

THE LIGHT

SAN ANTONIO TEXAS

2-269

A Constructive Force in the Community
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1962



In the Mailbox



Land Values

Judging from the number of responses I received on my letter which was styled "Land Values," quite a number of people must read these letters to the editor.

Sen. Goldwater mentioned the sanctity of private property and several writers inquired why I had not referred to this, and I told them that I had been anxious to do so but it would have made the letter too lengthy. I, therefore, take the liberty now to add that I certainly agree with the senator that, quote, "Democracy is rooted in the right of private property."

I am sure the senator, in making a speech or writing an article, would amplify this phrase and what follows here is not in the spirit of criticism but rather giving my views of what I think is implied therein.

It follows, as a matter of course, that the protection of private property also applies with equal force to the protection of public property, such as the air, the land and all natural resources not created by the hand of man. Under the present system of taxation we are confiscating private property and by the same token are giving public property to the individuals who monopolize a part of the earth.

Lest I be misunderstood, let me explain that we do believe in private possession of land—a part of the earth—but the fact that private property is a necessity guaranteed, does not deprive the people through their government, to collect for the benefit of all the people the full value of such a privilege.

When we do this, then we could abolish all the confiscatory taxes on the property

created by the hand of man. Not only that, but we could do away with the socialistic income tax. All this would have to be done step by step.

J. R. FUCHS,

President of Henry George
Foundation of America,
New Braunfels.

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