

01-800 6314  
(except 12.30 to 20.30)

T. A. Ende

3 Langfullen Court  
1 Adolphus Road  
Finsbury Park  
London : N4 2AS

21st April 1987

The Editor,  
The Georgist Journal,  
5 East 44th Street, New York, NY 10017, USA

Dear Sir,

As I think they will be of interest to you, I enclose the following papers: -

1. A copy of my letter dated yesterday sent to the Mayor of Hackney
2. Page 8 of The Journal (circulating mainly in the London Borough of Haringey) dated ~~27th~~ March showing a discussion between the Prince of Wales and Mr. James Duberry, a bricklayer by trade
3. A letter from me published by the Editor of The Journal on 3rd of this month headed "Brickies and bottlenecks"
4. A letter addressed to me from Buckingham Palace by the Assistant Private Secretary to H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, Mr. Rupert Fairfax, dated 16th, acknowledging receipt of 2 and 3 above

You will notice that Mr. Fairfax has really missed the point which is that I did not outline some of the problems experienced by bricklayers but the obstacles put in the way of those who want to give them employment.

Yours truly,

  
(T. A. Ende).

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C O P Y

20th April 1987

His Worship the Mayor,  
London Borough of Hackney Council,  
Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Mare Street, E-8 1-EA

Dear Sir,

In the Manifesto for the 1974 Parliamentary Election, the Conservative Party stated that the domestic rate would be abolished and would be replaced by a "broader based" system of local government finance. They lost that election.

Neither the 1979 nor the 1983 Manifesto said anything about abolition of the domestic rate, so the Conservative Government now in office has no mandate for its abolition.

Nevertheless, the Department of the Environment and the Welsh Office have jointly issued a booklet entitled Paying for Local Government: The Community Charge. Under the proposals contained in this, "Every adult is liable to pay the community charge in the area of their sole or main residence". If pilot surveys of the impact of the Community Charge on representative rating areas have been made, they have not been published.

In the rating area of Hackney, in the year 1987-88, domestic hereditaments will be charged at 216.47p in the £ on £18,831,372, which works out at £40,764,270, to which has to be added about £47,587 for "mixed" hereditaments, bringing the total to be raised up to £40,811,853. There are 138,171 electors on the electoral list and when this figure is divided through £40,811,853, it produces a community charge of £295 per elector.

It would lengthen this letter very much indeed to give you all the results of my investigations into the impact of the proposed community charge in the rating area of Hackney, but I will give several examples.

At St. Johns Court, Queens Drive, there are 12 residential flats, each with 3 living rooms, and 8 with four living rooms. Their total rateable values amount to £5,544, and the liability of the occupiers to rates totals £12,001.97. There are 37 electors whose liability to community charge @ £295 would total £10,915, so there would be a shortage of £1,086.97. Nos. 2, 3, 8,

13, 14, and 19, would all be liable for £295 community charge; Nos. 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17 and 18 and 20 would all be liable to 590 community charge; No. 10 would be liable for £885 and No. 15 for £1,180. There is probably a number of children under 18 years of age living in this building.

At Nottingham House, Portland Rise, there are 14 residential maisonettes. Their total rateable values amount to £4,164 and the liability of the occupiers to the domestic rate totals £9,013.81. There are 33 electors whose liability to community charge @ £295 would total £9,735, so the excess over the present rates is £722.19. Nos. 2, 12 and 14 would all be liable to £295 community charge each; Nos. 1, 4, 5, 7 and 13 would all be liable to £590; Nos. 6 and 10 would be liable to £885 community charge each, and Nos. 3 and 11 to £1,180 and No. 8 to £1,770 each. There is no elector shown at No. 9, but if the vacancy is filled, it would increase the excess. There is also probably a considerable number of children under 18 years of age in this building.

Park House, 314 - 322 Seven Sisters Road, Finsbury Park, is privately owned and comprises 66 residential flats. The rateable value is £17,347 and the liability of the occupiers to the domestic rate is £37,551.05. The community charge would work out at £295 x 82 and would be equal to £24,190.00, thus showing a shortage of £13,361.05.

Greenway Close contains one development of privately-owned residential flats overlooking Clissold Park, and it comprises 67 residential flats in all. Each flat has four living rooms, kitchen and bathroom and w.c. The total rateable value is £25,402, and the liability to the domestic rate is £54,987.70. The community charge works out at £295 x 128 and equals £37,760, so there is a shortage of £17,227.70. At Nos. 25, 36 and 58, for example, the rateable value is £365 and the domestic rate works out at £790.12 each, but with two electors only, the community charge will be £590 for each of those flats.

Under the existing system, Finsbury Park Road is liable to pay £77,167.23 and Greenway Close £54,987.70. Under the proposed system, Finsbury Park Road would be liable to pay £112,690 and Greenway Close £37,760. Yet Greenway Close has 5.45 foot run of services per elector and Finsbury Park Road has 5.28 foot run.

I think that the survey of the hereditaments referred to above shows that the poor and overcrowded people in the rating area would be compelled to

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pay for the under-occupation of the better-off and that Shoreditch in the south of the rating area of Hackney will be subsidising Stoke Newington in the north.

It is essential that surveys of representative rating areas should be made throughout the country, and I suggest that Hackney and Enfield rating areas would be suitable London Boroughs for examination. I do not think it would take up a great amount of staff time if the Director of Finance could be persuaded to undertake such a survey before the next Parliamentary General Election.

I enclose a copy of a proposed Bill for Parliament adapting the General Rate Act 1967 to site-valuation rating at the option of rating authorities and suggest that they might be given the option of adopting either site-valuation rating or the community charge following surveys of their rating areas as to the suitability of either system. The international magazine, Land and Liberty, while disapproving of the community charge, suggests that the two systems could be adopted <sup>by the</sup> at the option of a rating area.

Yours truly,

Signature

(T. A. Ends).

His Worship the Mayor,  
London Borough of Hackney Council,  
Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Mare Street, E-8 1-EA

20th April 1987



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

From: Assistant Private Secretary to H.R.H. The Prince of Wales

16th April 1987

Dear Mr Ende,

The Prince of Wales has asked me to thank you very much for your letter to him dated 7th April in which you outlined some of the problems experienced by brick layers.

His Royal Highness has asked me to thank you for bringing this matter to his attention and has, furthermore, asked me to send you his very best wishes.

Yours sincerely,  
Rupert Fairfax

Rupert Fairfax

T. A. Ende, Esq