

letters to the editor

Speculators damaging Colorado's economy

Headlines tell us about intense excitement over numerous grandiose projects that the state administration is planning for Colorado. They include expanded tourism, new Denver and Colorado Springs airports, a massive program of road improvements, a Denver convention complex that Gov. Roy Romer hopes will turn the city and state into an "international center," a superconducting supercollider research facility, numerous military projects and even a German malt plant.

Not only are there bitter controversies between Colorado and other states regarding locations for such projects, but within Colorado, there is feverish argument about

the sites where they might be placed.

Much of the zeal for such developments has nothing to do with improvement of the lot of the general population, much less the interests of national defense, but rather with the opportunity for speculators to enrich themselves from skyrocketing land prices which respond to plans for such projects and to the burgeoning population which results.

Ultimately, the effects of expanding population will be to intensify unemployment, worsen devastation of the environment, and turn the Boulder-Denver-Colorado Springs strip into a humanly intolerable, polluted, crime-ridden

megapolis, a sort of Cleveland of the West.

If the state governor and other political figures genuinely want to improve the economy, they could propose that the taxation of unearned land values replace present taxes on capital and labor. Such a measure would liberate productive elements from burdensome taxation, break the stranglehold that parasitic land speculators have on the Colorado economy and political system, and liberate her people from threats of unemployment and poverty.

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