

The Plaque



"A throat, mouthpiece,
a poet." Opinions ex-
pressed herein are those
of the writers and not
necessarily endorsed by
the Henry George School.

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY

Issue #165

N O V E M B E R 1972

Dr. Esty, Past President of Henry George School
By: Arnold Kleiner

As our President, we all can say,
For Twenty Two Years, you served in an excellent way.
Seldom is it realized, the work that must be done
But as our President, you made sure it was begun.

Our meetings were lively by the stories you told,
By the reams and reams of knowledge you did unfold.
Your smile and unpretentious way, made all feel at home,
When you told of your travels, we too felt we'd like to roam.

You've been the kind of President, each one likes so much,
You always seemed to have that certain kind of touch
That told us what need be done and how it would come out,
For your lectures around the world, made you know what it was about.

Our school, we know you'll have at heart
You've had it from the very start,
So to future meetings we know you'll come
For your interest and knowledge will help everyone.

Your life now, you want to be of ease,
"It's my wife", you said, "I want to please."
May you both have pleasure wherever you go
And may your lives be ever aglow.

The time has come to present to you
This Plaque, you earned and is your due.
The inscription on it is there to tell
As our President, you served so well.

This poem was read to a large audience which included persons from the Henry George School of N.J., people from Philadelphia, New York, Arden and Wilmington, Delaware and our host Free Acre Folk, at Frank Stephens Hall, Free Acres, N.J., Sunday afternoon, October 22nd. Free Acres was the fourth to be formed in the United States, and the third of the Single Tax Enclaves which continues to exist. Fairhope, Alabama was the first, Arden, Delaware, second and Tahano, Mass., no longer operating was third. Stephens Hall was named for one of founders of Arden, Free Acres also has "Henry George Commons."

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50 Washington Terrace,
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East Orange, N.J.
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HENRY GEORGE INSTITUTE, INC.
55 W. 42ND ST., R. 452 A
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036

AIMLESS AMERICA

Recently, The Wall Street Journal made a survey of the United States and came up with the conclusion that there is an increasing tendency on the part of the people, whether rich, poor, young or old, to turn inward, to be moody and introspective. Inflation, race problems, crime and lack of opportunity apparently are causing people to take a "what the devil may care" attitude and become involved largely with personal problems, rather than grand causes.

Surprisingly, this seems also to be true on the campuses. The young instead of displaying the militancy so evident only a few years ago, are now indifferent, if not apathetic.

Many adults feel they are more or less prisoners of their jobs. Incentive to work hard simply does not exist as there are relatively few positions at a higher level to which they could aspire.

All of this led to the conclusion that the most apt description of the country today is "Aimless America".

If this is so, if this is not merely a passing fancy which will change when some crisis erupts, it is a sad commentary of the land which held so much promise in the 19th Century.

Yet, in a sense, it is not unexpected. As long as land is privately owned, the tendency will exist for the division between the rich and the poor to widen. While a few of the rich will make excellent use of their superior opportunities, many of them will be bored with the lack of necessity for constructive effort.

For the rest of the people, they find themselves confronted with bigger and bigger organizations. The government is getting ever bigger with sprawling bureaucracies which it is increasingly frustrating to deal with.

Not only does everything seem to be getting more expensive but the service is deteriorating. Industries which are regulated, as the railroads and bus companies are either going bankrupt or obviously will shortly, so the state and federal government are either taking them over or becoming involved in their operation in one way or another.

The companies which are surviving as private enterprises have governmental control in the form of wage and price controls. With profits restricted by the controls what is the incentive to be efficient? Those companies which will probably manage

to exist will almost certainly have some monopoly, particularly the land monopoly, and they are tending to get bigger and bigger, despite all the government's efforts to reduce their size.

With fewer companies, there are fewer worthwhile positions. In a truly competitive society, there would be millions of small companies doing a very efficient job with lots of opportunity for advancement. This would tend to create a much happier type of person as he feels he is doing something constructive and at the same time can look forward to recognition by his peers through promotions or some form of remuneration attesting to the contributions he is making.

America is still so dynamic, however, that it does seem that it is a bit premature to say that it is aimless. Possibly what The Wall Street Journal detected might be the first signs of a deterioration, which unless changed will truly mean that America's outlook is aimless.

America has such a large proportion of people who have been subjected to at least some education that no one can predict what will happen if large percentage of the people feel frustrated and that their lives have little or no meaning. Instead of merely sitting back supinely, they may become violent, insisting on some change. But, of course, they will not know what changes should be made.

It is at this point where Georgists may have their best opportunity to get a hearing. At the present time, little or no attention is paid to us. It is true, that land value taxation is gaining increasing acceptance, but much of this is based on an attempt to set up a better system of taxation. There is little or no recognition that land value taxation is an expedient which if applied 100% has an excellent chance of creating conditions in which opportunities will outnumber people seeking such opportunities. If such occurs, the whole outlook of people will change. Instead of being aimless, people will have as many aims as there are people.

Until that time occurs, what we must do is to educate ourselves as well as we can and as many as show an interest in our work.

Oscar B. Johannsen

d THIRD THURSDAY DISCUSSION

East Orange Headquarters, Nov. 16 8pm
Stewart D. Woolley, Moderator - come and bring a couple of friends. Lively discussion promised!

John Monroe loaned us a copy of THE FREEMAN - A Monthly Critical Journal of Social and Economic Affairs - published by The Freeman Corp. 30 East 29th St., New York, N.Y., C.O. Steele, Editor; dated July 1943.

Below some quotations from this issue:

THE ANSWER - "What Must We Do To Improve the Health and Well-Being of the American People?" Such was the question broadcast on the "Town Hall of the Air" program. Listeners were invited to write answers, the winning papers to be given due recognition and be printed. The article by GEORGE RUSBY was submitted. Needless to say it was NOT one of the winners; it was far too simple and too sensible.

George L. Rusby is one of the most distinguished of the "elder statesmen" of Georgism today. His activities in behalf of economic freedom date back to the nineties, when Henry George was still alive. He was one of the early members of the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation, a supporter of the National Single Tax League, of the Fels Fund, the Manhattan Single Tax Club, the Henry George Lecture Bureau, the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation and numerous similar organizations. His booklet, "Smaller Profits, Reduced Salaries and Lower Wages; The Condition, The Cause, The Cure," published in 1900 has been translated into several languages. More than 100,000 copies have been sold. He is the co-author, with his wife, Dr. Elizabeth Bowen, of the current number one work of its kind, "Economics Simplified." Likewise with Dr. Bowen, he was the founder of the New Jersey Branch of the Henry George School of Social Science.

Another Article - "It's Like This About Monopolies: Reformers, both the phony variety and the real thing are prone to prate about the evils of monopoly. More often than not, however they are a little hazy on the subject and it is seldom that one takes an unequivocal position on the question; Is Monopoly itself an evil? ALEXANDER M. GOLDFINGER, Newark lawyer answers.

Mr. Goldfinger, as assistant to Dr. Elizabeth Bowen and George L. Rusby, was active in the founding of the Henry George School of Social Science of New Jersey a number of years ago, since when he has been a member of the faculty of that live-wire institution for adult education. He boasts of "an understanding" wife who does not object too strenuously to being a "Georgist widow", and a son, 10, who doesn't understand why Henry George is not pictured in his history books along with Geo. Washington.

This issue of THE FREEMAN contained articles by Stephen Bell, John Harrington, Henry Ware Allen, Henry Thorsten Tideman. There was a book review of book by Jerry Voorhis by Gilbert M. Tucker. Dorothy Sara reported on "Speakers Bureau", brief letters from J. Rupert Mason, Sanford Parkas and Una E. Miller. And there was mention of Georgist in service, Corporal N.D. Alper, Battery "F" 263 Coast Artillery, Fort Moultrieville, S.C. That was quite a publication - the old FREEMAN.

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From today's - "the FREEMAN" - ideas on Liberty = published by Foundation for Economic Education, Irvington-on-Hudson, New York: August 1972 issue, page 470: "Whoever could make two ears of corn, or two blades of grass, to grow upon a spot of ground where only one grew before, would deserve better of mankind, and do more essential service to his country than the whole race of politicians put together."

Jonathan Swift

Well, maybe, but how about this: "that for every blade of grass that now grows two should spring up, and the seed that now increases fifty fold should increase a hundredfold! Would poverty be abated or want relieved? Manifestly not! Whatever benefit would accrue would be but temporary....the classes that now monopolize the bounty of the Creator would monopolize all the new bounty. Landowners would alone be benefited. Rents would increase."

Henry George

PROGRESS & POVERTY - page 550

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And from Henry Ware Allen:

"Market values are immutable sacrosanct. Governments have no right to interfere with market prices. Doing so always brings injustice and disaster. If market prices are arbitrarily lowered, the producer is robbed. If they are raised, the consumer is robbed. And this is of course, true when applied to salaries wages, prices and rentals.

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Deficit spending is trying to get out of a hold by making it bigger.

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"Any problem, however complex, should be tackled by reference to causes and not effects; it should be borne in mind that remedies than run contrary to fundamental principles and natural laws will always have undesirable results."

Ray Linley

Principles and Expediency

ESSRA - Spring 1972

The only handout I want is - the government's hand out of my pocket,

SENSE & NONSENSE

President Amin of Uganda is expelling 80,000 Asians from Uganda. Since they represent 90% of Uganda's commerce, and nearly 80% of its doctors, lawyers and teachers, this will represent a severe blow to its economy. But the actions of politicians and common sense have no necessary connection.

The world is shocked at this cold-blooded ruthlessness toward people whose only crime is that they are working to make a living. But this shock is brought on only because the action is so obvious and occurs over a short time span. The world should be even more shocked over the immigration laws of all nations. After all, what are they but a denial to people to make a living in a particular part of the world. However, this is done quietly, over a long period of time, so no one notices it.

We, in America, are particularly shocked, but have we torn down our immigration barriers to let these people in? As long as these barriers exist, do we have the right to condemn Amin?

* * * * *

The President promises not to increase taxes next year if Congress does not increase spending. This brings to mind that only 59 years ago the 16th Amendment, the Income Tax Amendment was ratified. Those who opposed it were assured that it would not hurt, for it was inconceivable that the tax on incomes would ever go over 2%!

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Good times is the period when you accumulate debts you're unable to pay in bad times.

* * * * *

The United Nations was established for the purpose of trying to establish peace throughout the world. Apparently, it acquired quite a few other functions along the way. The latest one is to create noncountries.

Taiwan is no longer a member of the United Nations. At the insistence of Communist China, the Under Secretary General for legal affairs of the United Nations ruled that any document or publication compiled by the Secretariat is forbidden to make any separate mention of Taiwan in any form whatsoever.

This apparently means that the U.N. records will be wrong. If it lists the number of countries in the world, for example, it will simply have to leave Taiwan out, not to mention such statistics as the goods it produces the number of people, etc. Taiwan still exists, but not according to any records of the U.N.

The irony of it all is that Taiwan has a population of 13.5 million. This is greater than the population of two-thirds of the UN member states. It has a better economy than three-quarters of the UN membership and its trade makes that of most of the UN countries puny by comparison.

George Orwell's world of nonpersons nonevents and noncountries is coming true before our eyes. And this is all done by people who are presumably rational, intelligent and sensible. But where statism--communist, fascist or otherwise--enters, common sense flies out the window.

* * * * *

Ernest Hemingway once made a sage observation: "The first panacea for a mismanaged nation is inflation of the currency, the second is war. Both bring a temporary prosperity, both bring a permanent ruin."

SALT OF THE EARTH

Do you know why a new-born baby cries?

Because, he's naked, he's hungry and he already owes the government \$6,000.

Radio announcer: The following is a paid political announcement and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of anyone in his right mind.

Do you know who hit Joe Louis, the great boxing champ, the hardest?

It was Uncle Sam.

Politics has been defined as a strife of interests disguised as a battle of principles.

Want to know the secret of how to be perpetually young? Lie about your age.

Sign over restaurant cash register: "Don't ask for credit, you knew yesterday you would have to eat today."

Sign in appliance store: "Don't kill your wife. Let our washing machine do the dirty work".

The student today who walks two blocks to school simply cannot find a parking space.

Do you know why they lowered the voting age to 18? Well, if you're old enough to see the kind of movies made today, you're old enough to vote.

No man goes before his time, unless the boss leaves early.

What is a G E M O T E ?

Inquire of Henry George School of N.J. headquarters East Orange.