

"My original interest in Land Value Taxation grew out of my concern for central city blight. Later I came to realize its many advantages. Study it, Erie needs it badly."

Robert D. Meyer, Engineer,
General Electric Co.
And ELTA Director



WAR ON POVERTY? 9257

A new catch phrase has just come out of Washington. Our president has "declared war on poverty". Suppose we all draw up our chairs and watch. How will he mobilize his forces?

Listen carefully and see if anyone in Washington ever mentions LAND. Don't bet it will happen before you eat again. You will starve to death. Don't offer to "hold the breath" until someone in Washington mentions Land Value Taxation.

To us of the Erie Land Tax Association this is a heartbreaking situation. In recent months we have come into collision with the facts. We know now that poverty will never be dealt a lethal blow until LVT has been applied. It is the primary antidote.

This is how we see it. Poverty is born when men are shut off from land. As long as there was good land to be had for the taking poverty never had a prayer. Production may have been slow but there was no poverty and no indigent class. Everybody worked who wanted to work.

When all the good land was taken up and the landowners and the speculators were able to claim high prices our troubles began. Rents increased, living costs soared and the burdens of taxation grew. Nobody suspected that all this was related to the local policy of taxing real estate. Nobody realized that the lower land is taxed the higher in price land becomes. The land speculators laid the founda-

tions for each successive depression as local governments fell into the practice of taxing everything in sight except land. With this policy of sheer ignorance poverty was born.

Poverty is not something that can be destroyed by the upper echelons of government. It is born back where the local governments establish their tax policies on land.

There is one thing that the leaders in Washington could do. If they only understood the problem in the first place they might launch an educational campaign to make clear the meaning of the phrase, "Collect the publicly created value of land into the public treasury to bear the public expense." When this is understood and done our battle against poverty will have been won.

Because we know these things are so, we say, "Let us stop looking to Washington. We have the right to tax land value here and now. This is the best way to deal with poverty. This alone will raise wages, lower rents, decrease living costs, encourage industry, rebuild our city, wipe out slums, create jobs and keep freedom and opportunity alive."

Give us a chance to prove that we are right. Plan to attend our five week course in Fundamental Economics at the Central Y beginning next Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 7:30. Buy a book worth ten dollars for \$2.00, and the course is yours, "for free".

Call the Y or ELTA for particulars. ELTA, 2217 Peninsula Dr. TE 3-0229.