picnic who are so concerned about ants eating some crumbs they fail to notice a large bear eating the cake. Definite interest was indicated in 'LAND...AND SPACE TO GROW'. Arrangement for showing is to be made."

If you are not a member of your local taxpayers or civic association, a great opportunity is open for you to join now (membership dues in most associations are very moderate - in Edison \$1.00 a year - talk Land Value Taxation and get the association to book our film.

Dr. Lazaar arranged booking the film for the board meeting of Edison Taxpayers Association, Edison, N.J. (about 300 are members) The film was shown on April 6th and board very much impressed. They are to arrange a tax-seminar to be conducted by Dr. Lazaar at their headquarters to start early next month.

Paul Tweed, faculty member, arranged for showing at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship on April 12th. Twenty two persons from Morristown area were present. The showing was followed with remarks by Director Tetley and Mr. Tweed. Six persons signed up for Basic Economic course to be conducted by Tweed in the city of Morristown starting April 26th.

AS THE GARGOYLE goes to press two more showings are scheduled. One on Sunday evening April 23rd to Adult Discussion Group at the Second Presbyterian Church in Newark, arranged by Paul Nagy. The other, arranged by Henry A. Gieffers, Trustee and faculty member is for an entire evening program of the Hackensack Civic Association, in that city on Apr. 28th. In addition to the film talks will be given by Dr. G. W. Esty, President of the N.J. school Alex Goldfinger, Dean,

and H. A. Gieffers, Assistant Dean. An audience of about three hundred is expected that evening.

This seems to be the time and the method to show "Land...And Space To Grow" and get study groups organized. Letters offering to show the film have been sent by the school office to many organizations in North Jersey but few replies received. Here is another indication that it is personal contact that brings results.

Arnold Kleiner, Dixie Hassen, Margaret Badgley, Seymour Tabacknick, Fred Schultheils, Oscar Johansen, Bernie and Judy Kushner have made contacts and will follow up to arrange bookings. This is the way to do it - go thou and do likewise. Join your local taxpayer or civic group - contact other groups. Do it now!

CHINESE WIT WISDOM & HUMOR

- and what humor! From Philadelphia's Henry George School's intintable Director Joe Stockman, who has been hiding his Chinese Talent behind his many years of hard work for our cause - at Henry George birthplace.

On FRIDAY MAY 12th 8 p.m. at 78 Clinton Avenue, Joe will reveal in his own subtle - and delightful way the real inside philosophy and fun and thinking of the Chinese people. A real one-man Chinese Show which Philadelphians have been hearing for free! for years. A blackboard commentary show (many times on T.V.)

Joe says about his show: "You won't learn a c--- thing". (Liar!) But I can ruin an evening for you." (Liar again - he really will make you laugh heartily, and no foolin'. He is too darn modest.)

At an impromptu gathering in the coffee shop of the New York school a month or so ago, Joe held fifty or more enthralled for more than two hours by startling shrewdness of the Chinese meanings of those funny looking Chinese letters. To get as much Chinese savvy as Joe reveals in his folksy Yankee style, from text books would take many months of reading, and still you wouldn't get the heart or the cream of Joe's rare insight into the Chinese mind.

If you miss it - it's your own fault.

Probably the first casualty of a communist society is truth and that seems to have been forcibly brought out within the past month.

The Soviets claim they shot a man into space who orbited the earth and returned safely. Certainly, if true, this is a remarkable achievement. Sir Bernard Lovell, head of Britain's Jodrell Bank Observatory said it was "the greatest scientific achievement in the history of man." But is it that or is it the greatest hoax in the history of man?

At the time of this writing it is still not clear how Major Yuri A. Gagarin landed. Some reports are that the space ship landed by parachute, some that Gagarin landed by parachute. He claims he could differentiate plowed fields from unplowed fields, which sounds strange as he was supposed to be over 100 miles above the earth. He said he could see the earth and changing colors on the earth.

But one Russian scientist in Italy, Dr. Anatoli A. Diagonravov, chief Soviet delegate to an international space-science symposium in Florence, Italy, said that the Soviet space ship had no windows or portholes, but that Major Gagarin could see by radio." This led to the question as to how he could see colors. Of course, there is color television, but whether scientific technique has reached such a stage that a set could be put in the confined area of a space ship seems doubtful, particularly when one is aware of the unreliability of color sets today.

The next day, Dr. Diagonravov told news-men he had made the statement about the lack of windows because the space vehicle which had carried dogs in orbit had no windows. He said, "we have several types of space vehicles, and I cannot say for sure how the cosmonaut was able to see". It's rather strange that a top Soviet scientist in space work should make such conflicting statements, but then, maybe, that's how one gets to be a top Russian scientist. Apparently, now the Russians say the ship had a porthole but are vague as to its size, shape and location.

London reports that in monitoring Moscow's broadcasts, the announcers had trouble in reporting what Maj. Gagarin said on how he landed. The announcer would stop at a crucial sentence, and in the background could be heard agitated whispering.

The Moscow announcer said one of the first questions was how the landing was effected and after making some obscure statements, said, "In the case of this flight of the spaceship and its landing the following system was used---". There was a pause and whispering in the background. Then, the announcer said, "The pilot was in the cabin. The descent was successful. It showed the effectiveness of...." More silence, then he concluded "...all the systems and the high functioning standards of all the landing systems" This of course, makes no sense.

What does make sense, however, is the desperate condition of agriculture in Russia. Even in all the hullabaloo about this space event, Khrushchev brought up the needs of increasing agriculture output. One would hardly think it necessary to talk about anything as prosaic as farming when a man had just circumnavigated the world via space, unless, of course agricultural conditions are so bad that it is necessary to do something to make people willing to bear semi-starvation conditions without revolting.

We do know that the Russians have been selling gold. Inasmuch as by selling gold they help to keep its "price" down, they are, thereby, helping America to prevent the outflow of gold. The Russians are not selling this gold to help us, but because they need to purchase food for themselves, and probably for the Chinese.

One disturbing fact in all this is the willingness of western scientists to accept the word of the Communists on scientific achievements without apparently raising any questions. Scientists are supposed to be skeptical. When anyone comes forward with a claim that he has achieved something new, ordinarily the scientists want proof so rigorous it cannot be disputed. But, when the Russians claimed they photographed the other side of the moon, the scientists apparently accepted it without question, although it is highly doubtful that the Russians actually did take these photographs. Certainly, we don't hear much about them anymore. And, as yet, no scientists seem to have questioned this latest "achievement."

Why bring up this subject in a paper devoted to the social sciences? The point is to indicate how truth in other fields of endeavor can be obscured or changed into untruth when economic and social conditions are such that the lie becomes an important tool in order to achieve ends.

The fight in the coming generation is to be in the field of the social sciences. If the socialists win, then truth in all fields--the physical sciences as well as the social sciences -- will go down the drain. Then you will discover how the knowledge which man has painstakingly built up can be lost and civilization return to the Dark Ages.

Oscar B. Johannsen

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"Housing and Slum Clearance at No Cost - There is a better way to clean up these evils than by spending Tax-Payers Money." This is a new 15 page pamphlet, a splendid treatment of the subject by Gilbert M. Tucker, Economic Education League, Albany, New York.

A few copies may be obtained without cost for you to mail to your representatives in Congress - and to persons you believe may be influential in discussing the problem locally. This is another opportunity for you as a member of your local Tax-Payers Association.

DISASTR CHAT

Eva Braatz began life in Chicago and she accomplished her schooling and training there. Eventually, she and her family came to New Jersey, where she has had a home in the hill section of Irvington for some years.

Three years ago, she retired early from her position of senior bookkeeper at the Irvington General Hospital. For some time she relished having her whole time to herself. Now, she compromises with a part time position with an insurance company.

Miss Braatz was always a serious reader with a mature viewpoint; and in common with most of us in the Henry George school had her reservations about politicians and the amazing economics advocated or practiced by them. I believe this is a necessary view for potential students; at any rate it helps to stimulate questions that need answers.

Thus, she joined in 1941, a fundamental course at the Newark school, led by one of the early instructors, Mr. G. Anderson. Later she went on to the second course; and to many affairs when the school was located on Clinton Street, in the close vicinity of Broad and Market Streets. When we moved out from that center of town "site", we gained much, but we also lost some advantages, as is inevitable. Miss Braatz no longer felt confident going down to 1114 Broad St., during evening hours.

Eva Braatz enjoys travel and indulges her interest in the world as often as possible. I was particularly interested when she recounted the adventures of a trip to Germany. It was many years ago in 1922, that she and her mother decided to go on a sudden impulse, while wondering about their relatives there. They went on the Cunard Line's Saxonia for a most delightful ten day leisurely trip.

Their stay in New Brandenburg lengthened to a year. They were charmed with this old medieval town with its protecting wall and its encircling moat. The very old flavor of the village contrasted with the harsh realities of the day. For this was the period when wild inflation was taking its toll of that whole unfortunate country.

She said that banks there kept huge piles of currency in wheelbarrows outside their buildings, where the victimized people came in droves each day. This one small town, during this distressing time, suffered over three hundred suicides. And so, that violent inflation rendered the people vulnerable to the brutal tyranny that was to come.

During all this time, the Braatz family sent help to its members in the old country even through the last war. When it became possible, some of them came over to be American citizens.

I hope they won't experience a repetition of the same old economic tragedies. But the "primrose path" of irresponsibility is enticing and there are those in government who so want to make us all comfortable. Are there enough warning voices and I wonder if there are just barely enough who will hear? We must live in hope. Virginia Harvey

TAX NOTES

(Not the kind you invest in)

Taxes could furnish incentive to individuals effort and enterprise. The power to tax is the power to destroy, but it is also the power to create.

Confiscatory rates are less productive of revenue than they are of tax avoidance.

The U.S. can lay claim to the highest personal income tax rate in the world. This is a curious position for a country that relies on individual initiative for progress.

Congressman Herlong: "By use of capital-destroying tax rates and methods, we have prevented our economy from achieving anything like its potential for progress. This means that we have fewer and less productive jobs than should be available. Our total production is far short of our national capability for progress and the standard of living of our people is correspondingly less than it should be. It also means that failure to effect fundamental reform of our tax structure quickly would put in jeopardy the industrial supremacy on which our national security depends."

ACTION

Do you want to play an active part in the campaign for tax reform? Do you want to discuss land value taxation and make speeches on the subject? Do you want the satisfaction of explaining incentive taxation to fellow taxpayers, often only too eager to consider new ideas?

If your answer to these questions is - YES, you will find an excellent outlet in joining your local Taxpayers or Civic Association. Taxation is certainly a live issue. No better time than the present for A-C-T-I-O-N!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

THE GARGOYLE became five years old with the April 1961 issue. While it has not grown in size, we hope it has grown in stature. Nice things have been said about it and we hope it will continue to have many more birthdays.

It is sent to every Extension of The Henry George School, to all contributors to the N.J. School and to many others organizations and individuals who have requested it.

Congress is about to pass a bill setting the minimum wage at \$1.25 an hour, starting at \$1.00 with increases to \$1.25 in four years. The question is why are the politicians such pikers? If they can set it at \$1.25, why not do a real job and make it \$125. an hour, and make everybody happy? Can it be that wages are determined by natural laws over which politicians have no control, and the \$1.25 represents what the politicians feel the lowest wage rate will be four years from now anyway, and they want the credit?

Moscow has just dismissed the top leaders of the Central Asian republic of Tadzhikistan. Why? They were accused of "gross political errors" and of having falsified cotton production figures. The fact that cotton production is down is the reason, no doubt, for their dismissal. Communism, as there is no incentive, results in low production. In order to cover up, scapegoats must be found. But firing a few bureaucrats won't increase production. If they'd try capitalism, they'd have to hire bureaucrats to keep production down, as we do.

The stock market has reached a new all time high. The volume of trading is so great that the poor Wall Street clerks have been making beelines for the nearest drug stores to purchase tranquilizer pills. John Q. Public is in the market as he never was before, and yet business is certainly not very good as yet. There are some indications that business is improving somewhat but certainly not enough to justify the hectic trading and high stock prices. Why, then, all the participation? Can it be a flight from the "paper-dollar"? With the present administration coming up with new schemes daily to spend and spend, the average man has decided he'd better own stocks as a hedge against inflation. But will he be protected? History proves there is only one protection from inflation and that is to have none. A few will come out with gains the mass will only have sad experiences.

YOU HAVE A DATE * AT EIGHT * FRIDAY MAY 12th-H.G.S. NEWARK

One reader could not remember the Director's first name, or school telephone number - see below.

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY
78 Clinton Avenue, Newark 2, N.J.
MA 3 - 9333 John T. Tetley, Director.

FF 210,

LIBRARY

Henry School of Social Science
50 E. 69th St.
New York 21, N. Y.

Form 3547 Requested

The modern teenager does know the value of the dollar. It will buy approximately 3 gallons of gasoline.

The first thing most families think they need after they get a little money is a new car, and the first thing they need after they get a new car is a little money.

Husband! Dear, never mind the large economy size. Get the small, expensive one we can afford!

The best way to keep women customers from complaining about prices and talking about the low prices in the good old days is to act surprised and tell them you didn't know they were old enough to remember.

Capital and labor both realize time is money, but they can't agree on how much.

The best way to entertain a politician is to sit down and listen.

Experience: Something what when you finally have it you're too old for the job.

A successful executive is one who can delegate all the responsibility, shift all the blame and appropriate all the credit.

By the time the average man learns where he stands, his knees have buckled.

BULLY FOR CANADA.

"The Canadian research Committee on Taxation is a non-profit, non-political organization. Its purpose is to study methods of taxation at all levels of government and to recommend constructive taxation policies in order to develop a revenue program that will create employment and foster the economic well-being of the Canadian people." A copy of an excellent report submitted to the State Committee on Manpower and Employment January 1961 is on file in your school library - it is well worth reading.

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