



## THE MAIL BAG

The Herald and Zeitung-Chronicle invite opinions of their readers on public questions, including those who agree or disagree with the editors or other correspondents. Readers who write for this column must assume responsibility for their writing and all articles must be signed, but names will be omitted on request. We reserve the right to edit any words or phrases which violate the laws of libel or conflict with good taste. In cases where space limitations make it necessary to postpone use of some letters submitted, those of less than 300 words will be given preference.

Dear Editor:

If there is only one person interested in this letter, then I feel justified in writing it. But if I know the people of New Braunfels and Comal County, many others will appreciate its purpose.

A bulletin issued by the University of Texas recites the fact that since oil was discovered on the University lands more than \$300,000,000 has been produced for the Permanent University Fund. Just ponder for a moment what it would mean to the people of Texas if all oil and other minerals had been retained, as it should have been. If that had been done we would have no tax problems now.

But what good talking about "If?" Many say it is too late. In my opinion it is never too late to right a wrong. What can we do now? I agree it should not be done overnight, but we should recoup our sovereign rights. What then do I suggest? Instead of adopting a sales tax, a tax on oil, or even worse, a state income tax, we should gradually reclaim our "royalty." I would do this by taking 5% the first year and increasing it by 5% every year and in 20 years we would get 100% of that which belongs to the people, given to them by the Creator. (And remember it was neither Labor nor Capital that created it.) Of course both Capital and Labor should be fairly compensated for its production.

At the same time we could reduce the ad valorem tax on

personal property — the products of labor and industry — by 5% every year. I feel sure that once started, we would not wait 20 years to adopt the whole plan. But I am suggesting that method so that the change would not be too sudden.

Incidentally, it would help to solve the labor, farm, and other problems, such as inflation.

If you are interested either pro or con why not talk to your legislator?

J. R. Fuchs

## CABBAGES AND KINGS

Judge J. R. Fuchs is an indefatigable battler for a more logical tax system, having written two books on the subject and innumerable articles for magazines, letters to editors, and lately an opinion for a committee studying tax reforms in Texas.

In this issue of the Zeitung-Chronicle you will find another "open letter" by Judge Fuchs promulgating his ideas on taxation. I think he has something, although I did have to ask him to explain one idea — how would our oil exploration stand up under a tax program which diverted the royalties now going to land owners from them to the state treasury? The answer should have been obvious to me, but the Judge neatly put me into place

by pointing out that state-owned lands and the tidelands have been explored, so why shouldn't other lands be explored even if the owners (or users, to follow the Judge's concept) lost their royalty rights to the state.

Seriously, there is a lot of logic in the old Land-Use notion of Henry George, and Judge Fuchs has done a great service in putting the weight of his reputation behind the movement to take some of the tax burden off the enterprising citizen where it now rests as a penalty for improving the property he uses during his lifetime, and placing it back upon the land itself, where it belongs in consequence of Natural Law.

Frederic Oheim

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