



THE MAIL BAG

The Herald and Zeitung-Chronicle invite opinions of their readers on public questions, including those who agree or disagree with the editor 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.

TO THE EDITOR:

This is definitely my last letter, for some time, on this subject. From now on, I am going to train my guns, such as they are, on the legislature, and particular on the house of representatives where all tax bills have to originate. But before I do this there are two questions that I have been asked so many times that I must answer them and it can be done briefly.

The first is, "How do you know that the ground rent will produce enough revenue for all governmental expenses?" While I believe it will, I do not know it and need not know it for the simple reason that the governmental treasury should obtain what it is entitled to. Then if more is needed other least objectionable taxes must be levied.

Here is how we will go about it: We would not adopt a system overnight but gradually. I would say a twenty-year plan might well be adopted and during that time, while year after year we will go up five per cent on land value taxation, we would reduce all personal property taxes by the same percentage.

Then within five or ten years we can readily see how much revenue will be produced from the land value taxation when in full force and effect.

Next in order comes the question, "How will you determine the ground rent or land value?" We will do it just like we are doing it now or should do it. Land is out-of-doors so to speak. While there is disagreement among people as to its value, wherever the principle has been applied the valuation of the annual value of the land has given comparatively little trouble.

Finally, do not tell me that a people that can create the atomic bomb can not produce a scientific formula by which urban as well as rural land value can be determined. Just like now, only more so, every tax-

payer should be given the full opportunity to appear and contest his assessment.

Another strong point in favor of this system is that everybody will know exactly what everybody pays under this system in taxes. Extravagance in government will be greatly diminished. We will then learn to stretch ourselves in consonance with our cover. Everyone contributes to this tax.

Certainly I am not claiming perfection for this system. None such will ever be devised but I do claim it will come closer to perfection and justice than anything that we have ever tried.

Respectfully submitted,
J. R. Fuchs

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