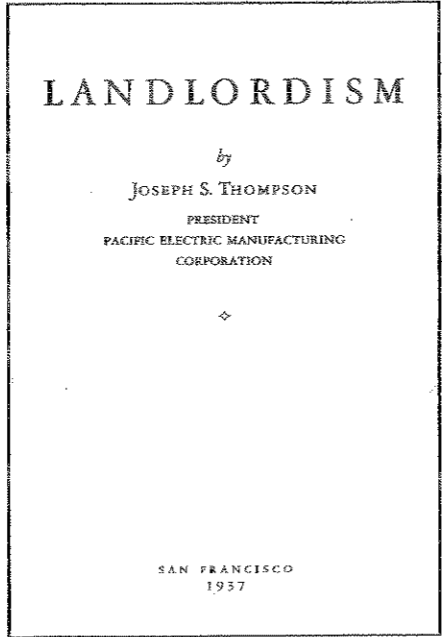
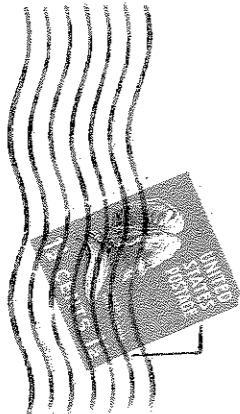


MEET the 'ISM
that 'FAZZERED'
COMMUNISM!

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IF YOUR HOUSE was on fire and your piano needed tuning, to which would you telephone first: The Fire Department or the piano tuner? If a sane, intelligent ism-less means for ending our economic distress were at hand and a host of futile panaceas were also before you, which would you choose: Ending your evils or poulticing your wounds?

If you were laboring, struggling, striving and failing under an Ism that was certain to keep you in misery, why would you care if you were threatened with Communism or Fascism in exchange for your present Ism?

Well, your house is on fire and the remedy is at hand and you are struggling against as miserable an Ism as any that you fear, so why don't you wake up Mr. Business Man and Mr. Professional Man and Mr. Working Man and Mr. Artist and Mr. Artisan and Mr. Farmer and Mr. Merchant and Mr. Inventor and all you Mistery who have ideas and products and services to sell or provide, and who do good work and who ought to be well rewarded for it!

For the Ism you labor under is LANDLORDISM! AND LANDLORDISM IS RESPECTABLE RACKETEERING.

No matter how many other evils are corrected, as long as this evil exists it will absorb or annul the benefits that might be gained by correcting any of the others, and in fact until it is corrected they cannot be.

And the remedy, so simple, so long before us, so thoroughly explained and so plainly described (with the burdens and woes due to ignoring it, so clearly prophesied) is simply this:

MEET PUBLICLY CREATED NEEDS BY PUBLICLY COLLECTING PUBLICLY CREATED WEALTH. LEAVE PRIVATELY CREATED WEALTH IN THE HANDS OF THOSE CREATING IT.

And what is publicly created wealth? And what is privately created wealth?

Publicly created wealth is the rental value of the land; privately created wealth is money earned. Only the presence of the people can give value to land. The value appears in rent that rises in proportion to the numbers of the people. PUT THAT RENT IN THE PUBLIC TREASURY. Stop taxing homes. Stop taxing industry. Stop taxing the fruits of labor and of genius. Stop taxing anything unless you want to destroy it. A TAX IS A FINE. Get your public revenue from the value you publicly create.

We own our United States. We Americans. We surely own our own country. You don't own it. I don't own it. But we do. And we prove it by taking a part of the land rent that we create (in the form of a tax). And if the holder doesn't pay the little portion we now take he forfeits the land. BUT WE LET LANDLORDS WHO GIVE NOTHING TAKE THE MOST OF IT and then we burden ourselves in our capacity as industrialists and workers and capitalists and in all the other forms of serving our fellows by taxing ourselves to make up the money the landholders get for letting us live in our own United States.

Yes, as capitalists, we need capitalists. Men who work and build and save and plan are capitalists. A capitalist is a man who saves his money and puts it to work. But if we were wise, and took all the land rental value we create, no capitalist would exchange his capital for land. We do not need capital to furnish land. We do need capital to prepare it sometimes. And we need the aid of private capital for many things.

We speak of ours as a Capitalistic government. This simply means that as yet we have not been able to distinguish between:

- (1) Saving our money and using it as a tool, and;
- (2) Holding an indefensible privilege.

It is as though we were to refer to ourselves as maintaining a Firearmistic government and were incapable of distinguishing between those men who bore firearms in defense of the public good and those who bore firearms for the purpose of holding people up!

So it was not Capitalism that spurred the Russians to bloody revolution. They had little capital in Russia. Almost none. Try to think of some big Russian company. The railroads belonged to the State. WHAT MURDERED THEM WAS LANDLORDISM. The privilege of a few to tax for their private purse. The Russians happened to read Marx instead of Henry George, and mistook LANDLORDISM for Capitalism.

Capital invested in the privilege of collecting the public revenue is money paid for the right to hold us up. Nothing else. No matter how time-honored the custom of permitting some of us to trade in the right to collect land rent, a public revenue, it is different in form only from giving the privilege of trading in territory or victimized groups for the "protection" racket. In what one of its effects on commerce and the public good does private collection of land rent differ from collection of gangster protection? In what way? What service does the landlord perform? What service does the racketeer perform?

LANDLORDISM is the father of all monopolies. Why do we rage so about public utilities that absorb three percent of our income and furnish something for it, while we supinely agree to LANDLORDISM which absorbs thirty percent and gives nothing. Regulated utilities could give cheaper service if their equipment were freed of taxes.

Like LANDLORDISM, taxes are a heritage of the ages of

man's ignorance. There should be no taxes. A TAX IS A FINE. In what way do they differ? To tax a productive man is to take part of his private earnings to pay public expenses. Yet that same man by his presence alone has made and paid land rent just that much greater than it would be if he did not exist. No matter what his financial status or value may be.

We Americans get along pretty well with private initiative. We need it. We set our individual hopes by it. We have rewarded many men who have put things at our disposal through it. A fine architect ought to get rich. A fine doctor ought to get rich. An author who pleases. A tool-maker. Why not?

But are we so dumb that we can't discern the difference between REWARD for service and TRIBUTE to useless privilege?

Are we so damned dumb that we are going to let ourselves murder each other into Communism or Fascism to protect our stupid practice of pouring public revenue into hands that do not earn it and tearing its equivalent from hands that do earn it?

Private enterprise deserves a reward, provided it isn't the enterprise of the holdup man. There should be rich people if their riches are secured by furnishing something that people want and that they produce out of themselves. Brains should be rewarded. Brains that serve and create are the only thing of value in the world. The public does not begrudge a rich reward for brains that serve, and we need not fear brains, for men of true intellect do not prey upon their fellows.

Values created by individual thought and labor should stay in the hands of that individual. Values created by the co-operation of groups should remain in the hands of those groups. BUT VALUES CREATED BY THE PUBLIC should

remain in the hands of THE PUBLIC!

One concrete instance: San Francisco's largest office building is the Russ Building. Capital built the Russ Building and deserves a reward for placing so fine a structure at the disposal of the people of San Francisco. But that capital is having a hard time and is not getting its reward. The capitalists who built that building pay taxes. The tenants pay taxes. But the capitalists will lose their reward and their capital, too, if they fail to continue to pay the ground rent of their ninety-nine year lease. The ground rent to the Russ estate for the privilege of existing in San Francisco. And what does the Russ estate do for them? Nothing! True it may have bought the "RIGHT" to levy tribute on the builders of the building. But as it is an old estate you can imagine what fraction of the lease value it paid for the landlordship.* For the "right" to say to San Franciscans "Before you step on this part of your city, pay here!" It bought a "right" that is not a right. It is a privilege born of public stupidity. And just as the purchaser of stolen property loses it without recompense when the owner discovers it, so should the public take back its self-created value by levying a charge for rental against all the land to the full extent of its yield. And take its collective hand out of the thinker's and the worker's private pocket.

The private collection of land value or publicly created income is WRONG! The public appropriation of privately earned income is WRONG! As long as we cherish and protect something DEAD WRONG in our economics—Kill your pregnant pigs! Dole your dole! Plough in your wheat! Tax your fine American business structure out of existence! Putter, Peck and Dabble but don't expect to GO

*Russ bought the site of the Russ Building for \$37.50!—Nide S. E. Chronicle, October 6, 1932.

AHEAD. The FREE LAND is gone! The free land that made America what she is, is GONE.

LANDLORDISM is one of a series of FREEDOM tracts and pamphlets published by The Freedom Advocate Press. LANDLORDISM is a term that suggests ancient and feudal times — owner and slave, aristocrat and peasant.

As pictured by Joseph S. Thompson, who is a business man, LANDLORDISM is a thing apart from Capitalism.

To understand the difference between natural, "free" Free-Enterprise-Capitalism on the one hand, and LANDLORDISM, Socialism, Communism, etc., on the other, you may enroll in a free classroom or free correspondence course in basic natural-law economics. Classes are held in numerous cities in the United States, Canada, England and in other parts of the world. For information write:

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Carry "freedom ideas" to friends and neighbors. Help to separate the principles of free industry from the restraining influences of monopoly and special privilege. Freedom unchained will work as AMERICANS want it to work — generously and fairly for all. TRUE AND SPECIFIC Reform — not Totalitarian Revolution — is the answer to our problems. LET'S TRY FREEDOM!