

"A throat, mouthpiece, about." 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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O C T O B E R 1977

SO FAR AS WE KNOW, HUMAN NATURE CANNOT BE CHANGED, BUT HUMAN BEHAVIOR CAN BE, AT LEAST TO SOME EXTENT.

CLARENCE B. CARSON

ECONOMICS: Principles and
Policy From A Christian
Perspective - Tom Rose

pective. This to-be-expected failure, in my opinion, causes many rich and meaningful insights to be lost."

A new book, published by Mott Media, Milford, Michigan.

In the Preface, Rose states he has "taught college-level courses in economics with the aid of standard texts produced by secular writers and publishers. While such texts have many strong points, they leave much to be desired. They cannot be expected to treat economics from a Christian perspective."

As may be expected, Tom Rose presents these "insights". The book is most interesting, well written, illustrated and offers thought provoking questions at the conclusion of each chapter.

Rose is a good friend of Noah Alper. The book contains favorable presentation of Land Rent and Henry George.

Jack Tetley

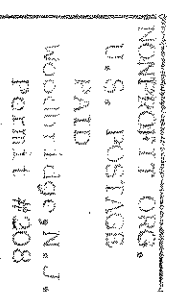
Labor, using capital, produces all wealth; but labor cannot create the materials out of which to produce wealth. It can get what it needs for this purpose only from the land, and then with or without the aid of capital, change its form or location to make it fit some human desire. Labor must have land before it can employ itself. Land held out of use creates an artificial scarcity, and the greater the portion held out, the greater the scarcity. This is why every civilized country exhibits symptoms resembling those of over-population. It is not that a country does not have the resources from which its people could be comfortably supported, but because so many of these resources are held out of use, labor either must work the poorer land, or must pay the high rents land speculators cause, for permission to use the better grades. And as rents increase, labor is forced to give up a larger and larger portion.

-- Bowen and Rusby from
ECONOMICS SIMPLIFIED

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THE BLACKOUT

On July 13th, New York City was once again plunged into darkness as the electrical power supplied by the Consolidated Edison Company was shut off.

This has occurred two or three times within this generation's lifetime, but in the past it was primarily merely a nuisance. As a matter of fact, past blackouts often brought out some of the finest aspects of neighborliness and kindness as the citizens spontaneously joined together to help one another until dawn came or the lights came on.

But this time things were different. There were many instances of strangers helping one another, as in the past, but something also occurred which shocked not only the nation but probably the world. In some of the minority areas, instead of the calamity bringing out the best, it brought out many of the worse aspects of human behavior. Gangs of youths and adults smashed the windows of stores in order to steal whatever was available.

The police, under orders by a vote-seeking Mayor worried about his reelection not to use undue force, were able to cope with the situation. The result was that millions of dollars worth of damage was done and most of this to men and women who were striving to eke out an honest living in retail trade. Most of them were probably ruined for life. Many of the businesses were unable to reopen causing increased unemployment to the very people living in these depressed areas.

All kinds of excuses have been offered. The usual one was that poverty caused this inhumane behavior. But then it was discovered that almost one half of those arrested, had jobs. It was not hunger which drove them for welfare saw to it that no one was starving.

What was it that brought on such actions? The debate over the reasons will no doubt go on almost interminably.

Henry George predicted this in PROGRESS & POVERTY in his chapter on "How Modern Civilization May Decline". "Whence shall come the new barbarians? Go through the squalid quarters of great cities, and you may see, even now, their gathering hordes!...It is a civilization which in its undercurrents have already begun to recede.... It is not from top to bottom that societies die; it is from bottom to top....The civilized world is trembling on the verge of a great movement. Either it must be a leap upward which will open the way to advance yet undreamed of, or it must be a plunge downward which will carry us back to ward barbarism."

The breakdown of moral and spiritual values is obvious for all to see. Our unjust system of land tenure causes involuntary poverty, unemployment, booms and busts. To solve these problems, which were caused by the state permitting the private ownership of land, people look again to the State. It erects a Tower of Babel of welfare agencies, and the dominant note is to get what you can but just don't get caught. As this philosophy permeates society, it is surprising that when a blackout occurs, those who feel they are deprived rush to loot? Everybody else is getting theirs, so why shouldn't we get ours? So, whether you are poor or not is not really the question. It is merely whether your moral and ethical standards have dropped to the point where honorable and decent behavior is stuffy and old-fashioned.

What happened during the blackout is merely symptomatic of what is going on gradually throughout society. The blackout merely was more dramatic. Increasingly, men in high office are being found who have violated often not only the law but the kind of ethical behavior so necessary for a society to grow and expand.

A society made of all thieves cannot survive. A society made up of people dependent on government to solve all their problems cannot survive. Theologians thunder and cry out against the increasing moral and ethical decay but to little avail. The economic cancer of injustice caused by treating the only means men have to live on as though it were private property infects everything. As George said either we extirpate this injustice or our society reverts to barbarism. Then the blackout of July 13, 1977 will be a picnic by comparison.

OSCAR E. JOHANNSEN

FLOYD L. MORROW

Our good friend, long time Georgist and most active in LAND, EQUALITY AND FREEDOM (LEAF) is again running for Councilman in San Diego.

As might be expected, powerful special interests are opposing him. Floyd in his three terms as City Councilman has had opportunity, and taken advantage of it, of educating his associates and the public in the advantages of land value taxation. One Newspaper Editorial put it: "His effectiveness is further reduced by a slavish adherence to an archaic philosophy of land taxation."

Well - what would you expect? Let us hope that Floyd Morrow wins a fourth term and continues to promote that "archaic philosophy". Good luck, Floyd. Incidentally, there is an "Incentive Tax Committee for Re-election of Councilman Morrow working real hard to see he is re-elected."

SENSE & NONSENSE

Now that the Vietnam war is over, the so-called experts in foreign affairs have been waiting for the domino theory to take effect. This theory is predicated on the analogy with a stack of dominoes standing on end. If one is touched, it falls hitting the next one, it in turn hits its neighbor, until all fall down.

It had been expected that if Vietnam fell to the communists, under this theory all the contiguous countries would also suffer its fate. But so far the results have been a disappointment to the adherents to this theory.

In southeast Asia, not only have the countries near Vietnam not fallen under the domination of the communist philosophy, but even Vietnam itself seems to be veering toward the market oriented concepts. Vietnam and Laos are seeking aid from western nations and the non-communist countries in that portion of the world. Not only that but instead of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia joining together under the communist banner, there is growing hostility between Cambodia and Vietnam.

Cambodia has sealed itself off from the outside world in attempting to institute a communistic paradise, but from reports received from refugees, the paradise is turning into one of the worst hells on earth. When it hits bottom no doubt, it too will be forced to follow Vietnam's example and look to the West for aid and direction.

The idea that Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia would join together and spread the communistic ideology throughout the whole of southeast Asia is simply not taking root. Instead each of these countries is more interested in furthering its own economic and national interests, and to do that, with the exception of Cambodia, they find it pays to submerge their communistic ideas and substitute pragmatic considerations, which means trade and contact with the West.

Now that Mao has died, communist China is doing the same. All of which makes one realize how absurd was the whole idea of America trying to force capitalistic concepts on Vietnam via war. All we had to do was leave them alone. Sooner or later, common sense would force them into the capitalist camp, at least to the extent of improving their economies and relations with the West.

It would seem that before American ventures into more foreign involvement that Washington's Farewell Address be read. In it he warned against entangling alliances. Had his advice been kept, many American boys would now be living and our economy would be much better for the attempt to prosecute the war in the Southeast and maintain prosperity at home resulted in the inflation of the dollar which is now undermining our economy.

* * * * *

One of the saddest aspects to be seen in a city as New York is the condition of the Puerto Ricans. About a million of them now live in New York City to which they came seeking a better livelihood than in their home island. Altogether it is estimated that almost two million are spread throughout the nation. They are native born American citizens, as Puerto Rico is a commonwealth of America.

Instead of improving their condition by coming to the mainland, many of them are probably worse off. For the most part, they are on the bottom of the economic scale. Most of the jobs they have are of the menial type, with little chance of advancement. So discouraging have their experiences been that many have returned to their home island. Employment conditions there are no better, but at least they don't have to worry about freezing to death.

As all of us are aware, some of the most desperate ones have resorted to bombing in New York City as a means of getting sentiment to make their island an independent nation. Many Americans, no doubt, would be perfectly happy to give them their independence but the Puerto Ricans would be no better off, and probably worse off. Puerto Rico suffers from the same problem all western nations suffer from. The land, of course, is owned by a relative few, so poverty is endemic. Few if any realize what is wrong. Until it is recognized, the Puerto Ricans are destined to fall into mental, moral and spiritual decay.

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Samuel Johnson once said that poverty is "a great enemy to human happiness; it certainly destroys liberty, and it makes some virtues impracticable, and others extremely difficult."

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If you believe Japan or India is the most heavily populated area in the world you are wrong. The most densely populated area is NEW JERSEY!

HOW OUR FREE SYSTEM CAN FIGHT BACK

Someone has said that the Eighth wonder of the World is the American Economic system....and that the ninth wonder is the American people's ignorance of that system.

Among U.S. business leaders trying to dispel this public ignorance is Richard DeVos, President of the Amway Corporation, one of the world's largest direct selling companies. DeVos believes in selling more than Amway's products; he is also a salesman for the American free enterprise system.

"Today in this country," says DeVoe, "we are in a fight for our lives. Governmental interference has so clouded our sights that many people, including top people in government, have completely forgotten how the free enterprise system works; and if we don't find a way to explain that system in simple English to future generations, we are through as a free people."

But when it comes to the free enterprise system itself, or the business world, or whatever it is popularly called, DeVos finds our selling techniques sadly lacking. "Today, virtually no high school in America has a course on free enterprise economics. Kids coming out of our educational system today have no instruction in our competitive system."

"Quite simply," explains DeVos, "man's material welfare is made up of just three things: natural resources, human energy and tools. The real difference in the success or failure of economic systems, capitalism or socialism, must be in the final part of this formula."

The above is condensed from AMERICA'S FUTURE - Fortnightly Review of News, Books, and Public Affairs, Vol. 19, Number 17, Sept. 9, 1977.

Of course, Georgists will agree with DeVoe to a large extent. We deplore the inadequacy of the teaching of basic economics in our schools and colleges. Many organizations are trying to make up for this and several are doing a good job. It is evident that DeVoe is a student of The American Economic Foundation, who come so close to excellency, but refuse to acknowledge that land (natural resource) differs from man-made products. They expound the theory that all that is needed to solve our economic problem is increase in "tools", ignoring the fact that tools without access to the source of "man's material welfare" is absolutely useless - and that tools themselves come from land. LAND - Natural Resources MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL!

It is this fact that all who grasp the message of Henry George adhere.

SALT of the EARTH

Did you know that a satistician is a person who very carefully collects facts and figures and from them draws any number of confusions?

George Bernard Shaw maintained that the United States and Great Britain are two countries separated by the same language.

A dictatorship is a form of government in which only one pronoun is needed in the language.

Ask husband and he will tell you that a joint checking account is one which permits your wife to beat you to the draw.

Now that summer is over we can all agree that a tourist is a person who travels hundreds of miles in order to get a snapshot of himself standing by his automobile.

A stingy person is one, who no matter how much wealth he has, is always poor.

For the woman gossip, the height of misery is to have no troubles to talk about.

Is it true that a Scotsman is the only golfer who will not hit a golf ball out of sight?

A cynic remarked the other day that political economy is a field of knowledge which has nothing to do with either politics or economy.

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Have you heard of THE GUILD OF ARIADNE?

See next month's GARGOYLE.