

The Bargyle



"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

#106

NOVEMBER 1966

THANKSGIVING

Tuesday November 15th

"Over the river and through the wood,
To grandfather's house we go:
The horse knows the way to carry the sleigh
Through the white and drifted snow."
Lydia Maria Child

"A Time To Give Thanks" -- One day at Plymouth Colony something happened that ought to be enshrined in the memory of every American citizen generation after generation AND so began our economic system based on private ownership of property and individual responsibility."

Coast Federal Savings
Los Angeles, Calif.

Happy Thanksgiving to all readers of THE GARGOYLE.

WORTH THINKING ABOUT

A knowledge of human nature is basic to the understanding of economics, management, government, education, law, criminology and other aspects of individual and organizational behavior. More and more in the twentieth century we have placed our emphasis on the scientific and technical and taken the fundamental rules of behavior for granted. What should be an important part of education, the study of human nature, behavior and motivation is badly neglected. There is A BEHAVIOR GAP. Our society does not insure that each individual is exposed to adequate education in the fundamentals of behavior. Delegating this aspect of education solely to the parent is not the American tradition. In our early history professional educators gave significant emphasis to the study of ethics, morals, philosophy, self-discipline, etc. There is a need to place the fourth "R" -- the direct and systematic teaching of behavior and RESPONSIBILITY -- back in professional education.

THOMAS JEFFERSON RESEARCH CENTER

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This is the third Tuesday, but the Afternoon Group will meet then, due to the second Tuesday being Election Day. The topic for discussion -- "CIVIL WRONGS" -- Also, "THE CHALLENGE" an award-winning film featuring a frank appraisal of basic attitudes in today's business world. Public invited -- 2 p.m.

Evening, Tuesday Dec. 13th

RECEPTION -- at Newark Headquarters for Fall Term Graduates. Interesting program at eight. Refreshments -- social time. Come out and greet old friends and make new acquaintances. All invited!

LAND REFORM?

The land in Peru is still owned by a handful of people, but a movement among the peasants bids fair to bring this condition to an end, probably with violent repercussions.

In 1963 the Hacienda Alogolan comprising a mere 800,000 acres --- roughly the size of Rhode Island --- owned by the Fernandez family was invaded by thousands of Indian families. In the subsequent guerilla warfare many died, as more land seizures occurred. So serious was the situation that two years ago a new land reform law was passed. But as is typical of politics, in attempting to appease both the peasants and the landlords, the new law was a hodge-podge.

It created a bureau, Oficina Nacional de la Reforma Agraria (ONRA) which had the task of dividing up land among the serfs. It was given practically no money to do this and has not been overly energetic.

At the same time, the peasants have had a renaissance on life. They are building roads themselves as well as schools and the impact of western civilization has been having quite a dramatic effect. They know more now. They are becoming more radical and many are migrating to the cities.

But nothing much seems to be done with the land. Landholdings are either too big or too small. A thousand proprietors --- less than 1% of the population --- own 28% of the land in crops and 83% of the pastures, while 878,000 farmers (83% of the total) work plots of less than four acres. The Indian peasant's family cash income is between \$100 and \$500.

A crisis developed when ONRA tried to expropriate Cerro de Pasco's property. This company is U.S. owned, and said to be efficiently run, which would have qualified it for exemption under the land reform law. Whether as a result of this attempted seizure, or merely as a coincidence, the budget of ONRA was cut severely, making it more difficult than ever to institute land reforms.

Tensions are at fever pitch. The peasants want land, and, of course, the landlords are trying to salvage as much as they can.

In some areas provisional land titles have been given to thousands of hacendados, but these have no negotiable value. It is said that agrarian reform in Peru is about as bad as has been the case in other Latin American countries --- involved in so much politicking and argument that nothing much is accomplished.

Of course, merely dividing up the land among the peasants will not solve their real problems. It will make conditions a little better for many of them, but

that is about all. It is becoming evident that a fundamental rethinking is necessary for future land policies to prevent social disorder and conflict. In Peru, they hope by creating new farmland thru irrigation and opening jungle fringes in the Amazon basin by the establishment of roads that they will induce the peasants to migrate there and not bother fighting over the land in the highlands.

Such is not a solution, however --- it is merely a palliative. The country should tax the value of the land and stop trying to cut the land up or to tell peasants how to run these little plots. But, here, of course, you are up against a tremendous educational and political problem. First to educate the people as to the wisdom of this approach and then to implement it with the necessary legislation.

All of which merely proves that everyone interested in the subject knows, and that is, something so fundamental as man's system of land tenure will not be changed overnight and will take years of work, education and sacrifice.

But the fight to make land freely available to all mankind is one of the noblest of them all.

SENSE AND NONSENSE

Brazil is at it again trying to start a new coffee controls program and looking for long term support from the U.S. She's worried about coffee surpluses. As the biggest producer she wants to set an example for other producers. She expects to destroy 300 million coffee trees in the next two years. Nothing startling new about that. Brazil and other countries have burned coffee trees before. But the new gimmick is that they are not merely going to burn "marginal" trees, but they are going to burn good quality producers. And where the trees now stand will be planted other crops, as corn, rice, citrus fruits and bananas. The target is to slash production to 24 million bags a year by mid-1968 to meet its quota under international agreement plus domestic demand.

Sounds funny to read about this. At the very moment when the over-population fanatics are crying out that we cannot produce enough to feed the peoples of the world, Brazil wants to destroy an important food product.

Of course, the question is will other producing countries do it also? The answer is obvious - No! They may render lip service; may pretend they will, and one or two countries may even be foolish enough to follow suit, but others won't. And some countries which do not produce coffee will be induced to get into the business, as has happened before. plan will fail as it should.

But what is the United States doing in all this? We don't produce coffee. We're

would result from the new assessments. Whelan said "In Jersey City homeowners will have to come up with \$4 million additional in tax revenue next year under the new assessment schedule, even if the budget remains stable. He said the average homeowner will see his tax bill jump \$150. If the tax board order is followed.

Whelan is to be congratulated upon his effort to benefit the homeowner. It appears to me that he is headed in the right direction and perhaps a little bit is all that can be obtained at a time, That's Government and Politics, as we have it.

THE LABOR OF OTHERS

Every permanent improvement of the soil, every railway and road, every bettering of the general condition of society, Every facility given for production, every stimulus supplied to consumption, raises rent. The landowner sleeps but thrives. He alone, among the recipients in the distribution of products, owes everything to the labor of others, contributes nothing of his own. He inherits part of the fruits of present industry and has appropriated the lion's share of accumulated intelligence. - Thorold Rogers, "Manual of Political Economy."

From - PROGRESS - Australia 6/1966

One money-raising gimmick in Eastern Europe is a tax on hitch-hiking. Poland started it. A would-be thumbler buys a license(\$6. for 2500 miles), plus a batch of coupons which he gives to drivers, who use them to enter a national lottery.

- NEWSWEEK

"When one condemns the process of a free market, as he does when he endorses any form of price control, he is invalidating the rights of either buyer or seller."

F.A.Harper

New Jersey recently approved legislation establishing a wholesale liquor price. For a long time it has controlled retail prices. Free market???

The Pelican Publishing Company published WIDE ECONOMIC EXPANSION NOW A MUST".

By William F. Clement. In publicity for this publication they stated: "Times change - with coming of the "atomic age" and we must change with them - or, possibly - meet the fate of previous civilizations. Perry Prentice, one of the top editors of TIME, LIFE, FORTUNE says-- "It is nonsense to say that Henry George is out of date. The fact is that he was so far ahead of his time that the full importance of what he preached is just beginning to be felt....So the moral case for taxing away the owners unearned increment in the price of land is far, far stronger than it was during George's life. Each passing week brings new evidence that the time is drawing near for these great ideas."

RHODESIA (Zimbabwe)

Land apportionment: Fewer than 5,000 white farms - cover 36% of the entire country (250,000 whites) Tribal reserves cover 41% of the country 2,200,000 people African.

Africans with only a few acres count themselves lucky, for there are some 100,000 landless families in the reserves who live the most meager existence. All of the land was ours (African) originally. We never sold it to the white settlers - they just took it. Under a treaty made with the chief of the tribe, Cecil Rhodes received only the right to prospect for gold and other minerals. But the settlers soon started to take land for farms. This was protested to Queen Victoria - ignored. Men with spears were no match for men with guns.

Readers Digest - Oct. 1966

SALT OF THE EARTH

Daftynitions: Optimist: A man who spends his last dollar to buy a money-belt.

Ideal mate: An army man. He can cook, make beds, is in good health -- and is used to taking orders.

Pedestrian: A man who didn't think the family needed two cars.

Know the difference between an optimist and a pessimist? An optimist is one who expects to make a lot of money, but becomes a pessimist after taxes.

Diplomat: A man who won't tell you, you have a hole in your head. He'll say you have an open mind.

Pastor(before the offering) "And now, brethren, let us all give in accordance with what we reported on Form 1040."

The optimist claims that we live in the best of all possible worlds, and the pessimist fears this is true.

Modern martyr: One who drinks to everyone's health until he ruins his own.

One of the great advantages politicians have found in drafting 19 year old boys is that they are too young to vote against. them.

TAG LINES

Nothing is ever lost by courtesy.

No two children are alike--especially if one is yours and the other isn't.

One of the greatest gifts we can give to others is a good example.

One of the nice things about Mother Nature is the way she blushes before disrobing.

Overweight is the result of exceeding the feed limit.

Some people believe that criticism is more blessed to give than to receive.

Sometimes people who look down on others are living on a bluff.

Sons who want to follow in their father's footsteps shouldn't wear loafers.

the greatest consumers. We're already crying about high prices of goods, yet we give encouragement to a scheme which, if successful, could only mean higher prices for coffee for us.

Isn't 15¢ enough to pay for a cup of coffee worth 5¢?

Do you know the difference between neurotics, psychopaths and psychiatrists? The neurotic builds castles in the air, the psychopath lives in them, and the psychiatrist collects the rent.

Do you know what should be practiced to excess? Moderation.

Is competition good for us? Here's what one businessman says: "My competitors help me more than my friends. My friends are much too polite to point out my weaknesses, but my competitors go to great expense to advertise them. My competitors are efficient, diligent and attentive. They force me to seek ways and improve my product and service. My competitors would take my business away from me if they could. This keeps me alert to hold on to what I have. If it were not for competitors, I would be lazy, incompetent, inattentive. I need the discipline they force upon me. I salute them. They have been good to me. God Bless Them All."

You're on the road to success when you realize failure is merely a detour.

Have you noticed the rash of banks that have been failing? To date seven have gone under, including the \$113 million Public Bank of Detroit, versus five in 1965. Not only banks but finance companies have been getting into trouble, the latest one being the Pioneer Finance Co. of Detroit. These are just straws in the wind. When a nation indulges in living off credit to the extent we have in the U.S., sooner or later the piper must be paid, and it looks like the time is closer at hand than many dreamed possible only a short time ago.

Election jitters: The British have a tough time deciding whether to hold an election. The French aren't always certain whether they've had one, and the Americans are positive about having them every two years and are often sorry that they did.

Oscar B. Johannsen

BLUE BIRD LETTERS

For many years we have been receiving these letters sent out by E.R. Greenlee of Muncie, Indiana. While the topics which it contains are pithy, we cannot reprint many in THE GARGOYLE. However, some "gems" such as "history is strewn with dishonored alliances" and "no matter how wise and restrained the U.S. A. makes its policies, they may not restrain others from fatal actions." are certainly worth repeating.

OBSERVATIONS

Of course most people must first of all be concerned with earning a living. Many find it difficult "making ends meet." However, even some of those who do not, not only contribute of their time, but also of their meager earnings in an effort to do something for their less fortunate fellow human beings.

It seems to me such time and funds might be roughly classified into short and long term categories. In other words some of time, effort and money is allotted to immediate assistance directly or indirectly. This perhaps is not only necessary but to a certain extent "good" and it is not my purpose to criticize or condemn such action. By way of illustration, one can directly aid needy individuals or contribute to organizations which do so.

But, if one wishes to devote time and money to the Henry George School, he may be assured that such donations are devoted to informing persons of the "cause of conditions" and suggestions as to a remedy which produces greater and lasting results.

Many organizations spring up to combat a situation such as the State Committee for Repeal of Sales Tax, or the Citizen's Committee Opposed to New Taxes - flourish at the start, and may do that which they set out to do, or may not; but generally these groups peter out in a comparatively short time. Like Tennyson's Brook - the H.G.S. goes on and on - not forever, we hope; for we hope the time will come when its purpose will have been fulfilled.

In April this year, Thomas J. Whelan, Mayor of Jersey City proposed a revision of New Jersey's tax laws so that cities may grant financial incentives to homeowners making major repairs and improvements to their properties. He suggested cities be given permission to grant limited tax exemptions to homeowners - say for 3 years or until the property is sold.

In October, Whelan hosted a conference of a group of Hudson County mayors who are under orders to assess all real property at 100% as the State Constitution provides. The conference is reported to have been called to discuss ways to avoid the effect of the order. They have tentatively supported a proposed Constitutional amendment drawn up to allow towns to assess residential property at a different ratio than commercial property.

Whelan said the establishment of the 100% assessment in Hudson County "will be a catastrophe." Hudson is 75% industrial and 25% residential and "a large shift of the tax burden from the commercial taxpayer to the homeowner