

The Bargophile



"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 N. J. Issue #112 MAY 1967

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

Tuesday, May 9th (second Tuesday)

2 to 4 p.m. Film: INDIA: HAUNTING PASSAGE - A colorful country fair sets the mood for the teeming excitement of contemporary India. Puppets perform a Puppet Ballet enacting a Bombay legend; a performance by the Children's Little Theatre of Calcutta and a montage of scenes of modern India round out one of the best films of this series. Following the film, a discussion of today's topics. If you are able to come out for a pleasant afternoon at 78 Clinton Ave. you are most welcome.

You are invited - Tuesday evening, May 9th 7:30 P.M. - Completion Program Basic Economics, Newark Headquarters. Film: Land... And Space To Grow. Students will receive Certificates and refreshments for all.

EXPO 67 and H.G.S. Annual Conference

College Jean de Brebeuf is the location for the conference, Wednesday, July 26th thru Sunday, July 30th.

Single Rooms \$5., double rooms are \$4.50 for each occupant. There is running water in room and a bathroom on each floor. If you plan to attend send your reservation AT ONCE with deposit of one-night's rent to: Henry George School, 4278 Dorchester Street West, Montreal 6, Quebec, Canada.

The program includes panel discussions on Thursday and Saturday - visit to the Expo on Friday and Banquet at Queen's Hotel on Saturday evening.

Write or telephone Newark headquarters if you would like complete program of the Conference.

The flaw in socialism is that it accepts poverty as an inevitable concomitant of capitalism and seeks to replace it with statism. The flaw in the Conservative *laissez faire* camp is that they fail to recognize that poverty is not an inevitable part of the natural order, but the result of man-made institutions which deny equal rights to land and aggravate the consequences with a network of subsidies and state privileges which are bestowed upon sectional interest in the form of state protected monopolies, tariffs, subsidies, grants, etc.

LAND & LIBERTY - March 1967

It's all over - BUT - On Tuesday, April 4th, on Channel 28 KCET there was a ninety minute Special... Community Television and the Henry George School presented: Taxation and the Law, Can We Afford Honest Assessors? Panelists included the Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals of Kentucky, the Past President of California Real Estate Association, the Provost of University of Hartford and the Sacramento County Assessor - Moderator, the Director of the Henry George School, Los Angeles, California.

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"Disraeli's statement 'there are lies, damned lies, and statistics.'"

"Instead of having a hospital service that is the envy of the world, we are stuck with a system that is tottering to its knees and is on the verge of collapse."

"Above all, students of economics must really think for themselves, accept nothing on authority, subject all propositions to the test of their own reasoning, and have faith in their own ability to find the true answers."

"Originally taxation was levied only for the purpose of raising revenue. Later it was used as a device for redistribution of income, and later still as a means for manipulating the economy."

"Knowledge alone can accomplish nothing in the field of social reform. But knowledge and action together cannot fail. Ultimately persistence will bring its reward."

Henry George School Magazine-London

Also from London: LAND & LIBERTY

PANIC IN SACRAMENTO

The American magazine, HOUSE & HOME reports that Mrs. Irene Hickman's election as County Tax Assessor in Sacramento has caused near panic as a result of her declared intention to raise all land value appraisals to 100% of market value. Believing firmly that much of the county's land is grossly undervalued and that the owners of slum properties and the owners of vacant lots would soon respond to the pressure of higher tax levels, Mrs. Hickman is encountering strong opposition from those with vested interests in undervalued sites.

"If I had threatened to blackmail the Mayor," she admitted, "burn down City Hall or assassinate the President it would not have created so much excitement. Many people are likely to be upset at first, but in the long run they will be grateful if the constitution is being obeyed by at least one assessor."

Mrs. Hickman, who was supported in her electoral campaign by the California Statewide Homeowners Association, is in favor of reducing tax rates on buildings and improvements and increasing them on land until only land is taxed. She has made a forceful start in this direction.

Next International
Union Conference -

Caswell Bay, Wales - Sept. 1968

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The Henry George School is supported by volunteer contributions of its friends!

DIVERSIFICATION

There was a time when a person, if asked, "What business are you in?" could answer in a few words. Most persons were only in one or a few businesses. However, today, most persons when asked, would have to reply:

"Advertising and Agriculture; Banking and Building; Contracting; Delivery; Electrical; Financing, Fishing and Fire-fighting; Give-Away; Housing and Healing; Investment; Junk, Kite-making Library; Merchandising; Notions, Optical supplies; Publishing, Question and Answer Service; Restaurant and Recreation; Small store (and large store); Transportation; Union Management; Veteranian; Water-supply; X-Ray; Young People's Guidance; Zip Coding; Zoo and Zippers.

How come? He is a taxpayer!

AMERICA'S VOLUNTARY ACTION

Alexis de Tocqueville, in his prophetic book, written in the 1830's "Democracy in America" commented on voluntary associations which Americans were continually organizing.

"These Americans are unusual people, when they see a problem come up--a canal to be dug or a school to be built--they immediately form a group or committee, whatever is necessary to get the job done."

During the past generation, the Government has been gradually pre-empting such groups in its paternalistic efforts to take care of the people. But, now, there seems to be a growing desire on the part of more and more people to return to these voluntary associations to solve problems. Some are even claiming that such groups can end unemployment, etc., which is, of course, quite an order.

Dr. Gallup, the public-opinion analyst, believes that tremendous talent is waiting to solve many of our social problems. In a nationwide study, his organization found that almost three out of four people who had attended college said they would be willing to devote some time each week to local problems as crime, housing, traffic congestion, and the like.

Certain groups are already at work. The Urban League is training and placing many Negroes in jobs. The National Association of Manufacturers has a training program for dropouts -- training them and finding jobs.

The goal of many of these organizations is to prove that independent efforts are cheaper, more effective and better than government programs. They have been aided by the growing disillusionment with such government schemes as the anti-poverty program. Some feel that it is now necessary for private capital to get into the field as it could do a better job.

Mr. R. C. Cornuelle, Vice President, NAM, and author of "Reclaiming the American Dream" has misgivings about the growth of big government in the welfare area. But he did more than just write and talk about it. He acted, and set up a private loan program for college students, which has done strikingly better than the government program.

He wants the independent sector-- the voluntary associations which fascinated de Tocqueville--to modernize their methods and get more involved in these welfare programs. He takes the very sensible approach of rejecting government money under all circumstances for he recognizes that to have federal money without federal control is a dream.

Possibly this is the beginning of the pendulum swinging back from an almost exclusive dependency on government to at least a partial use of individual initiative. Even the government is throwing up its hands on some of the tasks it does. The Postmaster General recently suggested turning the Post Office over to a non-profit corporation in order to get some efficient mail service.

This does not mean that any of the private programs will solve such problems as poverty. To do that, one must get down to fundamentals, which is just not done these days. It does mean, however, that many problems which require solution can be solved at less expense, more efficiently, and with less loss of individual freedom if done by private groups.

It's the old story that in the long run if you want anything well done let individuals do it working singly or in private groups. If they can't do it properly, no one can.

Oscar B. Johansen

A N D

"What is most necessary is to educate, educate, educate... That government bureaucracy will always deal with social problems more slowly, wastefully, expensively, and incompetently than the private agencies which it seeks to supplant.

"That when government lightly proposes to spend tens of billions of dollars for some utopian scheme, it is not spending it's money, but yours and mine, and our next-door neighbors's."

William Henry Chamberlin
THE FREEZMAN - April 1967

A DREAM AS BIG AS A MOUNTAIN

In the SATURDAY EVENING POST, Sept. 10, 1966, Harry Jones wrote about a man in the Black Hills - a sculptor blasting out a statue taller than the Washington Monument and longer than a dozen railroad cars. Korczak Ziolkowski - called the crazy Polock. He was one of Borglum's assistants at Mount Rushmore. On Thunderhead Mountain, Sioux Chief Crazy Horse is being carved - 563 feet high, started 1948, expected to be completed 1970. Twice the crazy Polock turned down Federal Funds - he is financing the project entirely on his own!

He has collected some money from tourists, charging a small fee of admission to the area. He was born in Boston in 1908 - never had a lesson in art or engineering. He bought the land in 1948 and has worked mostly alone or assisted by his family. He has an 18 year old son who works with him - and four more boys coming along. Also he has five girls.

In addition to the monument, the carver of Crazy Horse wishes to erect a hospital and other facilities at the sight.

MORE SALT

People who ask your advice aren't as interested in your counsel as they are in having the opportunity to tell you their troubles.

The means some people use to get ahead in this world probably mean they are getting behind in the next.

After reading of so many men retiring, the question is, have you ever heard of a house-wife retiring?

For the man who has everything, the Internal Revenue Service has just the thing - an audit.

Sweetest music to a middle aged woman: Her husband criticizing a pretty girl.

All arguments have two sides but some have no ends.

Scholars never graduate in a hurry. They do it by degrees.

Do you remember the man who can smile when things go wrong probably just thought of someone he can blame.

Do you remember the time when a capsule traveled inside a man?

Children never misquote you. They just repeat what you shouldn't have said word for word.

SENSE & NONSENSE

Want a good example of economics as practiced by the government economists today? Well, in order to solve the unfavorable balance of payments problem, the Government enacted the Interest Equalization Tax, primarily to make it difficult for foreigners to raise funds in America and thus cut down the drain of American funds going abroad. But as this tax causes foreigners to raise their money needs in their own markets as well as forces Americans with foreign subsidiaries to borrow abroad, it swells the demand for foreign funds. This means, as anyone conversant with the law of supply and demand knows that with greater demand for money, other things being equal, the price of money rises, that is the interest rates abroad rise. But this means then that unless interest rates also rise in the United States, foreigners and Americans find it wiser to take their money out of the U.S. and invest it abroad, which is the very thing the Interest Equalization Tax is supposed to prevent.

This is just a sample of the "New Economics". Nothing very new about it--just another example of the age old attempt of governments to ignore natural laws.

At one time there were two kinds of people--the have's and the have-nots. Now there is a third class, the Charge-its.

Svetlana, Stalin's daughter seeks asylum in the U.S. What better proof of the bankruptcy of communism than this defection of the daughter of the man who once was the dictator of Russia. She didn't trust the very men who had been raised to power by her own father. So she runs away hoping to have asylum in "imperialistic America". Some of our so-called intellectuals, who believe that socialism and freedom are compatible, might ponder the significance of her action.

Judging by the craze for LSD, pep pills, tranquilizers and narcotics, Marx was one hundred percent wrong. Religion is not the opiate of the people. Opiates are the religion of the people.

The bureaucrats are increasingly turning to regimentation. The head poverty fighter wants women to be registered under the draft; the Secretary of Labor wants youths, unable to meet the mental or physical requirements of the draft, to be forced to remedy their defects. All this is America--the land which the politicians never cease telling us is the home of the free. Free to do what?--to be slaves of the State?

Did you know the road to success is paved with yesses?

The politicians have always had a field day berating the "slumlords", accusing them of garnering unconscionable profits at the expense of the poor underprivileged people. But a recent experiment indicates that possibly the "slumlords" are as much exploited as their tenants.

Four years ago, a New York civic group initiated a project to prove that landlords could make at least an 8% profit by maintaining decent conditions. This group, the Citizens Housing and Planning Council, bought and rehabilitated two tenements. It invested some \$300,000. Last year it barely made a \$1,000 profit, but this did not take into account depreciation on the buildings. After deducting that expense, it found it had lost \$7,335. on the two buildings.

Today, one of the buildings, which had been so carefully restored, is a virtual shambles with broken windows, garbage strewn about its halls, and once again sadly in need of repairs. The Council's executive director said tenant vandalism was to blame, and it has given up its experiment as hopeless.

So, public housing, and now subsidized housing have been shown to be failures. Slums we will always have with us until we institute a sound system of land value taxation which encourages the improvement of property. Along with it, with the proper education, should come the necessary degree of tenant responsibility which existed in the past, and still exists in many middle class areas. Until that occurs, "slumlords" will be the politicians' bête noire.

Salt of the Earth.

The world changes so fast these days that a man can't be wrong all the time even if he tried.

The government has set up regulations on the type of safety devices the auto companies must now install in all new cars. The question now is who will install safety drivers?

Probably the most difficult job today in America is to try to keep the Government from taking care of you. That's true except for one particular field where the Government lets you do it all alone -- income taxes.

The only good thing about some of the terrible report cards parents see these days is that they are clear evidence that their children have not been cheating.

Astrogger's message to delinquent customer: "You will meet a cute brunette. You will give her money. She is our cashier."