

"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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C. Ronald Greene

BETTER CITIES

Received diploma from Henry George School, New York in 1956. He was 70 years old at that time. Now, at age 84 he is an instructor in a Public Speaking in Miami, Fla. Arnold Kleiner, a Trustee of the HGS-NJ is a student and assistant to Mr. Greene. Kleiner writes, "he is one of the most wonderful and kind gentlemen I have ever met. He studies comparative religions, sings with Coral groups, does exercises on the beach. He meditates and is now taking a correspondence course! He speaks on G.C.P., reincarnation and many other subjects. He was a Shakesperian Actor and a baritone for several years. He is always ready to give a helping hand to anyone at any time he can." We salute you, Mr. Greene, for we surmise you will put in a word for Henry George whenever you can.

Documentary, 30 minute color film, directed towards planners, architects, business men, tax assessors and officials - all who are concerned with the plight of our cities. The film presents the case for tax incentives to engage private industry in solving the nations housing shortage.

Film available for showing. Screen, projector and operator if desired. Also person to elaborate upon subject of film, or to answer audience questions. Inquire school office.

AFTERNOON DISCUSSIONS

Group meets at school headquarters second Tuesday each month 1:30 to 3:30. Topics of general interest. Next session - May 12th - See you?

IF OUR CIVILIZATION DOES NOT RID ITSELF OF
ITS CHRONIC CORRUPTION IT IS DOOMED!

"As corruption becomes chronic; as public spirit is lost; as traditions of honor, virtue, and patriotism are weakened; as law is brought into contempt and reforms become hopeless; then in the festering mass will be generated volcanic forces; which shatter and rend when seeming accident gives them vent. Strong, unscrupulous men, rising up upon occasion, will become the exponents of blind popular desires or fierce popular passion, and dash aside forms that have lost their vitality. The sword will again be mightier than the pen, and in carnivals of destruction brute force and wild frenzy will alternate with the lethargy of a declining civilization."

HENRY GEORGE - PROGRESS & POVERTY

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LENIN'S HEAVEN ON HIS CENTENNIAL.

April 22nd was the 100th anniversary of the birth of Vladimir Ilich Ulyanov, known to the world as Lenin. At the time of this writing it was expected that that day would be marked by celebrations and proclamations of the achievements of communism.

What achievements? Certainly not the promise Lenin preached a classless society which was to be a model for revolutionaries around the world. It was to be heaven on earth.

What is the reality after more than a century of the workers' Paradise?

Russia has the lowest standard of living of all the industrialized countries. In terms of gross national product, it ranks 21st, the same position it held 50 years ago.

Agricultural collectivization has resulted in one of the least efficient farming systems in the world.

Russians live under a dictatorship of the Communist Party bosses.

Class privileges are worse in Russia than in so-called capitalistic nations. The proletariat is still the proletariat. The party bosses, their epigones, and the intellectuals get the cream of what is produced.

The decade of the 1960's was to be the one in which Russian production would overtake America's. They are so far from attaining that goal that even the leaders are denouncing the poor productivity.

Instead of satisfaction and happiness with their lot, the people are increasingly voicing their discontent. Underground publications are circulating in ever larger numbers. Intellectuals in the colleges who are not close to the party bosses are being harrassed as they foment discontent among the students. Even Army and Navy officers have been involved in the protest movements and the working people are showing increasing sign of discontent.

The abundance that Lenin promised has turned out to be a grossly inadequate diet, poor and overcrowded housing, and a shortage of consumer goods.

Instead of abundance, economic stagnation is the order of the day.

Lenin who was proclaimed to have been a genius turns out to have been a badly informed man. He simply did not understand the workings of an economy, much less the nature of man. Communism could not possibly live up to the promises made, for it assumes that people will act together communally with the same intensity and willingness that they do individually. That

concept had been refuted many times, theoretically as in the works of Henry George, and others, and practically as in Robert Owen's "New Harmony" settlement in Indiana, which was a failure.

Socialists are poor economists, but won't admit it. After trying it out in Russia so many years, the leaders no doubt know that socialism is a ghastly failure, but they don't dare institute the necessary reforms. At the very least they need the marketplace to determine prices and the allocation of resources. They need to give the people freedom of speech and action so that errors can be discussed and the necessary action taken. They need to abolish the gigantic bureaucracy which has been built up.

But they cannot do any of these things. To do so, would mean first of all those in power would soon find themselves on the outside looking in. Even if they were willing to make the sacrifice of position and power which they would probably find it difficult if not impossible. The bureaucracy which has been built up has a vested interest in the status quo. Return to a market economy and what need is there for the thousands of bureaucrats who control prices? Restore freedom of speech and what need is there for the censors?

Any serious attempt to rid the government of this army of bureaucrats would certainly result in a reaction possibly the overthrow of those in power with the bureaucratic elite taking over.

The situation in Russia reminds one of a building which has been literally undermined by termites so badly that the only solution is to tear the house down completely and start all over again.

Russia will probably have to go through a revolution or a war in which the present system will be smashed to pieces. In such an event if some measure of private enterprise is substituted it will revive.

As for the present what can be said about the Communist Paradise? It's very simple. It's not heaven, it's hell.

Oscar B. Johannsen

JAIL - New Way For Free Education!

"Exciting and imaginative things do happen in N.J. in the field of Adult Basic Education. The most recent innovation is taking place in New Brunswick. Inmates are taking a giant step toward assuring that their current sentences are the last they will have to serve. Skills they are acquiring at Middlesex County Vocational School may pave way for a new approach to preparing prisoners held in small penal institutions for full and use-
ful lives."

PARKING LOTS

My good friend, and fellow director of IGS Michigan, Bob Benton has been bombarding me with reprints of news clips having a bearing upon the principles of economics and taxation propounded by the school. One of them has a most interesting map of downtown Detroit showing in bold black - "lots of parking lots."

I am inclined to believe similar maps of most all cities would be quite comparable. I have observed this to be the situation in numerous cities and it has brought vividly to my mind the thought - what would be on these asphalt blotches if site-value taxation prevailed rather than the operation of the general property tax now existing. I vision in place of the surface parking lots, office buildings, apartment houses, even parks and playgrounds - with space beneath or within, to harbor the gas buggies now occupying the valuable locations. These plots are not only ugly but are not paying into the local coffers what they should for the valuable locations they enjoy.

"Low taxes on parking lots are discouraging revitalization of downtown Detroit," says Dwight Havens, president of the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce.

"And he adds, these same taxes fail to reflect the high value that parking lot operators put on their property in the form of parking rates up to \$4.35 for eight hours.

"Havens now is seeking funds for an independent study of what he terms "great inequities" in downtown land assessments.

"He points to a preliminary study by John R. Steiner, manager of the Chambers department of research and information, indicating there is a lack of uniformity in taxing practices."

Similar studies of site value taxation are being made and this seems to be good. As a result of the studies and other considerations being given to the old general property tax - particularly to assessing, is practical preliminary necessity to implication of George's proposal.

"PARKING LOTS MUST BE ABOLISHED!" - how is that for a slogan?

Perhaps you could try it on your friends - see if they agree or oppose. Whichever - it gives you an opportunity to spout Site Value taxation and the place to learn about it.

John T. Tetley

Economist: A man who reports Jones is having a hard time keeping up with himself. LONG ISLAND GIORGIST

BASIC THESIS

Henry George's thesis may be summarized as follows. Man's material wants are satisfied (and this satisfaction must occur before any intellectual, cultural or spiritual progress is possible) by the application of labour, usually assisted by capital, to natural resources or land. As population grows the demand for land increases, and, perhaps by virtue of superior fertility or some such agricultural advantage, or of far more importance, by virtue of its favorable situation (e.g. in the centre of a metropolis, near markets, transport, services, and public utilities), certain land acquires a rental value which is entirely due to the presence of the population and independent of the landholder's activity (George Bernard Shaw labelled this phenomenon the "bons asinorum" of politicians). Henry George argued that this economic rent, which is manifested in rental values, should accrue to the community which created it. He was profoundly impressed by the fact that as the need for governmental and other social services arose with increasing complexity of society, a fund was automatically created *pari passu* with that need.

Under the present pathological conditions generally prevailing, however, landholders can extract payment from those wishing to live and work on the land for the right to do so, or in other words can appropriate community created economic rent or site values, which continually increase with technological and social progress, so that non-landholders are left with just enough for bare subsistence. (In the terminology of political economy, as the margin of production extends, economic rent rises while wages and interest everywhere tend to remain the same as at the margin). By collecting economic rent to defray the costs of necessary government, a step which would ensure the equal right of access for all men to natural resources (single holders of valuable land would be paying for this privilege), and simultaneously by reducing taxation upon goods and earnings as well as by freeing trade from tariffs and similar restrictions, George believed that the way was opened for rendering poverty obsolete. George, of course, recognized that there were other monopolies besides land monopoly, but his attitude was that expressed by Winston Churchill in one of his early speeches "land monopoly is the mother of all other monopolies."

It is important to realize that George did not regard the abolition of poverty simply as an end in itself, but rather as a means to achieving greater liberty.

Give a man a fish and you give him a meal. Teach a man to fish and he will eat all his life. Yuan Tzu

SENSE & NON SENSE

The government has come up with new wrinkle in its fight against inflation. It is changing the base period for the consumer and wholesale price indexes. It will be 1967 instead of the 1957-59 base which has been in use since May 1960. Under the new base period, January's consumer price index which was 131.3% on the old average would only have been 113.3%.

If that doesn't make the picture look pleasant enough, maybe they'll use some base period in the future as 1975. If they make that base high enough they'll convince people that prices are dropping and inflation is just a figment of the imagination.

Some recent ads of property in the vicinity of Charlottesville, Va. -

578 acres and home - Price \$260,000.
Taxes \$586.25

10 acres with beautiful home - Price \$125,000. Taxes \$275.77

Could it be that the prices are so high because the taxes are so low?

The recent postal strike points up the wisdom of having competing private concerns in the business. Many years ago The Federal Reserve System fed up with the poor postal service established its own system of check collections. The checks are sent by air express and picked up by private courier service and delivered to the clearing houses. Its check collection system is largely handled by the Railway Express Agency established carriers and local trucking agencies. This has been a great time saver compared to the arrangements previously made through the postal system.

Many big corporations with widespread plants have organized their own courier service between the plants. But they must be careful not to impinge on the government's postal monopoly.

If the Federal Reserve System and some companies have found it so advantageous to bypass the postal system, why not all of us?

All that needs be done is for the government to give up its monopoly and permit anyone who wishes to, to carry mail. If such were the case it could charge 10¢, 20¢, or whatever it liked and twiddle its fingers as private enterprise took the business away from it not only on the basis of lower price but far superior service.

Probably the most difficult thing in the world to do these days is for a Supreme Court nominee to win appointment.

Communist China is finding out that all the propaganda in the world can not stop man's propensity for private property. Chinese articles and broadcasts complain about "capitalist trends in the countryside." Even Communist party officials have been affected by "a capitalist black wind."

The government has been attempting to increase "collective subsidiary production" at the expense of the small private plots which families were permitted to farm and to sell the produce on the free market. The peasants have resisted given up their plots. Instead some stealthily take some of the collective property and produce goods which they sell.

Although the government claims that after a period of "class struggle" and "mass criticism"-it is getting everyone to hate capitalist tendencies and love the collective. Reading between the lines it is obvious that this is a typical communistic falsehood. If you hold a gun at a man's head he will denounce capitalism, but how long can you keep holding a gun? And if you keep the man under a gun, how much will he produce?

China will learn the way the Soviets did that the wise thing to do is to let the peasants have their private plots if they wish to prevent famine from sweeping the land.

People seek to satisfy their own desires, no one else's, and nobody and nothing will ever change that.

SALT OF THE EARTH

Protective tariff: Taxes on imports designed to protect the domestic producer from the greed of his consumer. Pessimist: One who would complain about the noise of opportunity knocked. Floating Debt: A yacht which hasn't been paid for.

Husband: A man of few words.

Adam: The one man in the world who could not say "Pardon me, haven't I seen you before."

Bargain sale: A sale at which a woman ruins a \$25. street dress to get a house dress for 98 cents.

Isn't it funny that the only part of American cars that doesn't make a noise is the horn.

I know a man who is probably the most generous man in the world. His wife gave him a dozen of the loveliest neckties in the world for Christmas and he took them right down and gave them to the Salvation Army.

Recently it was proposed that a badge be given to every person who pays his taxes promptly. It seems though it would be more appropriate if he were given a barrel.

THE MAIL BAG St. Louis Globe Democrat, Sept. 18, 1958

Modern Age of 'Economic Nuts'

To the Editor:

In "Through the Years" of your editorial page I read, with a sickening feeling, that 25 years ago "tankage facilities" were "inadequate to handle the thousands of little pigs slaughtered at National Stock Yards under the government's slaughtering program" and that "packers were forced to throw more than half the meat into the Mississippi River."

Then I read your editorial "More Baloney For Little Business." This indicates the utter futility of politician-economics which becomes especially vulgar at election time when economic sop and sophistry run rife, and are used as a medium of exchange to buy votes—the must costly vote buying on the market to the people.

The free enterprise system, if freed of its labor, capital and land-title holding monopolisms and restrictions would, of itself create more jobs for small business men and for all who labor, regardless of age, than any speed-up in technology or automation can eliminate; it can shorten working hours and produce higher living standards too.

We are made to have unlimited wants for wealth and services; we have the ability to satisfy our wants. Our painful and shameful economic and

standard money, high tariffs and the big labor supply (with little purchasing power) they thought was good for industry, along with their "trickle-down-wealth distribution theories so many labor leaders appear to "ape" today.

Today, the group of economists sometimes referred to as modernists or macro-economists, are doing their best to "collectivize" economic study by lumping together factors and principles as different as mud and marble. They seem to ignore, with pride in modernist accomplishment, the differences so important to economic science. They attempt, with superficial rationalization, to place land, a natural, "primary economic source factor, and a free gift of God, in the same general classification with capital, a man-produced artificial and derived factor.

If more sincere, scientific attention were given to economic science education and its relation to what is taught as sociology, social studies, history, political science and the like, and less to collectivistic and unscientific economics now generally offered in high schools, colleges and universities, we might not need so desperately more red-hot mathematicians, physicists, chemists and the like.

NOAH D. ALPER,



state types of human regimentation are more and more becoming part and parcel of our political parties. Most of those who lead in opposition to this trend are bankrupt—so far as having sound economic science and moral ideas of how to counter this situation.

They can only weep for what they thought were the good old days of practical gold

THE MAIL BAG

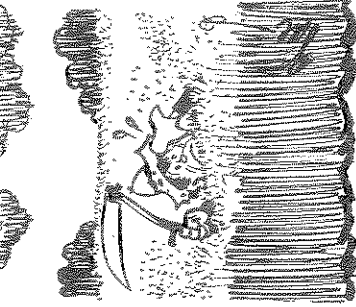
What Is Legal Not Necessarily Moral

To the Editor:

And it came to pass that more and more farmers rediscovered in Secretary Benson's idea a principle long known to man, that production over basic demand tends to lower prices, and to remedy temporary over-

production. Lower prices do encourage consumption somewhat and discourage production, certainly of the inefficient or high cost producer. Eventually prices will go up and again encourage production. This is the system which, as you pointed out in your editorial "Secretary Benson's Farm Victory," produces food for "the nation's dinner tables not surpluses to be stored in bulging government bins" to waste away, to be given away, or to be dumped on other people's national markets.

Farmers were hard hit, and a "social-service" type of government forced people as consumers, to pay more in higher prices and in higher taxes too to sustain an evil situation their planning only perpetuated. (Now isn't that a remedy for you?)



stators—like to term this American sabotage of our economic system a failure of the system—and this is the big lie, aided and abetted by organizational business leaders who should know better. They and labor are now the number one seekers after special privileges and monopolies. And even good men in government and there are many hog-tied by dishonest laws, does not lift the political lid and help us see how we do all this to ourselves; that if we did not cause government to do so much to harm us we would not seek its aid to do so much good for us.

NOAH D. ALPER.

SEE OTHER SIDE

Normandy
"The New Stabilizer"
To the Editor: 9-18-58

The recession engages the attention of many economists, politicians, and news analysts of all mediums. In the old days we did nothing at all about it. This does not mean nothing was done. Prices of labor, commodities and services went down and land lost most, if not all, of its highly speculative and bloated price. As a result, costs tended to drop below what people could then pay and this restored confidence, and re-expansion set in; we were on our way to the next depression.

Today we have an amazing galaxy of "built-in" stabilizers, so we are told. There is social security and pension money, unemployment paychecks, a New Deal money control gadget-system, make-work projects, price-fixing parity deals, and on-or-off taxes.

Under the old system the surpluses disappeared; today they overhang the market or are disposed of in ways to just about wreck the markets of other countries. We are amazed, in this so-called recession, to see contracts for increased wages going into effect, and land getting higher and higher, with governmental units demanding more taxes, or more debt and inflationary taxes, etc.

Under neither the old way of "let nature take its course," or of the built-in stabilizer periods, have we sought the cause of our troubles as we do in our more successful operations in other fields where cause and effect (science) is involved. In neither system, the let-it-alone-type, where we never let it alone at all, or in what I believe is called the "macro-economics" system, where every symptom is supposed to have a remedy but never a cause, was the idea of "prevention" basic; in one, you lived with your troubles, and in the other you live with your troubles—only more of them.

The best short-term answer is to get lower prices of land, labor and products, including capital-products. The only way to get a more permanent-type of answer is to teach economics in the scientific tradition of cause and effect and predictability, and to allow people, students especially, see clearly who gains and who loses, and why, from economic actions of government.

NOAH D. ALPER

THE MAIL BAG at Louisa (Blonde) Rembrandt Fri., May 2, 1958

Don't Hog-tie Automation-Condition It

To the Editor:

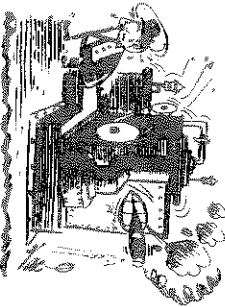
One of your readers wrote a most interesting Mail Bag letter on the "Futility of Automation." He recognizes, as do many, that automation, like so many progressive ideas, may be a menace. He states that "Automation is the simple process of replacing workers with automatic machines." This is a viewpoint and an honest one.

But is it not also true that we can say of automation, it is a recognition of the principle that it is products and services we want and not work; and that man tends to satisfy his desire with the least effort. This is not due to laziness although this may play an indirect part; it is due to having so much unfinished business in the satisfaction of man's wants, not only material but cultural and entertainment wants.

The question we are up against is not how to hog-tie automation but how to condition it to lift mankind—not drive an economic wedge through the middle of mankind lifting some, depressing others. To state it another way: With the principle of man's wants being, on the whole, without limit and with ability to work and work with better tools and with land space on earth and natural matter unlimited, why are not those who seek to hire

help not standing in line to try to induce men displaced at certain points of industry by progress (automation) to work for them?

Those who say that automation makes jobs and lowers prices are not entirely wrong, for this should be its result. And why it is prevented, largely, from doing so is one that should be looked into. (In any other field but economics (sci-



ence) this would be a terrific challenge. Here, the superficial and the traditional handicuffs research (science).

Almost 80 years ago Henry George, in the introduction to his *Progress and Poverty* gave a most vivid account of the prospects of progress, and why it did not deliver the goods promised. Your critic of automation should read these first 10 pages. And he answered the question in his book of why wages tended to a minimum for so many people with progress; and why automation, like other progress will not help the people.

NOAH D. ALPER

New Zealand Experiment

To THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR:

The article, "Tax Benefits Called Slum Ridance Key," in your issue of July 29, is timely and thought-provoking. Some 56 communities in New Zealand support themselves by land-value taxation exclusively and do not impose taxes on improvements; and the result is, as your writer's interview with Dr. Rolland O'Regan pointed out, that in these communities they do not have "run-down housing."

An outstanding exception is Auckland where it is necessary to undertake land reclamation similar to that of Los Angeles in its now famous, or infamous, "Bunker Hill urban redevelopment project."

Only property owners can initiate and vote for the change from the capital-value system of taxing real estate as it is in the United States to land-value taxation exclusively. Official figures are made of records showing all property owners how the change will affect them. Since "about 80 per cent of the homeowners of New Zealand found their taxes reduced under this system," it is easy to understand why they support the New Zealand plan.

By electing to use more rent of land and less of taxes which fall on human products or income of labor and capital possession, they have drawn a two-way benefit: lower cost of access to land for use in home and farm-making, for industry and commerce, and general welfare, and, in effect, lower costs on things produced such as materials for housing and finished housing, home furnishings, and the like.

This is in direct contrast to what is now the American way which makes both access to land and to all construction materials and finished products higher in price.

In the United States a trend in the direction of this New Zealand plan is found in Pennsylvania under what is called the graded tax plan. Pittsburgh and Scranton have only half the tax rate on improvements they apply to land. A few years ago the Assembly of Pennsylvania voted in the Senate, 50 to 0, and in the House 184 to 1, to make such a plan of lower rates on improvements compared to land values available to 47 cities of the third-class.

Some 120 California irrigation districts pay all district costs by land-value taxation exclusively. In these districts the land is held largely by small holders or family-sized farmers; there are few, if any, parasitical land speculators in these districts.

There is a lesson to be learned from this New Zealand experiment — one that, if applied generally to government, might reverse the trend we witness from free enterprise to socialism: one which might, in fact, so cleanse free enterprise as to move it in a direction that would largely make socialism, as a basic system, impossible in these United States.

NOAH D. ALPER, President,
Public Revenue Education Council
St. Louis, Mo.

Only Two Sources

"A TAX is no more a source of Public Revenue than a pump is the source from which it pumps, such as a lake, watershed, spring, etc," writes Noah D. Alper in his latest pamphlet, *The Manufacturer vs. The College Professor on Taxation*.

"A tax is like a pump. This truth alone, when recognized, will go far in causing a reorganization of economic instruction in our institutions of higher learning."

Mr. Alper is president of the Public Revenue Education Council, of St. Louis, Mo. He contends that there are only two sources of public revenue, viz., (1) the rewards of human effort, and (2) RENT-of-land. His perception of this truth, for such it is, is nowhere surpassed. With deep insight, impeccable logic and painstaking care he has mentally traced the results which flow according to which source is "pumped" by taxation. Most of his writings—and the present pamphlet is no exception—are undertaken with an earnest desire to help others to see and understand this basic issue. With good cause, he is scornful of the inept and distorted teaching of the economics of taxation in American colleges and universities.

Preoccupation with *taxes* rather than with *sources* is, in Mr. Alper's view, the most harmful of all economic errors. It causes endless squabbling and squawking by both capital-owners and labour (who have common basic interests in taxation) and keeps people in a continuing state of excitement about schemes that stir up but do nothing to remove the tax mess.

The "title roles" in the present pamphlet are "played" by Mr. Joseph S. Thompson, president of the Federal Pacific Electric Company, of San Francisco, and Dr. H. L. Lutz, adviser to the Tax Committee of the National Association of Manufacturers. They gave conflicting advice to the N.A.M. Mr. Thompson (as he told in L&L last July) proposed that the Government should derive its income from a single source, the rent of land. Dr. Lutz, while admitting that government costs too much, urged that "the proper way to cover this is by spreading the tax burden across the board instead of seeking to concentrate it at one point." In his pamphlet, Noah Alper shows how in principle the "taxing across the board doctrine is strictly in line with the proposals contained in the *Communist Manifesto*," although he exonerates Dr. Lutz and other college professors from consciously advocating communism.

(FROM JUNE, 1958 ISSUE, LAND & LIBERTY, ENGLAND)

The Public Revenue Education Council is a non-profit, non-political institution chartered by the State of Missouri and is supported by voluntary contributions. It seems to reveal the effects of the use of wrong and unnatural sources of public revenue on individuals, on society, and on freedom. (A natural source of public revenue is one which, because of its origin and nature, is NOT naturally private.)

The Public Revenue Education Council shows the utter futility of using law-made "taxes" as a background for teaching citizens how to achieve justice and prosperity by a sound economic and moral public revenue source. It shows that the result of our present tax-education plan and our present tax-structure based on such education, is to make it harder — when it could be made easier — for people to secure food, clothing, shelter, the the entertaining and cultural values of living, and security by their own efforts. It shows how the use of "wrong-source" revenue to support government is a big factor in causing war and preventing peace.

Inquiries from people who seek a better way of support of government and of life are invited. Since it is supported solely by voluntary contributions these are invited. Contributions are exempt from the Federal income tax under the provision of section 101 (5) of the Internal Revenue Code.

NOAH D. ALPER, President
Public Revenue Education Council
Room 308 — 705 Olive St. — St. Louis 1, Mo.
Phone: Chestnut 1-4350

(Note: In the above letter it is said: "Some 120 California irrigation districts pay all district costs by land-value taxation exclusively." Rent of land is the only source of revenue of these districts on property. Some have incomes from sale of xxxxx and water fees.)

power