

Post Office Box 93
WEMBLEY WA 6014

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The Editor
Church Scene
4th Floor
171 Fitzroy Street
ST KILDA WEST VIC 3182

4578

Dear Sir

Quite by accident I came across a copy^{of} "Church Scene" dated 24th April 1980 and after reading a few lines was intrigued to discover that Mr Geoff Ross, senior lecturer in electronics at a Melbourne university, seems to have persuaded the Synod of the Gippsland Diocese that the rapid progress being made in technology is a cause of unemployment. Nothing could be further from the truth.

In the same issue, Bishop Graham Delbridge of Gippsland came much nearer to the truth by declaring that unemployment was caused by "inequality and injustice". It would have been more correct to say that the injustice of denying equal opportunity of access to the earth and the resources of nature which yield God's bounty for the sustenance of mankind is the only basic cause of involuntary unemployment.

It is true that, as the Bishop says, "unemployment is a global problem". It is also true that a billion of God's creatures live frustrated lives in dire poverty, millions of whom die needlessly of starvation every year in a world so marvellously designed that it could support many times its present population.

Unemployment, poverty and starvation are global problems only because in all countries privileged classes have gained power through governments which permit them to claim ownership of valuable parts of the earth and levy tribute from those who wish to use them. In order to maintain this iniquitous system and ensure the flow of unearned income, much land is kept idle or only partly used to increase the yield of what is left.

Those unable to find the tribute demanded, or to attach themselves to a business organisation that can finance the appeasement exactions, must remain idle and live on sustenance stolen by taxation from those who have managed to find a job.

In the process, so many Biblical injunctions are broken that it is amazing how church leaders can remain uninformed - "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof", "cursed is he that removeth his neighbours landmark", "the land is mine and ye are strangers and sojourners with me", "the land shall not be sold forever", "thou shalt not steal", "thou shalt not kill" - (the slower method of death from starvation or the like process of insanity and crime caused by the frustrations of injustice are not specifically excluded), "thou shalt not bear false witness", "the truth shall make you free", "in the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat bread" - (condemns slavery and some men living on the labour of others).

Moses redistributed the land in the year of the Jubilee. In modern society we should collect the rent which arises because of the presence and industry of the community and distribute it every year in the form of government service. The robbery of taxation would then be unnecessary. The land can never be private or public property; it should be held in sacred trust as the means of life for this and all future generations.

The rent of land is the property of the living generation and is the natural revenue of government. When governments fail to collect what the community creates, for public revenue, the bargaining power of land "owners" will be superior to that of labour and capital which will enable them to force wages and interest to the bare minimum. This has forced working men to combine and form Trade Union Monopolies for their own protection and capitalists to do likewise, but in the process restrictions are placed on conditions of employment which cause more unemployment.

When rent is taken for revenue and taxes abolished, the bargaining power of the three factors of distribution - rent, wages and interest - will be equal. It will then not pay to hold land idle for speculation. It must be used to earn the rent or disposed of to a willing user.

Competition for labour to work the land will then make unemployment impossible and labour will receive what it can earn without the need of monopoly support. There will then be no idle rich living on the labour of others, which the power of land monopoly bestows, or idle poor, locked out from the earth, living on doles stolen from their fellow men by taxation.

If anyone should doubt the truth of the foregoing, let him or her but read the daily press. In today's West Australian, for example, reporting a residence sold for \$2½ million (mostly land value), - a land agent's prediction that land prices will continue to rise steadily. A few weeks ago reporting \$1.6 million made by holding the Esplanade Hotel site idle for a few years, - reporting that Adelaide Terrace land prices had doubled in a year etc.etc.

The unearned incomes arising confer purchasing power without any production in exchange. So prices rise, incomes buy less, governments inflate the currency - unemployment increases as the demand for labour products declines.

The Almighty created man with an inventive brain intended to be used to lighten the burden of labour, improve living standards and to enable more time to indulge the cultural and spiritual pursuits. Unless rent is taken for revenue, because of the superior bargaining power of land owners, the increased productivity due to the use of technology, will benefit only the land owners, increasing the power of their monopoly to demand yet higher tribute from labour and so worsen the problem of unemployment.

Under the natural order, technological advance will increase the rewards of labour and the use of capital. If technology is a cause of unemployment then the use of adding machines, typewriters, mechanical excavators, electric motors etc should be restricted, together with a lot of modern labour-saving inventions.

When the scientific basis of employment is known, then to blame technology for unemployment is as absurd as to blame The Almighty who created the human brain and the wonders of the physical world. All this has been known and suppressed for a hundred years, since Henry George wrote the world's greatest seller, second only to the Bible, "Progress and Poverty", which might well have been subtitled "Practical Christianity".

Such is the power of vested interests; to silence the media, the economists, the politicians, the institutions of learning - yea, even the custodians of morality - for a hundred years is no mean achievement. How many millions have died in vain? How many millions more have never known the justice which alone will enable them to develop to the fullness of manhood and womanhood their Maker intended, just to support the diabolical institution of land monopoly?

Men are not created equal but with wonderful variations so that under conditions of equal opportunity each can complement the rest to improve the lot of all.

The late Bishop Gore said, "The Church has been too long engaged in picking up the wounded in the battle of life, in applying medicines and staunching wounds when it ought to have been thundering at the gates of tyranny."

Christians should learn the Divinely ordained laws of political science and attune these to the laws of physics, chemistry and electronics. The spectre of involuntary unemployment, poverty and death from starvation in a world so marvellously stocked with the necessities of life, would then be impossible.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Graham Hart". The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with the first name "Graham" being more prominent than the last name "Hart".

Graham Hart