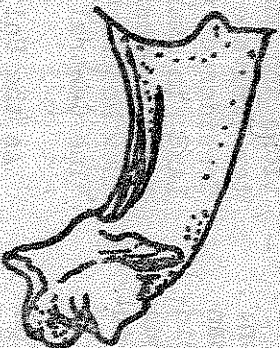


The People



"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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"Winter soon will be at our door
Leaves and branches drop to the
earth's floor
Snowfall soon will fill the air
Ice-covered roads will soon be
there."

Arnold Kleiner

Everybody wants to eat at the government's
table, but nobody wants to do the dishes.

Werner Fink, quoted in
Wieshert Traojenweise, Klug Satze von
Kengen Lenten (Goldman)

Collective bargaining is a false god,
just as economic planning is a false god.

A museum in Deadwood, S.D., displays
this inscription left by a beleaguered
prospector: I lost my gun. I lost my
horse. I am out of food. The Indians
are after me. But I've got all the
gold I can carry.

Bill Gold in Washington Post
Readers's Digest - June 1973

Trouble Breeders, Noah must have taken
into the ark two texes, one a male and
one female. And they multiply beauti-
fully! Next to the guinea pigs, taxes
have been the most prolific animals.

Will Rogers

James C. Garson - BLUE BIRD LETTER

With Russia and ourselves at opposite poles as regards titles to land and to capital might not it prove worth our while to consider the practicality of each giving up part of the desired ideal in order to meet on a common ground, i.e.: that we relinquish our view that this earth is private property in favor of the old Scriptural view that this earth belongs to God and the fruit of this earth belongs to all men, i.e.: that the full value which attaches to this earth by reason of the presence of each and every one of us shall be collected in full by the State; that, on the other hand, Russia relinquish her view that capital is State property and restore the tools of wealth production to private ownership; that both nations agree all taxes be lifted on the fruits of a man's industry and all State revenue be drawn from the community-created value of the earth. The understanding to be that after a period of trial, should the compromise prove not successful, Russia be free to resume ownership of capital and we be free to resume our present system of taxation which, even now, evinces strong signs of confiscating all capital for the State.

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55 W. 42ND ST., RM. 462 A
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036

Jack Tetley

TIME, Oct. 1, 1973 - Special Section: The economic and social use that man makes of the land is changing as rapidly as anything in America. An enormous and disruptive land-boom is grossly inflating prices.

Chrysler Corp. has invested \$89 million in real estate, General Electric has shifted 15% of its \$3 billion pension fund into real estate. Other big players: ITT, DuPont and U. S. Steel.

Real Estate Investment Trusts admit they may trade the same property several times marking up its price each time operating on the "one more idiot" theory. An investor may know he is paying too much for the land but the purchase is justified because there will always be "one more idiot" to buy at an even higher price.

Food prices are jacked up by the land boom in two ways. The rising price of farm land is reflected directly in the cost of the crops. The land boom also turns farm land into lots for housing, roads and stores thus removing it from food production while demand for food keeps growing. In some areas the land surge practically forces farmers to sell out. How long can the land boom last? There is nothing in site to stop it.

Popular language is filled with phrases expressing a subliminal yearning for the soil; down to earth, salt of the earth, lay of the land, landed gentry.

America has about 7% of the world's land, but only about 5.6% of its population. Little of the nation's surface is inhabited; nearly 3/4 of the population lives on 1.5% of the land.

The U.S. is not running out of land. Close to half of the country's 2.3 billion acres surface is still taken up by farm and pasture land. More than 1/3 of the land is owned by the biggest single holder; the government. The bulk of this consists of timberlands, national parks, grazing land and military preserves in Alaska and the far West.

The local property tax also feeds speculation. Since vacant land is usually taxed at lower values than developed U.S. owners have an incentive to hoard property rather than put it to productive use, thus artificially restricts land supply and drives up prices.

"AMERICA AT THE CROSSROADS"

aston Haxo has done a very fine job with critical examination of our system of land tenure and how it affects our democracy and its chances of survival."

course this is "Henry George philosophy" Haxo's 46 page booklet restates the "land system" in present day language.

in Chapter I (17 pages) then supplements the presentation with five pages of "questions and answers". Following is a chapter "Private Property in Land Historically Considered" and Chapter III "Property in Land in America". Chapters IV and V are largely excerpted from PROGRESS & POVERTY. "How Modern Civilization May Decline" and "The Central Truth".

As the United States approaches its 200th anniversary, Haxo suggests an amendment to the Constitution providing a change in land tenure system which will go past the roads on either side - Communism and Fascism and lead on the road straight ahead to the goal of Liberty.

Not only is this pamphlet good reading for Georgists, it is a fine piece of literature to hand to the uninitiated.

Jack Tetley

The publication may be obtained for \$1.00 (plus 12¢ postage if you wish to include it) from the author, Gaston Haxo, 250-58th St., Box 908, St. Petersburg, Fla. 33710

Just Politics

If you are not clear how that politician got elected last year, let me explain it to you. He learned that there are more people belonging to minority groups than to majority groups. He realized that as majority of the minorities would have a plurality over a minority of the majority of the majorities, so he went after the minority vote and won a majority. Clear?

"- or -"

"I used to be poor" said a tattered old man. "But the bureaucrats decided that I was 'needy'. Later on, they called me 'indigent.' From that I became 'underprivileged,' then 'deprived' and now I'm 'disadvantaged.' I'm no better off than I ever was--except that I've got a lot bigger vocabulary."

THE GEORGIST JOURNAL

A new quarterly, an International Journal serving the movement for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade Based on the Philosophy of Henry George. In issue No. 1 Oct. 1973, edited by Robert Clancy - Comment: This first issue of THE GEORGIST JOURNAL supersedes the periodicals of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade (IU Newsletter) and of the Henry George Institute (HGI Journal). It will continue the work of those two papers and be distributed to members of both organizations. Address: Rm. 462 A 55 W. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036. Interested persons are invited to join the International Union - annual dues \$2.50; also the Henry George Institute, annual dues \$10. Reports and communications are welcome.

"Truth is not only violated by falsehood; it may be equally outraged by silence."

Henri Frederick Amiel

"One of our customers said he was sending us in order by U.S. Snail."

Oben Current Comedy R.D. July 73

The United States and the Western World are facing shortages for the first time since WW II. Judging by the newspaper reports the shortages are primarily due to the Middle East War in the case of petroleum and the Communist countries in the case of food, particularly grain.

As is to be expected in this day and age, those who really are responsible for the shortages--the politicians and bureaucrats--are busy erecting a whole new bundle of red tape designed to make matters worse.

The Arab countries are not responsible for the oil crisis in America. They merely brought to a head the evolving problem of shortages of oil. It is the federal government, aided and abetted by the state governments, that are the true causes why we face unheated homes and gasoline shortages.

This is not to condone the oil producers. As is usually the case, in the past, they have pressured the state and federal governments for restrictions on production in order to reduce competition and raise prices. They obtained import quotas and had restrictive legislation passed such as the pro-rating systems of Texas and Louisiana. This was a device whereby production of oil was restricted (under the guise of conservation) in order to maintain prices.

But the politicians did not have to pass the legislation to please these oil producers. They did it, of course, because producers are tightly organized groups seeking special favors and opposed to them are the consumers who are not organized and don't even know that these special favors are being asked and given.

Here is a partial list of the real reasons for the energy crisis.

Natural gas: The price of natural gas was kept down at the wellhead. This discouraged exploration. At the same time, the artificially low price encouraged consumption by people and industries who otherwise would have used other energy forms.

Coal: Under pressure from environmental zealots, the use of coal with sulfur content was banned. This restricted supply. In addition, restrict strip mining and impose drastically new safety regulations further reducing supply. At the same time, freeze prices which reduces incentives to increase capital for the production of coal.

Gasoline: Increase consumption by imposing pollution controls on cars. Ban the use of oil with sulfur content. Impose new pollution objectives which make new refineries very expensive, and also be so vague and come up with so many conflicting environmental rules, that no refineries are built for no one knows if they will meet the pollution rules of the

bureaucrats. Block the Alaska North Slope oil development by interminable environmental arguments over pipelines crossing land inhabited by practically no one. Stop the search for oil off shore in California, the Gulf of Mexico and New Jersey. At the same time, put a ceiling on the price of gasoline, encouraging greater use than necessary.

Atomic power: Put such absurd licensing rules and environmental rules in effect that it takes ten years before a plant comes on streams.

By this time, the solution for the energy crisis would be clear. Get the federal and state governments out of all this regulation. Let the free marketplace operate. If the price of gasoline goes up, people will ration themselves on how much they will drive. But the prices would probably not be too great over the long term, for with a free market and no governmental interferences the oil producers would actively explore and develop new sources of energy for it would pay them.

But what are we facing? Instead of the simple solution of getting the government out of the way so private enterprise can go to work, we are looking down the gun barrel of a gigantic bureaucracy with rationing, corruption and reduction in our freedom to heat our homes as we wish or drive our cars where we want to.

And in 1976 we face the 200th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, which we are supposed to celebrate. But why? The way things are going there will be little freedom to celebrate. It will be Orwell's "1984" eight years ahead of time.

Fortunately for man, he has a sense of humor. If it were not for that, to watch the silly antics he indulges in would drive himself crazy. So, instead of getting angry at the politicians and bureaucrats, do your best to straighten them out, but if they don't respond smile a bit wryly. After all Christmas is at hand and we all want to have a Merry one, despite all our fumbblings.

Merry Christmas!

SENSE & NONSENSE

Pin a rose on Mr. Bruce Helm of Oregon. Singlehanded, he defeated the whole Washington State legislature.

He is only 32, a father of two, who never interested himself in political action, but became aroused when he learned the politicos had voted themselves whopping salary increases without the benefit of public hearings. They did it by tacking the increases on an omnibus budget bill. They voted themselves increases from a salary of \$3600 to \$10,500 for their part time jobs. The Governor's salary was to be increased from \$32,550 to \$47,000, and increases were also to be given to judges and other state officials, all of which were well above the 5.5% in-

creases permitted by the cost of Living Council.

Mr. Helm took time off to go to the State capital and found when he objected that the politicos had thoughtfully closed the only route to redress his objection. They had tacked it on to an "emergency" budget measure, which precluded a referendum. He enlisted the aid of a law firm to challenge this ruling out a referendum by legislative act, but lost in the state supreme court. He had one option left which was to draft a citizens bill, or initiative, and place it on the November ballot. That required 117,000 signatures by July 6, which was only a month away.

Tho he had no funds and no organization, he went ahead. He mentioned his campaign to a Seattle newspaper which published a story, which brought in \$17,000 in small donations. The biggest was \$125. with most of them \$1. to \$10. This enabled him to have petitions printed. He innovated a unique bit of distribution using the Sunday edition of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. 250,000 petitions were inserted in the paper and as it has state-wide distribution it meant they spread all over the state.

In the meantime, as news spread, volunteers by the hundreds came to his home and store to help. Even a skid-row volunteer donated \$10. and turned in a petition with 100 names. Within three weeks, he had garnered 700,000 names, three times higher than the previous record petition.

It was an inspiring example of one man leading thousands of irate citizens against politicians taking good care of themselves, while restricting the citizens to wage controls.

Why this long discourse of the accomplishment? To show what can be done by one man with an issue. He was the only man in Washington State to make an active protest. Had it not been for him the raises would have gone thru.

Georgists are always bemoaning the fact that they are so few. But that isn't important. We have an issue--probably the most vital of any. We are few but if we keep at it, who knows, some day we may hit the raw nerve of the public and they will jump in to help us institute the most vital of all reforms if we wish to establish the Good Society.

The New York Daily News in congratulating Mr. Helm put it quite nicely. "One man can change the world--if he believes in a cause that is just and never gives up."

Maybe YOU are that man!

The energy crisis has caused one commentator of the New York Times to urge the "deroyalization" of the politicians and bureaucrats. (Con't. next column)

Congratulations to Gaston Haxo on his 86th birthday - December 2nd!

Although titles are forbidden in the U.S., and presumably we are all democratic, the politicians and bureaucrats are now the American royalty.

The Governors and Mayors of large cities as New York, are provided with luxurious cars and homes. Status among the politicians and bureaucrats is often determined by the length of car at the disposal of the individual and if it is chauffeur driven. For example, an Asst. Secretary of the army is driven around in a limousine at a cost of probably \$30,000 annually.

The President has probably the most expensive plant in the world at his disposal--Air Force One. No King in the world, living or dead, probably ever lived in the style the President is permitted to if he so desires.

The Federal Government has a half-million vehicles. They tote up three billion miles a year, using up 300 million gallons of gasoline at a cost of \$359 million annually. Some of these are necessary but why 76,000 sedans and 800 limousines? Obviously, to carry our betters -- the royal "public servants."

These public servants are always telling us how many years they have served the public, but they certainly see to it that they are well recompensated for their services. Most of their services consist of getting in the way of private enterprise preventing the true public servants--the businessmen and workers from producing the wealth which our royalty enjoys.

Maybe the energy crisis will help "deroyalize" our public servants and bring them all down to earth, but don't count on it.

SALT OF THE EARTH

Daffynitions: Timid soul: The kind of person who pays postage due charges on his "Occupant" mail.

Ego deflation: Smug control.

Meticulous: Pointing out a spelling error in an office memo.

Nit-picking: When you wrote the memo.

System: A form-filling procedure by which a boss keeps track of all office activity. Red tape: When you're not the boss.

Platitude: A figure of speech that has become trite due to over-usage.

Apt quotation: When it's our figure of speech.

Astronauts are supposed to be very stable mentally. Well, if that is true, why are they all so eager to get back to earth?

The way the world is going these days, if you are offered the world on a silver platter, you'd be better off if you took the platter.

Isn't it true that some people's jobs keep them awake nights? Others have jobs that can't keep them awake days!

It's good to know you're on the right track, but if you sit there too long you might get run over.