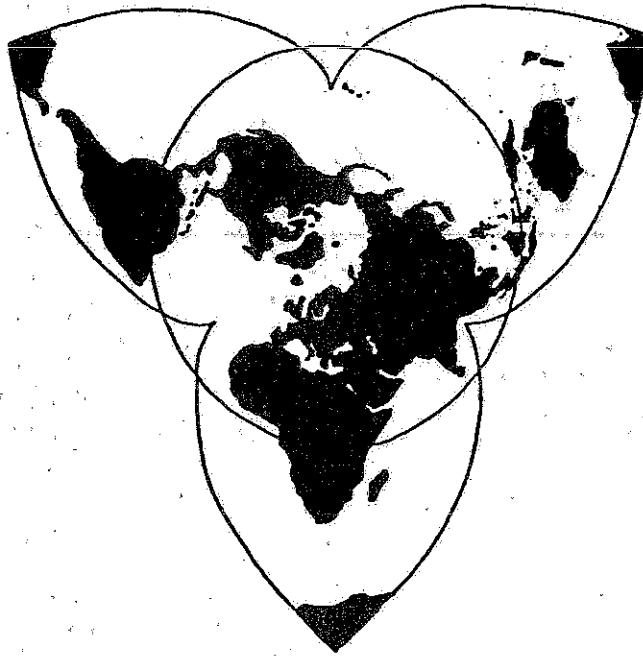


JUSTICE

BY GRAHAM HART



JUSTICE

an examination from the viewpoint of

SCRIPTURAL INJUNCTION

*The Science of Political Economy
and*

The Teachings of the Great Philosophers

A search for the Cause of

THE MAL-DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH

INVOLUNTARY POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT

CORRUPTION AND THE TYRANNY OF GOVERNMENT

THE RISING CRIME RATE

THE LOSS OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS

and

MORAL DEGENERACY

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WHAT IS JUSTICE

(I)

"... equal justice to all people within the Nation, is the cornerstone upon which all progress and prosperity depends."

The word justice is probably the least understood word in the English language. Most people think it means that a suspected criminal is entitled to a fair trial and can be convicted only when the weight of evidence against him or her is beyond reasonable doubt - and nothing more.

In a practical sense, the establishment of conditions of equal justice to all people within the Nation is the cornerstone upon which all progress and prosperity depends.

Love to the Lord which is the central feature of Christianity can only be expressed as love to the neighbour and this is not possible unless the neighbour (all the people) is treated justly. Scriptural priority is expressed in the Book of Micah (Chap 6 verse 8) - "and what doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God?"

Justice is a relative term which may be used in many contexts. In this examination we are concerned with BASIC JUSTICE, that is, with fundamental human rights.

The American Declaration of Independence is generally accepted and has never been improved upon. All people are entitled, by right of birth, to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, provided that, in the exercise of such rights, the equal rights of all other people shall not be infringed.

Human rights must apply, not only between people in their relationships with each other, but also in respect of each persons right of access to the earth and the resources of nature, because land is the field of all human endeavour and the source of sustenance for all people. Without access to land a person cannot live and if access is restricted to any person that person and others for whom he or she is responsible will live a restricted, unnatural, frustrated existence.

SCRIPTURAL INJUNCTION

(II)

"... Thou shalt not steal", - from which Governments are not exempted.

The Bible is not silent on the subject of access to land. "The earth hath He given to the children of men" (Psalm: 115.6). "The profit of the earth is for all". (Eccl: 5.9). "And ye shall inherit it, one as well as another." (Ezek: 47. 14). It is clear that all people have common rights to the use of land.

It is also beyond dispute that each person has the right, as an individual, to the product of that persons labour. If the person did not exist neither would the wealth he or she has created.

The Bible states: "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread" (Gen: 3.19) which implies that it is immoral for any person to live by levying tribute upon the labour of others. This is emphasized by the Commandment: "Thou shalt not steal", from which Governments are not exempted.

Common rights of all people to the use of land are for the purpose of sustaining life. It follows that if some people are permitted to hold more land than is needed for their use, others must subsist on less. Scriptural prophecy emphasizes this injustice. "Woe unto them that lay house to house, that lay field to field, till there is no room and ye be made to dwell alone in the midst of the earth." (Isaiah 5.8).

The foregoing quotations from the Bible are but a few examples of specific injunction. The basic Christian philosophy is Love and Freedom which is not possible without Justice.

To those who reject the Concept of a Divine Creator of the Earth and it's Inhabitants: - The reasoned arguments and evidence submitted herein should still appeal. There is no other peaceful way that people can live together in harmony and prosperity without each person extending the rights to and expecting the obligations from all others that they expect and accept for themselves. In other words the 'golden rule' - "Do unto others as you would that they should do unto you". This is the Essence of Justice. The alternative is the Rule of the Strongest with eternal discord, strife and injustice.

A WRITTEN CONSTITUTION

(III)

"... Individuals and minorities of individuals have inalienable rights, by right of birth, which must be protected if justice is to be maintained."

It has been established that each person has a common right, in equity with all other people of the Nation, to the use of land and the right, as an individual, to the product of his or her labour.

It follows that neither common nor individual rights can be abrogated by the will of a majority of the people. Individuals and minorities of individuals have inalienable rights, by right of birth, which must be protected if justice is to be maintained. This is the purpose of a written constitution, defining the limits within which governments may operate.

The physical universe and the populations which it supports are governed by scientific laws. These laws were not defined in the sacred scriptures but have been revealed to human research as required. Eternal moral principles are stated but the means of practical implementation, which may vary with scientific discovery and the march of human progress, are left, in freedom, for the divinely designed ingenuity of man to discover.

The reason, it would appear, is that the relationships of people with each other, in this world, are the testing ground to establish, in freedom, the ruling love, for good or for evil, in preparation for eternal life in the spiritual world.

Justice is the cornerstone upon which all vital decisions and relationships must stand.

THE RULE OF LAW

(IV)

"... Penalties are provided, to restrain people from breaking the laws of nature, for their own ultimate good."

Finite laws govern the physical world of nature many of which, such as the law of gravity, are clearly discernable. Others, such as the laws of chemistry and electro-motive force, require painstaking research to discover.

Penalties are provided to restrain people from breaking the laws of nature, for their own ultimate good. If engineers designed their projects in disregard of the physical laws dams would burst, bridges would collapse etc. and those responsible would be identified with failure and disaster.

Abstract laws govern the distribution of wealth in the relationship of people with each other and with the land from which and upon which all must live.

Breach of the abstract laws and the penalties designed to discourage non-conformity are not so easily identified but can readily be recognised when pointed out. For example - If governments permit a few people to own the greater part of the valuable land of the Nation, such people will be in a position to demand tribute in return for the right to work. Poverty, unemployment and the social evils which arise therefrom are the penalties which, when recognized, induce the people who suffer to reject offending governments. The difficulty lies in the suppression of truth by the Church, the Media and the Education Establishment.

The laws with which we are concerned in examining the subject of justice are within the SCIENCE OF POLITICAL ECONOMY. In essence, these laws deal with the establishment and maintenance of the common rights of all people to equal opportunity to share in the natural resources of the physical world.

THE COMMON LAW OF ENGLAND

(v)

"... Denied access to land man will die. Given restricted access only, subject to the payment of unearned tribute to overlords, man will live a restrictive unnatural existence."

The Common Law of England was written in conformity with the Ten Commandments and the conforming habits of the people. The judges responsible were reported to have toured the country to inform themselves of the accepted customs of the people.

With the advent of the illegal enclosures of the common land, since confirmed by statute law, great changes commenced. Many dispossessed people who became unemployed and destitute wandered through towns and villages in search of jobs in order to survive. A law was passed forbidding "vagrants", as they were called, to travel more than 30 miles from their homes. The 'poor law' was enacted and the 'workhouse' instituted to deal with the unfortunate victims who were flogged, hanged and deported for the crime of being unemployed.

This era, also, was the origin of the vicious taxation system which has developed to a point at which the producer is now denied the right of property in the product of his labour, to which the State has a prior right, graciously leaving the average worker the bare means of subsistence, all in conformity with the ideology of Karl Marx.

The multi-millionaire class is treated somewhat differently. The higher incomes of the favoured few (about 10% in Australia) arise mostly from unearned tribute from legalised monopolies, extracted from wealth producers as exorbitant rent or land prices, spurious interest, or inflated prices of goods arising from restricted competition, which is not easily identified by the ordinary person.

Because of the industrial revolution the enclosures were necessary but no alternative means were taken to maintain the God given right of each person of access to the Earth, which is the field of all human endeavour and the source of all the life sustaining resources of nature, previously taken for granted.

In some cases even the churches were deprived of their lands by the acts of enclosure. Of all the Christian denominations only the Quakers protested.

The Church, at that time, in return for its land holdings, was responsible for both religious and secular education, also for much of the accounting required for Royal (government) administration and was the centre of the social life of the people.

On the secular side the King who, in law, held all land, nominally on behalf of the people, gave huge tracts to his favourites in return for obligations for the defence of the realm which in turn were passed on to sub-tenants with similar obligations. It is important to note that monetary debt and interest payments were not involved. In time, the obligations in return for land holdings were dishonoured and replaced by taxation on the proceeds of industry and commerce and a professional bureaucracy became responsible for administration.

The Public Service has now become self perpetuating and subject to empire building to an extent that, today, many of the functions of governments would be more correctly described as public tyranny, as discerning people are aware.

TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES - THE ART OF GOVERNMENT DECLINES

(VI)

"... The most dangerous and volatile situation exists, when the physical sciences advance, while the art of government declines."

Fortunately the Science of Political Economy has now been unfolded to an extent that justice can be made available (if pursued) to all people under the most complex conditions of advancing science and technology in the modern world.

However, the penalties of nature for disobedience, which are common to all sciences have some frightening implications because of the latent forces of atomic energy, which, if not kept under control, have a power of destruction too terrible to contemplate.

The physical sciences can be used for the benefit and not the destruction of mankind only when governments conform with the SCIENCE OF POLITICAL ECONOMY, keeping pace with advancing technology to provide equal justice for all, and the causes of dispute and contention are replaced by good will and the finer qualities of human nature; when the insatiable greed and lust for power of the favoured few, will come to be regarded as a form of mental illness, which indeed it is.

The most dangerous and volatile situation exists when the physical sciences advance while the art of government declines.

HOW LAND VALUES ARISE

(VII)

"... Land value arises because of the presence and activity of all people within the economic community."

In modern times foraging and hunting can only suffice to a limited extent in tribal communities. The open range herding of sheep and cattle upon common lands is a practice of the past except in remote regions. The enclosing of land is essential to economical production and for security of possessions.

The common rights of all people, however, can be secured in terms of value rather than from access to common land or by the parcelling out of individual allotments which applies in Communist countries and is subject to bureaucratic abuse.

As populations increase specialisation in particular products becomes much more economical than the self contained mixed farm. This in turn necessitates the concentration of people into larger communities. With this concentration there is an enormous increase in the utility of central land and consequently in its locational value which now by far exceeds the value of natural advantages of the more fertile agricultural areas. Land value arises because of the presence and activity of all people within the economic community.

The closely settled occupation of land with communications to outer regions, which supply basic raw materials, requires the services of government.

The annual locational or rental value of land, will be found upon examination to be not less than the cost of providing the government services needed to support the closely settled and regional conditions of land tenure and therefore is the natural and just revenue of government.

The annual locational value of land varies enormously with the density of population and the area of land available. In Japan, which has a very large population and a small land area, the most valuable acre has, at present, an annual value of approximately \$200,000,000. The most valuable acre of land in Australia, at present, would be in Sydney, (Australia's largest city) with an annual value of \$8,000,000. In Perth, the capital of Western Australia with a quarter of the population of Sydney, the annual value of the most central acre would be about \$2 million. By contrast marginal land in the outer regions would have a minimum to zero rental value.

The method of apportioning this value amongst the living generation, as each persons entitlement in common with all others, is very simple. In the words of Henry George: - "We would simply take for the community what belongs to the community, the value that attaches to land by the growth of the community, and leave sacredly to the individual all that belongs to the individual."

We now largely reverse this process. Some individuals take what belongs to the community. The community takes what belongs to the individual in violation of scriptural injunction and the laws of political economy.

- * You may not even have heard of Henry George the American economist who in 1879 wrote "Progress & Poverty" which has exceeded the sale of any book of a serious nature other than the Bible and has been translated into 23 languages. George formulated a science entirely consistent with Christian principles, which cannot be said of any other economic philosophy or political system.

"Progress & Poverty" is available in hard cover through State branches of the Australian Georgist Movement.

THE CONDITIONS OF LAND HOLDING

(VIII)

"... The land must be held in sacred trust, on behalf of the Lord, by governments, to serve the needs of this, and all future generations."

The Bible states: "The earth is the Lords and the fullness thereof. The sea is His and He made it and His hands formed the dry land." (Psalm: 95.5). The land, then, must be held in sacred trust, on behalf of the Lord, by governments, to serve the needs of this and all future generations. Justice requires no less.

E.P. MIDDLETON, in his booklet: "How Free is your Freehold?" wrote; - Nowadays the general feeling among landholders is that the land they occupy is their property in the same sense that the improvements to farms, factories and buildings used in commerce are their property (however much they may be subject to mortgage) but there is a clear distinction between the two. Whereas the ownership of property in the form of 'improvements' is indisputably that of the registered owners, the land itself, covered by the FREEHOLD TITLE, is held subject to certain implicit obligations which limit the rights of owners, this limitation being enshrined in the term "FEE SIMPLE" which is embedded in the words of the title itself. This obligation binds the landholder to the Crown, that is, in modern terms, the permanent government, it being the representative of all the people, reflecting the fact that the land of a country, inalienably, is held in trust on behalf of the whole nation. It is supported by the right of a government to 'resume' land for public purposes.

* "How Free is your Freehold?" makes excellent reading and is available through most Georgist branches in Australia.

Each landholder should pay, annually or periodically to the government, a sum equal to the market assessment of the rental value of the land, in respect of which an EXCLUSIVE MONOPOLY OF OCCUPATION is granted. This revenue would be sufficient for the necessary functions of government at all levels. Any surplus should be used for repayment of the National debt and thereafter should be disbursed, as a National dividend, equally among the people. The robbery of taxation, with all its evil side effects, which are destroying the social environment, may then be abolished.

The rental value of land belongs equally to all people of the living generation and the product of each persons labour belongs exclusively to the individual producer.

TAXATION A VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

(IX)

"... Taxation in all its aspects, discriminates against those who work for a living and favours those who live upon the labour of others."

Subject to the establishment of Common Rights as stated all taxation which is a violation of individual rights should be abolished. There are about seventy different taxes and charges levied in Australia, each of which has a disincentive effect on production thus reducing the National wealth and therefore the ability of governments to defend the Nation. This is treason.

The abolition of taxation would conform with Scriptural injunction - "Thou shalt not steal" and recognize the individual right of property (wealth - other than land) in the product of each persons labour.

Taxation, in all its aspects, discriminates against those who work for a living and favours those who live upon the labour of others. Taxes, imposed on individuals, bear no relation to the value of government services rendered in return and therefore are unjust.

Businessmen can charge their customers only according to the market value of the goods produced or services rendered. Governments, as to their functions, are a specialised business, providing services for the community which, by their nature, are necessary monopolies such as the provision of water, gas, electricity, sewage disposal, telephone services, road and rail communications etc. (Although many of which may be sub-contracted, efficiently, to private enterprise.)

The public investment in essential services is reflected in the locational value of land. Operational charges only should be made in order to preserve equity between users and for the purpose of preventing waste.

When its annual locational value is not taken for public revenue land price and speculation in land (the peoples estate) arises which causes an artificial scarcity of land and rising prices. When the price of land increase to a point which industry cannot afford then production declines and unemployment arises.

THE RIGHT TO EARN A LIVING

(X)

"... The land shall not be sold forever"

(MOSES: 1400BC)

The right of each person to earn a living can be secured only by the common rights of access, either directly or indirectly, to the resources of the earth.

When rent is taken for public revenue it becomes unprofitable to monopolise more land than is required for use or to speculate in land.

Land can only be put to use by the employment of labour and capital, which would then be in great demand. Wages and the earnings of capital would rise and full employment would be assured. This is the basis of justice - the right of each person to earn their living and to receive the full reward of their labour.

Land would be occupied and held on a 'pay as you earn' basis (under Australia's current system of 'fee-simple' with identical exclusive occupation) without the need to pay tribute to land speculators or to borrow money, secured by a mortgage on the home, which might require the pledging of half-a-lifetime of honest work. Such funds could be better used improving living standards of the family. The risk of raising a family would then be eliminated.

Scriptural injunction declares: "The land shall not be sold forever; for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me." (Leviticus: 25.23).

In a just economy, when governments take for public revenue what rightly belongs to the community, capitalised rent (land price) would disappear. In buying and selling land, in effect, only man-made improvements would be exchanged.

JUSTIFICATION FOR LAND OWNERSHIP

(XI)

"... All living citizens should have equal opportunity, one with another, to enjoy the God given bounty of nature."

The right of prior possession as a valid basis for land ownership has been advanced, on occasions, by the Indians of North America, the Aborigines of Australia and others. If such claims could be validated the Aboriginal population of Australia, for example, comprising about 1.4% of the people, would have the right to collect the land rentals from the remaining 98.6% of the people without providing public services in return.

This is manifestly absurd and unjust. Land must be held in trusteeship. Babies born tomorrow, irrespective of race colour or creed, have, by right of birth, equal rights of access to land, when their needs arise, with the most aged citizens and those who depart this world cease to be beneficiaries in the trusteeship and are no longer obligated to contribute to land rent revenue.

What could be more just and practicable?

Such principles were observed by the Children of Israel. It was provided in the Mosaic Law that the land be redivided in the year of the 'Jubilee' (every 50th year) in order to remove inequalities which might have developed by the passage of time and to ensure that all living citizens had equal opportunities, one with another, to enjoy the God given bounty of nature.

LAND DISPOSAL BY TREATY

(XII)

"... Genuine users of land would restore opportunities for full employment to the people of Australia."

The Australian Government (1988) is considering a treaty with the descendants of the original Aborigines on the assumption that the payment of taxpayers money can invalidate their trustee obligations.

The real reason for unjust discrimination is more likely to be that, in so doing, their action would be consistent with the claims of the favoured 10% who hold titles to 90% of the valuable, alienated land of Australia and whose special interests are always given priority by monopolist-socialist-governments.

Such is the power of money to subvert the moral law and consolidate entrenched injustice. If, in future, all land owners were required instead to pay the locational value of their holdings annually to the government, on behalf of all the people, in return for the total abolition of taxation, justice would not only be done but would also be seen to be done, which is important.

Those who held land for use would be better off. Those whose only interest in land was speculation and exploitation would be obliged to dispose of their holdings to genuine users who would soon restore opportunities for full employment to the people of Australia.

- * For further information on LAND RIGHTS the reader is recommended to:

"LAND RIGHTS FOR ABORIGINES - AND FOR ALL OTHERS"
by Graham Hart

available through most Georgist branches in Australia

THE POWER OF LAND MONOPOLY

(XIII)

"... It is quite true that land monopoly is not the only monopoly which exists, but it is by far the greatest of monopolies - it is a perpetual monopoly, and it is the mother of all other forms of monopoly."

(THE RIGHT HON. WINSTON CHURCHILL)

The reader may have gained the impression that the writer has an obsession for land reform, which is proposed as a cure for all social ills. It can be demonstrated that there are numerous other monopolies which reek equally of injustice. This is accepted, but the power to monopolise land which is the staff of life confers virtual ownership of those who live thereon and therefrom. Chattel slavery could not compete, economically, with the institution of land monopoly, under present conditions.

Sir Winston Churchill declared, in an address to the House of Commons in the first decade of this century, that "land monopoly was the mother of monopoly". All the secondary and counter monopolies can be traced to it.

* For further information, the reader is recommended to:

"ON HUMAN RIGHTS" by The Right Hon. Winston Churchill

available through most Georgist branches in Australia

Henry George (1839-1897) wrote: "Our primary social adjustment is a denial of justice. In allowing one man to own the land on which and from which other men must live, we have made them his bondsmen in a degree which increases as material progress goes on. It is this that turns the blessings of material progress into a curse."

COUNTER MONOPOLIES

(XIV)

"... Jobs for the boys (and girls) are totally unjust."

Manufacturing interests have induced governments to impose tariffs on imports in order that they could increase prices to compensate for hard times (caused by land monopoly). This short sighted measure imposed injustice on their customers who, in turn, were forced to increase their prices, which resulted in loss of business, including, export markets. In the final analysis nobody was better off.

Trade Unions have agitated for artificial fixing of wages; (to compensate for being forced to pay rent, taxes and spurious interest, instead of economical rent only). The result is higher costs, reduced production and worsening unemployment.

Socialist Governments, which interfere with trade and the private lives of people, become involved with many times the workload that would be needed in a free economy and hire hundreds of advisers who are not specifically or specially qualified and interfere with the duties of the Public Service.

Strangely enough, many of such advisers happen to be personal friends of politicians and are employed at salaries far in excess of their earning capacity in vocations in which they are not experienced.

In their advisory capacities real earning rates are usually a minus quantity. Such sinecures, jobs for the boys (and girls), are totally unjust.

MONOPOLY-SOCIALISM

(XV)

"... It is significant that most social problems are caused by unemployment which, in turn, is caused by unjust conditions of land tenure."

Joint ventures with multi-millionaire consortiums which sometimes show paper profits by dealing in land and public assets is another pastime currently employed by governments. Guaranteed loans are made to people whose names frequently appear in the media. When the crunch comes there is a plea to save hundreds of jobs and investors funds.

The forecast losses of one such venture in Western Australia, now in liquidation, is in the order of \$400,000,000.

There are thousands of hard working Australians in distress because of government taxation policies who can expect NO HELP. To the contrary, vicious fines are imposed on those unable to meet their taxes. Such discrimination, by politicians who are under oath to represent the interests of all the people, is both cruel and unjust.

As if to rub salt into the wounds, the West Australian daily newspaper recently published a list of multi-millionaires who had succeeded, by methods best known to themselves and to the taxation department, in avoiding company taxes or reducing such payments to trivial amounts. Strangely enough there were no ordinary citizens included, on the contrary they had to bear the full brunt of such a traversy of justice.

The natural resources of a Nation belong to all the people, yet by some misadventure many valuable deposits seem to drift into the hands of certain people. The most recent examples are diamonds and black marble or granite. Just a further demonstration of injustice.

It is significant that most social problems are caused by unemployment which, in turn, is caused by unjust conditions of land tenure.

MONOPOLY OF THE MEDIA

(XVI)

"... It is now legally acceptable to monopoly-socialist Governments for one person to have a 60% monopoly of ownership in the daily press or in television stations."

In evaluating the forces to be reckoned with in opposing political reform the media is not the least dangerous.

Surplus unearned funds arise initially from speculation in land. With such funds apart from financing further speculation, some investments are made in monopoly interests (which lead Trade Unions to blame 'The Capitalists') and lobbying for political advantage becomes an established profession.

It is now apparent from stock exchange quotations that banking business is the second most powerful monopoly in Australia.

All monopolies, however, rely heavily on the media for their continuing privileges. It is now legally acceptable to monopoly-socialist Governments for one person to have a 60% monopoly of ownership in the daily press or in television stations. A move by the National Government to extend this monopoly to 75% was defeated only by an outcry from Backbenchers. (politicians not holding portfolios)

To break this most dangerous monopoly it is therefore proposed that not more than 1% of shares in any major media enterprise be permitted to be held by any person or group having connections with any other person or group.

Under such conditions, for which there would, undoubtedly, be popular public support, it would be most difficult to distort or suppress news of vital consequence to the people; also a major obstacle would be removed from the road to genuine political reform.

RESTRICTIONS TO LAND USE

(XVII)

"... Local Government authorities in Western Australia are permitted to discriminate in the enforcement of zoning regulations without stating reasons and there is no right of appeal."

Zoning regulations, as presently administered, are the cause of the gravest injustice. For example: Commercial zoning in the suburbs is severely restricted with the object of forcing commerce and some of the professions into the cities, at many times the cost. Land prices are generally prohibitive for small operators and in consequence excessive rents must be paid to the owners of high rise, concrete monstrosities.

Permits for high rise buildings are granted to the 'right' people. This could not apply generally because the city would be choked with traffic and population and eventually become non-functional.

Local Government authorities in Western Australia are permitted to discriminate in the enforcement of zoning regulations without stating reasons and there is no right of appeal. What a perfect environment for corruption and injustice.

Because of poverty and unemployment 'big brother' (the government) is concerned to provide cheap housing for the disadvantaged without any consideration of prohibitive land prices and spurious interest being the basic cause of many people being unable to afford a home. Taxpayers funds are used to subsidize the housing needs of the lower-income strata of the Nation. In consequence of unfair government competition and the continuing fear of such private investors funds periodically dry up which aggravates the problem.

There is usually a long queue of applicants awaiting preferment. To get priority it is advisable to be well connected. This could be more rewarding than to appeal on the grounds of genuine need.

It is not a function of government to tax some people in order to provide houses for others. There would be no need of government involvement in a just society, Justice requires that each person be permitted access to land, under equitable conditions, in order to earn their own living and spend their wages how they please. One family in five in Australia is living on 'welfare' to some extent.

TAXATION: THE POWER TO DESTROY

(XVIII)

"... There are so many ways of earning a living that, despite enormous expenditure, it has not been found possible totally to enforce the collection of taxes based on earnings."

Governments who fail to collect their natural revenue (collection, annually, of the socially generated locational value of land) must resort to taxation which is not possible without discrimination and retarding the production of wealth. Taxation is the power to destroy.

A few of the worst forms from which the bulk of revenue is raised are examined:

PAY ROLL TAXES CANNOT BE SURPASSED FOR WICKEDNESS AND CRUELTY.

To fine or impose a penalty on a firm on the grounds that it has organized employment, in a Nation which has a hard core of about 600,000 people continually without a job, can only be described as criminal injustice, not to mention the vicious penalties imposed for late payment on firms which may be in financial difficulty.

This despicable form of robbery will not bear comparison with the treatment of multi-millionaire monopolist mates of politicians who are bailed out with tax-payers money when they get into financial difficulty because they have been too greedy and taken risks that prudent businessmen, without a 'father christmas' to support them, would not indulge in.

STAMP DUTIES WOULD APPEAR AS A FAIRLY INNOCUOUS METHOD OF RAISING PUBLIC REVENUE, BUT WILL NOT BEAR HONEST EXAMINATION.

Such taxes are imposed on the transfer of land and property and on contracts which involve borrowing with a fixed rate of repayment and with variable compound interest, charged periodically on the outstanding balance.

In the matter of housing development, with which governments profess to be very concerned, it is not abnormal for stamp taxes to be paid three times before a home is acquired for family use - once by the project developer, once by the builder and finally by the end user. (West Australian 18/11/89)

Stamp Taxes add to and extend the final payment and in long term home purchases money lenders frequently recoup more than double the tax paid to the Treasury. For example: If a farmer who is in financial trouble, as many currently are, is offered a more favourable deal from another bank, he is taxed on the transfer of the loan. This will add to his debt and may dissuade him from taking the risk. This confers a monopoly on a bank which may attract customers with reasonable terms and then increase interest rates knowing that the cost of making a transfer will involve their customers with the payment of a 'heavy fine'.

EXCISE TAXES ON PETROL ADDS ABOUT 60% TO THE PRICE OF FUEL.

In such a vast country, with long distances to be travelled in the freighting of products and travelling to work etc., excise taxes are crippling and moreover they are stupid in the extreme, because export markets are lost and decentralization is discouraged.

Western Australia, which is the largest State with the greatest distances to travel, has about three quarters of its population crowded into the metropolitan area and is a striking example of the destructive effect of taxing transport.

SALES TAXES, IMPOSED AT THE POINT OF CONSUMPTION OR TO THE END USER, INCREASE PRICES JUST AS EFFECTIVELY AS TAXES IMPOSED DIRECTLY ON PRODUCTION.

Such taxes, which bear on the necessities of life, take a much larger share of the incomes of the poor than of the rich and therefore are unjust.

The complexities involved in distinguishing between consumers and those engaged in the various stages of production are enormous. Exemption certificates must be issued to producers and all purchases must be accounted for, which is a violation of privacy. Some goods are exempt from sales tax, which is a further complication; others considered to be luxuries, to which poor people are not entitled, attract a higher rate of tax. Also quotas and embargos are imposed, which add enormously to the cost of goods; in the case of Japanese motor cars, more than 50%.

INCOME TAXES, IN EFFECT, BY IMPOSING A DIRECT PENALTY ON THOSE WHO PRODUCE WEALTH OR RENDER SERVICES, DISCOURAGES PRODUCTION AND CAN DRIVE IT INTO THE 'BLACK MARKET'.

There are so many ways of earning a living that despite enormous expenditure it has not been found possible totally to enforce the collection of taxes based on earnings.

It is illegal for me to cut my neighbours lawn, in exchange for having my washing and ironing done for me, without giving 'big brother' a share. Could anything be more ridiculous and unjust? The proposition is so absurd that even taxation officials usually look the other way.

At the close of 1988 the Government decided to persecute those who do seasonal fruit picking without disclosing their earnings. Yet company income taxation is so complex that astute multi-millionaire operators, who can afford the best legal and accounting services, are able to avoid paying the greater part of such imposts.

There is only one thing to be said in favour of taxing incomes; those who don't have a net income don't have to pay. However, by comparison with payroll taxes, firms that are almost bankrupt, earning nothing, have to pay, plus vicious penalties if they don't have the funds available. Can this be called JUSTICE?

- * All taxation imposed directly or indirectly on production discourages and therefore reduces production which, in consequence, reduces public revenue. So further vicious taxes must be imposed.
- * In failing to collect their natural SITE-RENTAL revenue governments encourage speculation in land which reduces the availability of land for use and obliges genuine land users to pay tribute to the favoured, land owning section of the community. This causes unemployment and poverty.
- * The relief of poverty and unemployment increases the need for public revenue. In consequence governments cannot consistently balance their budgets and resort to deficit finance which, in plain language, is public debt and planned inflation. Both of which practices rob the majority of the people and enrich the money lending institutions.

By manipulation of money debts for wasteful, current, public expenditure are transferred to posterity. To rob our children, taxpayers of the next generation, is not only unjust it is despicable.

When the community created locational value of land is not taken for public revenue it is capitalized as land price which is accepted by banks as security for borrowing. This security is not 'real wealth' because there is no labour ingredient yet an entitlement to wealth is created without any real wealth having been produced in exchange. This is inflationary.

At the same time, increased borrowing facilities available to an impoverished community which has been deprived of its common inheritance, forces up interest rates which are spurious because no new wealth has been created and real interest is the earnings of capital. This practice increases the burden on the poorer people who are forced to borrow and on their Governments, which are also heavily in debt, to the advantage of the wealth land-owning and money-lending section of the community. Injustice caused by the denial of common rights to land and of individual rights to the product of each persons labour has a snowballing effect to cause further injustice through the monetary system.

THE LASTING EFFECTS OF WICKED TAXES

(XIX)

"... Only public revenue based on the collection of economic rent (locational advantages) has a stimulating effect on the economic community."

If there remains any doubt that 'taxation is the power to destroy' let it be considered that:

- * The Sahara Desert was once the granary of Europe. A tax was imposed on Date trees that grew around the oases. The Fellaheen cut down the trees to avoid paying taxes; rainfall receded and the land eventually became useless.
- * A tax was imposed on windows in England and Europe. The windows were blocked up to exclude the sunlight, to avoid paying taxes.
- * In Philadelphia taxes were imposed on street frontage areas. Architects designed buildings with one story in front and jultipel stories behind, defacing the city, but saving their clients from a measure of unjust taxation.

To conclude with a modern example, the Local Government rating system: - 75% of revenue, including the whole of New South Wales and Queensland, is based on land value only, and the other 25% of rate revenue is based on land and buildings. This in effect can mean that due to an increase in the family, whereby an additional bedroom is built, - providing work for building tradesmen, the family's rates are increased. This also applies if the home is repainted and gardens and lawns are developed; or a swimming pool is installed. In consequence of this stupid and unjust method of raising Local Revenue many properties are left in a state of disrepair and building development is restricted. Speculators are advantaged because it is less costly to leave properties under-developed, waiting for the progress of society to increase the land value and provide unearned income.

It costs five times as much to value improved properties accurately as it does to value land only. To value gross rental or capital values it is necessary to inspect the interior of every building and invade privacy. This mostly avoided by inspecting frontages only and 'slugging' those who take pride in their home.

Only public revenue based on the collection of economic rent (locational advantages) has a stimulating effect bymaking it unprofitable to hold land out of use.

THE TYRANNY OF GOVERNMENT

(XX)

"... If people tried to do to each other what governments do to them, they would be publicly exposed, fined and imprisoned."

The full effects of the denial of justice, in disregard of basic human rights by governments, in violation of their prime responsibilities, is beyond computation.

The tyranny of government is not a new development. It has continued, with only a few centuries remission in England during the feudal system, for twenty centuries that we know of and millions of innocent people have died in consequence.

The problems of today have become more acute because of the increase in population and advances in science and technology both of which developments have increased the value of land to an extent that would not have seemed possible even at the turn of the century.

In the Epistle of Paul to the Ephesians (Chap: 6.12) we read: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." - Paul could have been writing for this generation.

If people tried to do to each other (excepting those who enjoy legalised monopoly privileges) what governments do to them they would be publicly exposed, fined and imprisoned.

Two hundred million young people throughout the world are unemployed. Forty thousand children die every day. Tens of thousands of young people are homeless. The family as the central unit in society is being destroyed by anti-Christian legislation for which governments are mostly to blame.

MILLIONS DIE BECAUSE OF BAD GOVERNMENT

(XXI)

"... Wilful acts of negligence by the Governments concerned generally cause world calamities, not the failure of nature."

According to the Australian 'Institute of Public Affairs' periodical "FACTS" (July-September 1988), famines of recent years have caused the death of about forty million people.

<u>IN THE SOVIET UNION</u>	(1930-33)	10-15 million dead
<u>IN CHINA</u>	(1960-61)	25-30 million dead
<u>IN NIGERIA</u>	(1967-69)	2 million dead
<u>IN ETHIOPIA</u>	(1984-85)	2 million dead

In the Soviet Union and in China the disasters were due to the chaos caused by revolutions which, in turn, were due to LAND MONOPOLY.

In Nigeria and Ethiopia the deaths again were caused by LAND MONOPOLY, impoverishing the people to such an extent that they could not afford to stockpile grain in good years to provide food for the lean years to come.

It is well known to governments that, somewhere in the world massive famines occur about every 8 years. What is forecast can be provided for. It was the wilful acts of negligence by the governments concerned which caused the calamities, not the failure of nature.

When governments collect their natural revenue, abolish taxes and confine their activities to functions which cannot be performed efficiently by private enterprise, everyone will be able to afford to provide for or insure against natural disasters.

THE CAUSES OF WAR

(XXII)

"... The causes of war would disappear if all people had equal right of access to the land of their respective countries"

All major world wars have been fought by people who had no personal quarrel with each other for territories and markets required by their governments or in defence of such and as an outlet to export their unemployed people.

The causes of war would disappear if all people had equal right of access to the land of their respective countries and the right to produce and trade with each other without restrictions.

The toll of death and misery caused by the breach and neglect of their duties by governments is beyond belief of human understanding. The commandments: "Thou shalt not commit murder" and "Thou shalt not steal" apply equally to governments. This is the lesson to be learned.

We pray: "Lead us not into temptation" and then impose a public revenue system which is one enormous maze of injustice and temptation, benefiting the unscrupulous and penalising the honest.

The multiplicity of unjust laws, making legal crimes of morally sanctioned actions, will not bear examination. In the process the legal profession is enabled to extort about three to four times the fee of a skilled (productive) engineering establishment.

HUMAN DEGRADATION

(XXIII)

"... There is nothing worse than feeling unwanted and being unable to discharge responsibilities to dependants and loved ones."

Because of government monopoly of education and government permitted monopoly of the media young people are prevented from learning the basic cause of their problems. Elementary tuition in human rights, common rights and the laws governing the science of political economy would bring awareness and restore hope. Political justice would then depend on the informed efforts of the people who elect their representatives. (Refer to Appendix I for the Laws governing the science of political economy.)

Not even the means of communication are taught effectively in the schools. Articulation and self expression through letters, essays and English literature are subjects to which insufficient attention is given. Young people, in general, cannot communicate effectively with their parents and because of welfare 'handouts' (dole-money) are able to leave home and 'shack-up' with other equally emotionally confused people. Logic and the processes of reasoning (subjective, objective and hypothetical) are foreign to the curriculum of most schools and colleges.

Some of those who number amongst the social 'outcast' (through feelings of uselessness - with low self-esteem and expectations) seek escapism through legal and illegal drugs, - others resort to crime and violence which brings them into contact with hardened criminals. The problem is now at epidemic proportions and welfare services, perpetuated by socialist governments and run by public servants, are overworked and, in general lacking both the dedication and the necessary incentive to achieve required results. Abolition of the need for welfare is the only remedy.

The increasing suicide rate among young people, driven by despair to mental derangement, is evidence that drastic changes are needed.

People who reach middle age without permanent employment are virtually thrown on the scrap heap. There is nothing worse than feeling unwanted and being unable to discharge responsibilities to dependants and loved ones.

Violent crimes and murder are not committed by people who have been treated justly but by those who have been driven 'mad' by injustice or have noticed how the unscrupulous, taking advantage of unjust laws, can prosper by comparison with those who live from honest work.

Consider what our children are inheriting;

(In Australia) * \$100 billion deficit

Highest suicide rate per capita in the Western World

600,000 unemployed

Fear of a nuclear holocaust

A.I.D.S.

Bludgening taxation

Highest alco hol intake per capita in the English speaking world.

Escalating crime rate

Destruction of the family unit

Collapse of free enterprise

Epidemic of legal and illegal drug addiction

Inflation and high interest rates

Fear and uncertainty.

Australia - The Lucky Country?

In the not too far distant future, if present trends continue, the degeneration of socie ty will have developed to such an extent, that it will not be even possible to select a jury, endowed with sufficient rationality to evaluate evidence by the rules of logic, and will be influenced by emotional platitudes from highly paid barristers, trained to distort evidence and influence juries, in disregard of truth and justice.

A BLATANT EXAMPLE OF DECEPTION AND INJUSTICE

(XXIV)

"... The Governments policy to 'cool' an 'overheated' economy is to increase penalties on home-owners and on industry and increase the unearned incomes of land speculators and money lenders."

The Australian Federal Treasurer announced (W.A. 19/11/88) that a tough year is ahead. In order to 'cool' the economy, which he said has become 'overheated', a squeeze on public spending and a rise in interest rates will be necessary. This statement is totally beyond the understanding of the average citizen which, no doubt, it is intended to be but is a warning to expect increased taxes (which now stand at about 42% of the G.D.P.) rather than the promised decrease.

- * The words 'cool' and 'overheated' feature in thermal engineering terminology rather than in economics. If people were intended to understand what the reference was all about it would have been phrased somewhat as follows:

"Because Australian Governments have failed to collect socially generated public revenue but, in lieu, have instituted a vicious taxation system which penalises and discourages production plus an increasing public debt and planned inflation, production costs have increased to an extent that exports have declined. This causes a balance of payments deficit, which is inevitable because of horrendous taxation, rising rents and land prices, plus high interest rates."

The remedy proposed by the Australian Treasurer is to increase interest rates still further, at the expense of home purchasers and struggling small businesses which have been forced into debt by Government policies. Such imposts will increase bank profits which are already excessive because of government granted monopolies.

WESTPAC Bank announced (W.A. 18/11/88) an after-tax profit of \$693,000,000 which was an increase of 69% for the year and forecast better results next year. The ANZ Bank has since reported a pre-tax profit of about a billion dollars.

- * Home-Loan lending rates as at June 1989 was 17.5%.

Also, because of Government policies, central land prices have increased by between 40-80% throughout Australia, in 12 months.

Rising interest rates are intended to attract Japanese investment in land and property; in other words to buy up the most attractive areas of Australia. This is encouraged by the Australian Treasurer because incoming funds will help to correct the adverse balance of payments. The ultimate effect, however, will be in reverse when the foreign investors export the profits from their ventures.

The high land prices, which are partly due to foreign competition, do not worry such investors because of their over-valued currencies and, moreover, their own land, which peaks at \$8,000,000,000 an acre in Tokyo, is not now so attractive to speculators.

In a nutshell, the Government's policy to 'cool' an 'overheated' economy is to increase penalties on home owners and on industry and increase the unearned incomes of land speculators, (who ever they may be) and money lenders. In other words, to increase gap between the abject poor and the fabulously rich. "The world's greatest Treasurer" (so-called) proposes 'another hair of the dog that bit you'. It is ironical that the cure for the 'overheated' economy is a stronger dose of the same medicine.

In the West Australian (21/11/88) it is reported that "Christian organizations are being swamped by needy people, trapped by soaring home rents, which have left some families only \$20 a week to live on". Financial strife caused by high rentals has emerged as the main reason people seek charity.

As a footnote: The Treasurer may like to take note of what was recorded in the Australian 'Institute of Public Affairs' "FACT" sheet (May-July 1989) - "Inflation has eroded the purchasing power of the Australian dollar by 47% since 1980/81." The same "FACT" sheet also reported - "In June 1980 Australia's next external debt was \$6.9 billion (5.6% of GDP). In December 1988, it was \$95.5 billion (30.2% of GDP). Gross debt was \$121.2 billion.

- * For more detailed information on Christian Ethics and the banking monopoly the reader is particularly recommended to:

"THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, LAND AND POLITICS"
by Graham Hart

and

"BANKING, CURRENCY, CREDIT AND INFLATION"
by Graham Hart

available through most Georgist branches in Australia.

TRUSTEESHIP AND THE ENVIRONMENT

(XXV)

"... Under present Australian conditions, taxpayers would foot the bill for an anti-pollution campaign which, if successful, would benefit the big land owners only."

Apart from their duty to provide services which enable people to reside and work and exchange their products in closely settled and regional communities governments have one paramount obligation. That is to act as public trustee for the land and the Nation.

The land, as we have seen, is the source of all wealth and the field of operation of all human endeavour. (Which also includes, where appropriate, oceans under Australian control.) Its life sustaining qualities must be preserved for all future generations.

In modern industrial conditions land users must be granted the absolute right of occupation, subject to payment of the market value of the locational advantages which attach to each particular site. Such rights are secured by title or lease. The existing title system in use in Australia requires no alteration. Land holders, in law, are tenants in 'fee simple'. Their rights extend to 66 feet below the surface, with the exclusion of mineral rights.

The intention was that each land holder should pay the annual market value of the site selected, as best suited to his or her particular purpose. This payment is to all people of the living generation within the Nation in return for the right of exclusive occupation and the services of government, without which land would not support competitive industry or convenient and pleasurable residential occupation. The privilege remains but the obligation has been cancelled.

Governments should not have the right to sell or dispose of land held in trust except under the conditional title system.

Atmospheric pollution is traceable to the unjust public revenue system. It is not realistic to expect a government which is on the verge of bankruptcy and is taxing fossil fuels at the rate of about 60% to look seriously at alternative, pollution-free, energy production. For this reason solar energy, wind and tidal power have scarcely been considered, notwithstanding that scientific discovery and engineering technique are well advanced.

Atomic power is pollution free but the safe disposal of radio active residues has not yet been perfected.

Pollution is being increased by the crazy permission for congested, centralised, development, (with full knowledge of what they are about) by Local and State governments. In the West Australian (15/11/88) a headline appeared "Disquiet as City Soars Skyward". This will be totally ignored in the interests of land speculators. Three days later (18/11/88) the same newspaper announced the development of the first solar train.

All new developments for the reduction of atmospheric pollution would deprive governments of tax revenue robbery or some favoured multi-millionaires of the right to exploit the people. So new ideas are put into cold storage for as long as possible.

Agricultural scientists, civil and mechanical engineers are well aware of how the problems can be solved with tree planting ventures, inland waterways, the use of organic fertilizers, clean energy production etc., however, under present conditions taxpayers would foot the bill for an anti-pollution campaign which, if successful, would benefit the big land owners only.

Very little reform of any kind is possible until the two main injustices are resolved, that is until - "Governments collect their natural site revenue and taxation is abolished".

Under present conditions even a reduction in taxation would be of no avail unless accompanied by land reform, as will be seen from an examination of the laws of the Science of Political Economy - land rents and land prices would increase to the extent of tax reductions. Labour and capital in competitive industry would not benefit. (Appendix I refers.)

LAND REGENERATION

(XXVI)

"... The land must be held in Sacred Trust to serve the needs of this and all future generations."

The land must be held in Sacred Trust to serve the needs of this and all future generations; its life sustaining qualities must be preserved by the prevention of soil erosion, salination and pollution, from the rape of renewable resources (forest wealth) and by the maximum conservation of non-renewable resources (mineral wealth).

Agricultural scientists frequently draw attention to climatic changes due to carbon dioxide and other emissions from the use of fossil fuels and advocate massive tree planting projects to reduce the effect. The idea is that taxpayers should foot the bill and rainfall would extend into the waterless interior as the trees developed. Once useless land would become valuable but land owners only would benefit, not the people who paid the taxes.

Notwithstanding the enormous resources available to the Major Political Parties in Australia it was necessary to consult a newly formed Political Movement for fundamental, commonsense policies on 'Environment'. The following abstracts are included:

AUSTRALIAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT

'Environment Policies'

Since land for production and land for natural beauty are essential to humanity's material and spiritual welfare and since land is not the product of any person's labour, natural justice demands that the land be regarded as the rightful heritage of all people.

Therefore, all occupiers of land hold it in trust for the whole nation and have a duty not to misuse it or over-exploit it, since such actions affect the well-being of others, both present and future.

The nation, therefore, has every right to ensure that, in all areas, a proper balance is kept between development and the preservation of natural beauty. To this end, democratic committees should be established to reserve, repossess or maintain at least 10,000 hectares in each 100,000 hectares for national park purposes. Further, these national parks should be joined to each other by ribbons of undeveloped public land, at least 100 metres wide.

Effective measures must also be taken to protect our fishing resources by creating non-fishing marine parks, joined by non-fishing ocean strips, and by a system of fish licensing rental payments. In addition, selected areas of both land and sea of outstanding importance for the preservation of species, unique natural beauty etc., will be acquired for the nation.

In the exploitation of natural forests, 100 hectares will be left untouched for every 100 hectares exploited, using a chequerboard pattern of conservation.

For the reasons given above, the nation has the right to ensure also that privately occupied land as well as public land is not over-developed or over-exploited. Thus, for example, it would be good to insist that for every urban building development at least half the groundspace be set aside for landscaping.

The A.R.M. is fully aware of the vital importance, both for farming and the ecology, of natural assets such as wildlife, undergrowth, trees, soil and flora.

Trees and undergrowth, for example, play an essential part in reducing droughts and floods by retaining ground moisture, creating rainfall and preventing soil erosion caused by wash-off in times of heavy rain. Trees and undergrowth also prevent the blowing away of soil in times of heavy wind.

Again, wildlife can prevent the destruction caused to trees and crops by locusts and other insect pests. This is because animals, such as wombats and bandycoots, eat the earth-dwelling larvae of these pests whilst birds eat the ground-dwelling and tree-dwelling larvae and eggs.

All such wildlife needs the protection of trees and undergrowth.

Finally, the shade and shelter provided by trees and undergrowth very significantly increases the milk yield of dairy cattle and the meat yield of beef cattle. Thus, it would be good and right to insist that, on all farms, every 100 hectares contain 20 hectares of trees and undergrowth. To encourage farmers to do this, the land set aside will be exempted from site rental revenue contribution.

This concession, together with the abolition of taxes on earned income and the abolition of indirect taxes on farming materials and equipment, will give farmers every encouragement to restore or preserve trees and undergrowth and to avoid the over-exploitation of their land.

It will also allow them to conform to regulations preventing the destruction of the land by excessive grazing with sheep, goats and cattle.

All the above aims will be easily achievable, with the minimum of cost to the nation, when full site rental revenue is collected from all marketable land. This will eliminate monopoly land prices and allow the nation to repurchase properties cheaply for the establishment of more national parks.

Further, the abolition of land price and taxation will make it easy for the 'real' developers to afford landscaping space around their properties. In any case, this will tend to happen because the collection of site rental revenue by the state will lead to competition between land occupiers for tenants. Part of this competition will lead to landowners and developers offering their clients more landscaping and car parking space.

(Reprinted with the kind permission of: The Secretary, Australian Rights Movement.)

Due to the despoiling of Australia, environment protection is not now as valid as land regeneration.

THE EFFECTS OF SOCIAL IMMORALITY

(XXVII)

"... Idleness is the most destructive agent in the demoralisation of human nature."

Idleness is the most destructive agent in the demoralisation of human nature. Many people are continually denied the right to work and others are allowed to refuse work if they find life on the 'dole' to be more congenial, at taxpayers expense.

Human beings are created with natural desires. They are born into a world created for the satisfaction of those desires and are endowed with physical and mental powers with which to fulfill their desires.

By specialisation (the division of labour) greater returns are possible with less exertion. This, in turn, increases the demand for land and worsens the effects if access to land is denied or if land is made available only subject to payment of a monopoly premium.

The basic urge is for young people to marry and raise a family. The gravest injustice is suffered when some \$20,000 to \$50,000 is demanded for a basic home site which makes it necessary, in most cases, for the wife to go to work to pay spurious interest for half her working life.

Many people without special abilities or qualifications unable to find suitable employment, will give up in hopeless despair and blame their parents and everyone but those responsible.

Social immorality and anti-social illegal behaviour just does not develop - it is caused. Traceable to social injustices.

THE SILENCE OF THE CHURCH

(XXVIII)

"... The Church is avoiding its responsibilities and in the process is destroying itself from within."

Church leaders claim to being armed with eternal truth as revealed in the Sacred Scriptures which is all powerful and constant and therefore are not greatly concerned about the drastic decline in church membership and congregations.

Some politicians deplore the lack of guidance and leadership forthcoming from the Church. Others are reinforced in their atheism or agnosticism by the Silence of the Church.

"All religion has relation to life and the life of religion is to do good." - (Emanuel Swedenborg)

The Church, therefore, must be concerned for the standards of human conduct which are influenced by political policies and practiced in administration. It should not, however, become involved with the intrigues of Party politics into which the political system has degenerated.

The lack of communication, which is no doubt responsible, is to be deplored because of the resulting deterioration in the social environment from which both the Church and our Political Institutions are the losers.

The silence of the Church, unfortunately, is in the two most vital areas affecting the lives of the people upon which scriptural injunction is abundantly clear.

These areas are:-

- (1) The conditions under which all people may have access, in equity with each other, to the God given bounty of the natural resources of the earth
and
- (2) The right of property in the product of each persons labour.

These are the essentials for efficient government which, to ignore, is to court disaster.

Selective Christian teachings and the consequent adulteration of basic Christian principles have produced a public revenue system which, in its effects, is a denial of the ten commandments and is one maze of temptation with rewards to the dishonest and hardship to the honest, hard working, responsible and thrifty. At the same time we are taught to pray "Lead us not into temptation."

Even in its claim to stand aloof from politics the Church is not consistent, being extensively engaged in charitable works which are definitely political in character but deal only with effects rather than causes. They also save governments from being identified with and held responsible for an unjust distribution of wealth and all the social problems arising therefrom.

The Church is avoiding its responsibilities and in the process is destroying itself from within. Under such conditions it cannot survive except as a remnant.

The Church, in time, can regain its former influence but only when its leaders have the courage to preach the fundamentals of Christian principles and Scriptural injunction, even at the risk of offending vested interests which "reap where they have not sown", thus increasing the gap between the fabulously rich and the abject poor with all the disgraceful side effects of crime, corruption, addictive illness, suicide and murder, broken homes and the destruction of family life, hopelessness, despair and loss of faith.

Justice is the first essential without which the revelation of the "Prince of Peace" will be forever beyond our grasp.

SCRIPTURE PHILOSOPHY & SCIENCE

(XXIX)

"... It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."

-GEORGE WASHINGTON-

Many of the great thinkers and statesmen, past and present, have endorsed the principle that profiting from the mono poly of land, upon which and from which all people must live, is immoral:

MOSES (1400BC):

The land shall not be sold forever; for the land is Mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with Me. (Leviticus XXV)

ADAM SMITH (1723-1790):

Ground rents are a species of revenue which the owner, in many cases, enjoys without any care or attention of his own. Ground rents are, therefore, perhaps a species of revenue which can best bear to have a peculiar tax imposed upon them.

TOM PAINE (1737-1809):

Men did not make the earth It is the value of the improvements only, and not the earth itself, that is individual property Every proprietor owes to the community a ground rent for the land which he holds.

THOMAS JEFFERSON (1743-1826):

The earth is given as a common stock for men to labor and live on.

JOHN STUART MILL (1806-1873):

Landlords grow richer in their sleep without working, risking or economizing. The increase in the value of land, arising as it does from the efforts of an entire community, should belong to the community and not the individual who might hold title.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN (1809-1865):

The land, the earth God gave to man for his home, sustenance and support, should never be the possession of any man, corporation, society, or unfriendly government, any more than the air or water, if as much. An individual or company or enterprise requiring land should hold no more than is required for their home and sustenance and never more than they have in actual use in the prudent management of their legitimate business, and this much should not be permitted when it creates an exclusive monopoly. All that is not so used should be held for the free use of every family to make homesteads and to hold them as long as they are so occupied.

HERBERT SPENCER (1820-1903):

Equity does not permit property in land The world is God's bequest to mankind. All men are joint heirs to it.

LEO TOLSTOI (1828-1910):

Solving the land question means the solving of all social questions Possession of land by people who do not use it is immoral - just like the possession of slaves.

DR SUN YAT-SEN (1866-1925):

The land tax as the only means of supporting the government is an infinitely just, reasonable and equitably distributed tax and on it we will found our new system. The centuries of heavy and irregular taxation for the benefit of the Manchus have shown China the injustice of any other system of taxation.

HENRY GEORGE (1839-1897):

Our primary social adjustment is a denial of justice. In allowing one man to own the land, on which and from which other men must live, we have made them his bondsmen in a degree which increases as material progress goes on. It is this that turns the blessings of material progress into a curse.

When scriptural injunction, the science of political economy and philosophical consensus agree, the case for justice must be proven beyond reasonable doubt.

A BLUE PRINT FOR JUSTICE AND PROSPERITY

(XXX)

"... Governments shall endeavour to help ALL people who are in trouble, without discrimination, equitably, irrespective of age, gender, colour, race or creed."

It is a fitting conclusion to summarize how GOOD GOVERNMENT may be achieved under conditions of freedom at much less than the present cost and with relatively minor transitional problems.

In general, all that is required is a virtual reversal of the present fiscal structure.

There shall be recognition of and provision for:

- I. Common rights of all people of the Nation to the resources of nature through access to land under conditions which observe equality and stimulate land use.

This is to be achieved by the collection, annually, of the socially generated locational value of land for public revenue, together with:

- a. Royalties from deeply located and open cut natural, non-renewable resources,
and
- b. Royalties from renewable resources such as fishing and timber cutting in which conservation and regeneration are necessary. All such payments to be fixed by competitive market forces.

- II. Individual rights of all people to the product of their labour.

This will necessitate the abolition of all forms of taxation based on the production, exchange and consumption of wealth.

- * Subject to the foregoing, full employment will be available to all able-bodied people and rewards will depend upon their earning capacity.

- * It will then be possible to deal with counter monopolies instituted to reduce the basic injustice of land monopoly and taxation.

III. The right of all people, including individuals and minorities, to equal rights before the law and to be represented in government.

This is to be achieved by instituting a quota system of representation with multi-member electorates - (Proportional Representation)

- * In a 12-member electorate only about 8% of electors can be disenfranchised compared with nearly 50% at present.

Twelve policies, or schools of thought, could be represented in government, compared with only two at present.

- * Voting shall be voluntary.

Good government cannot be expected to result from the votes of people who are too apathetic to vote without the fear of a penalty. Such people are easily influenced by the propaganda machine.

IV. Government will be restricted to functions which by their nature are necessary monopolies in which the freedom of competition is uneconomic and impracticable.

This condition to be supported by "Citizens Initiative Referenda with the right of Recall".

V. Legally based secondary or counter monopolies (with special and immediate attention to the media), sinecures and all forms of wasteful, counter-productive expenditure, are to be abolished as expeditiously as possible.

VI. The principle of welfare payments being made only to the disadvantaged or the incapacitated.

- * Contributory insurance, eventually, will provide funds for old age and disability.

Welfare entitlements to be available equally to all eligible people without a means test.

No public funds to be made available to able bodied people who refuse to work.

VII. The artificial fixation of wages and prices, in disregard of earning capacity and the law of supply and demand, shall be abandoned together with all forms of socialist regulation on industry except for the protection of public health, safety and the environment.

VIII. Local Government regulation of land use shall be exercised without discrimination and there shall be the right of appeal on such grounds.

Building heights shall not exceed the opposite width of road frontages in central areas. Lawns, gardens and trees shall be provided for by setback and plot ratio conditions.

Maximum permitted building heights to recede rapidly towards the outer perimeters of populated areas.

Building permits to be granted only when it is established that similar permits, if granted to all other land holders within the adjacent area, would not cause congestion or pollution.

Foreshores to rivers, lakes and oceans, to be preserved as public domain.

Minimum building heights only should be permitted on the verges of public domains in order to preserve scenic views for as many people as possible.

Restricted zoning regulations should be enforced only when there is risk of a nuisance being created. Optional land use conditions should be permitted to the maximum extent especially when rising rents indicate a shortage of supply of land approved for a particular use.

Existing buildings and development works which do not conform with approved conditions of land use shall be rated on a non-conforming use basis as registered by market assessment.

IX. Governments not to be permitted to engage in any form of industry or commerce in which there is unrestricted competition in private enterprise. For example: Education, health, banking, (including the issue of money) and housing are not necessary monopolies and therefore are not a function of government; notwithstanding government policies to ensure 'National standards'. (To be phased in as the economy reacts to basic reforms.)

- X. The eradication of unjust and interfering statute laws is a complex problem. The 48,000 new statute laws and regulations gazetted during the past 20 years were intended, no doubt, to mitigate the effects of basic injustice. When this is removed there will be no need of such interferences.
- * In a truly free enterprise society, in which governments are confined to their proper functions, a constitution and common law should suffice for the protection of the people.
- Statute laws would be confined within such limits and should be confined or negated at election time by referendum.
- (This, however, is a utopian condition which will be possible only in a politically educated society.)
- XI. Prisons should exist for compensation, redemption, rehabilitation, reform and education, not for vengeance and brutal punishment. To this end, prisoners must feel that their work is contributing towards society as an essential part of their own betterment.
- * This will only be possible under conditions of full employment in which the products of prison labour cannot be injurious to private enterprise.
- XII. In all its dealings with the people governments shall endeavour to help ALL people who are in trouble, without discrimination; equitably, irrespective of age, gender, colour race or creed. Justice, however, is the first essential, the establishment of which would eliminate socially generated problems.

"TO GOVERN BEST IS TO GOVERN LEAST"

Australia must support more than four times as many politicians as England, per head of population.

The Australian Parliament grinds out more than five times as many laws as 'the Mother of parliament' and nine times as many as Canada. (Figures taken from a letter to the Sunday Times - 12/2/89)

OF EVEN GREATER IMPORTANCE IS TO GOVERN WISELY, WHICH IS TO GOVERN JUSTLY.

APPENDIX I

THE LAWS GOVERNING THE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL ECONOMY

I. THE LAW OF MOTIVATION

All men (meaning mankind) seek to satisfy their desires with the least physical and mental exertion. For this reason men will resist bad laws which make legal crimes of natural behaviour. For the same reason some men will take advantage of bad laws which enable them to exploit their fellow men.

II. LAWS OF THE DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH

(1) The Law of Rent

"The rent of land is determined by the excess of its produce or satisfactions over that which the same application of labour and capital can secure from the least productive or desirable land in use."

Such latter land is termed 'marginal' land. It bears no rent. The returns from its use are to labour and capital only. All more desirable land yields rent according to the measure of advantage. Rent rises as the margin falls and falls as it rises. This means that if labour and capital are forced by economic circumstances to use even less desirable land all returns above the lower margin will be to the advantage of rent. This is the effect of land speculation which creates an artificial scarcity of the more desirable land by with-holding some land, partially or totally, from use.

(2) The Law of Wages

This law is a corollary of the law of rent. "Wages depend upon 'the margin' rising as it rises and falling as it falls."

(3) The Law of Interest

(The return for the use of capital) is the same as the law of wages. "Interest depends upon 'the margin' rising as it rises and falling as it falls."

It will be noted that wages and interest rise and fall together in an opposite ratio to rent. This must be so because if wages are high the greater use of capital is stimulated and interest rises. If wages are low there is less need to use capital and interest falls.

In general, a man (or woman) will not work for an employer for less wages and or satisfaction than he can earn by working for himself. This is the reason that natural wages are determined at 'the margin'.

It should be noted that this law does not cover spurious interest which is a monopoly increment based on the artificial manipulation of money and accounting credits which do not represent wealth.

It should be further noted that land holders have superior bargaining power to labour and capital when rent is NOT taken for public revenue which enables them to take the lions share of production. In consequence there is unnaturally fierce competition between labour and capital for what remains.

For this reason Marxist propaganda represents the owners of capital to be the natural enemies of labour. This fallacy will be exposed when rent is taken for public revenue and full employment is generated. There will then be such demand for labour and capital that wages and the real earnings of capital will rise and cut-throat competition will cease.

III. THE LAW OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND

This law is generally understood and does not require precise definition. It determines how production and consumption are kept in balance. A lag in production is stimulated by higher prices and over production is corrected by lower prices.

Politicians attempt to interfere with the operation of this law by artificially fixing wages and the price of selected products, - "Prices and Wages Accord", they call it. In the long term such policies never succeed and the chaos arising is nature's way of teaching people to observe the law of 'supply and demand'. Similarly, in the physical world, the fear of pain discourages people from injuring themselves.

The law of Supply and Demand, if allowed to operate freely, determines what shall be produced, where production is most economical, when and where products are most needed, registers relative exchange values, and, in short, assists people to gratify their desires with the least exertion.

IV. THE LAW OF DIMINISHING RETURNS

This law is generally understood by competitive industry which takes precautions against over investment. The theory is that because two men can roll a log that one man cannot move it does not follow that there will be greater economy of effort by increasing the numbers of men employed beyond the point of maximum efficiency.

Governments however are slow in grasping the principle of this law because in a socialist-monopolist administration no one is responsible for waste and there are inadequate checks and penalties to provide restraint.