

HENRY GEORGE INSTITUTE

5 East 44th Street
New York, N.Y. 10017

December 7, 1983

Editor, Financial Times
Bracken House
Cannon St.
London EC4, England

Dear Sir:

This is in reference to the letter in your November 18 issue from Victor H. Watson, Chairman of John Waddington, concerning the game Monopoly.

Mr. Watson refers to a letter from Henry Law in your October 29 issue stating that Monopoly derived from an earlier game, the Landlord's Game, invented by Elizabeth Magie Phillips, a follower of Henry George, in order to teach Single Tax principles. Mr. Watson says that "Mr. Law has got it wrong."

No, Mr. Law has not got it wrong. After a long legal proceeding, it has been decided that the above is exactly the case. (See enclosed clippings.) Mr. Watson makes much of the fact that the so-called "inventor," Charles Darrow, produced a little variation on the Landlord's Game and therefore deserves all the honour (and, we must add, all the money he got from the game).

Mr. Darrow did say he invented the game and gave no credit to Mrs. Phillips, from whom he learned the game; Parker Bros. did feature Mr. Darrow as the inventor, and her name was never mentioned, even after the truth was learned. (The poet Yevtushenko says "there are times when silence is a lie.") The game invented by Mrs. Phillips was played by many persons, and many variations were introduced, including some by Mrs. Phillips herself.

It is too late for Elizabeth Magie Phillips to profit from the game. Let her have at least a little credit from those who are making millions on it.

Sincerely,

Robert Clancy
Robert Clancy
President