

ECONOMIC LITERACY PROJECT

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1/25/87

Dear Bob -

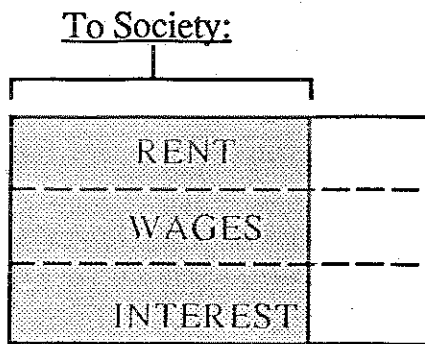
He still
hasn't
got it
sorted
out

I am enclosing a copy of a
few ideas we've adopted from various
(H&S) course materials. You may like to
use one or more in your next Journal.
The students came up with a good design.

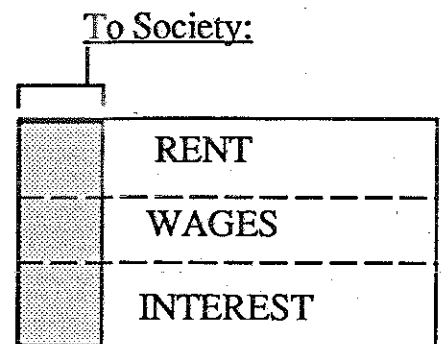
Bob,

Bob Scrofan.

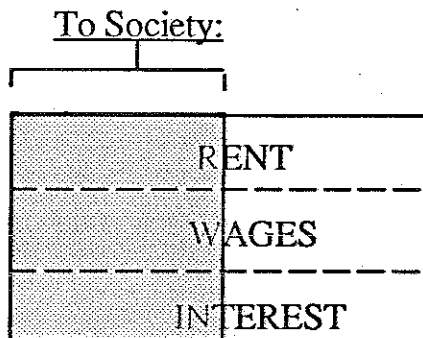
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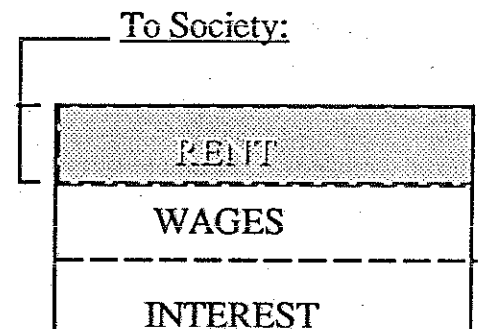
Socialist proposals call on society to take most of the wealth. This implies a "planned economy" and restriction on private property.



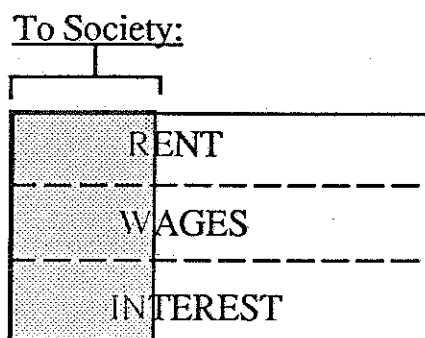
Capitalist proposals suggest that most wealth remain in private hands, and that society, or government get only the minimum it needs for necessary services. This implies leaving the running of the economy to private interests.



The "middle-of-the-road" proposals seek a "balanced system" the distribution of wealth and power between individuals and society. The nations of the European Economic Community, for instance, collect and spend about 50 percent of their GNPs.

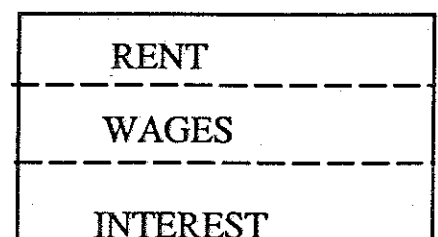


The Georgist proposal, while much like capitalism, makes a distinction between the unearned income of land (rent) and the earned incomes of labor and capital (wages and interest). Rent goes to society, wages and interest to the individuals who earned them.



The US model - We work, according to some, until May first for local, state and federal taxes. Therefore about one-third of the total is for government's use and two-thirds is private, or disposable, income.

To Society:



Try your hand at your own model:

Key:

Goes to society:



Goes to the individual:



THE CLASSICAL ECONOMIC MODEL

LAND

All natural resources:
minerals, wildlife, etc.

CAPITAL

Production used to create
more wealth. Technology.

LABOR

Mental or physical
exertion

WEALTH

Production and consumption

Production
of Wealth

Consumption
of Wealth

WAGES

RENT

INTEREST

June 1986 =

Hello

Snark & Liche

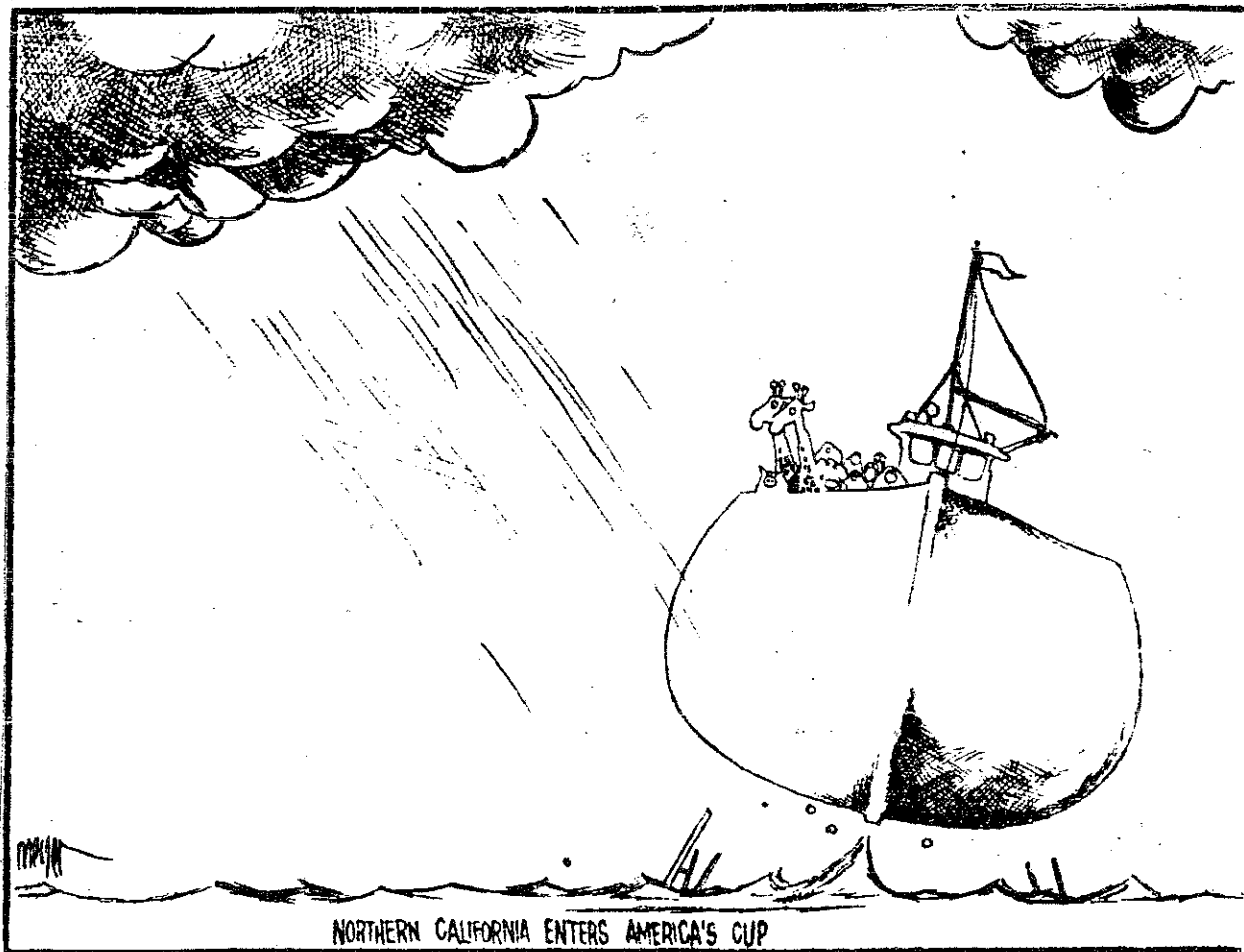
SCHOOL IS OUT!

Had planned a Spring letter with all the details on the floods of the winter of 1986 (now but a memory in most places except for those indicators - like proud parents marking their children's growth - of the height of the Flood of '86 above the marks for '58, '64 etc.) - but one cartoonist had us in the world cup.

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☆☆

Wednesday, February 19, 1986



School is out. But I'll be back in Berkeley at the University for a course on the CONSTITUTION (1987 is the 200th anniversary). So you'll be hearing as much patriotic talk next year as you have this one - but will they sell the Constitution the way LEE Iacocca sold Lady Liberty? The course will feature professors from all over the country and is based on a federal grant from the Endowment for the Humanities. So it'll be serious.

2) After that it's up in the air - go to Europe for another look at Paris, a peace conference in Denmark or to Japan with the Berkeley Jazz Band or just enjoy the City and my place in the Redwoods.

Last weekend alone the city abounded in activities - the Haight Street Fair, the Festival at the Lake in Oakland, Carnivale in the Mission District, Sand Castles by architects at the Beach at Fisherman's Wharf, music in the Grove plus - now that would qualify as a FESTIVAL in any European City.

SF paid particular attention this year to the Earthquake - another anniversary the 80th. At 4 a.m. the politicians and the remnants of the '06 survivors gathered at Lotta's Fountain downtown for their annual ceremony. By motorized cable car to the "brave little hydrant" that "saved the Mission district". I made a quick 7 a.m. stop in salute, with champagne served by off duty fireman, then back later for my own private party - also with champagne. Our party was captured for you as top news on page 3 of the SF Chronicle (see clipping). I did ask the reporter how he was going to make a story out of this party when there were city-wide parties going on. "The Chronicle has made many a silk purse out of a sow's ear," he responded.

Went to Vancouver for the International meeting of followers of the ideals of Henry George and caught two days of EXPO. The Canadian Pavillions were particularly fine; US and USSR second rate; the Peoples Republic of China had the first scandal (items from Taiwan were used w/o the label). The outstanding EXPO sight however was the environment of BC, the views from the steam train and on the water, the sunsets from the University and from the harbor.

Ninety two % of the land in BC is owned by the Crown (i.e. the government) and could easily adapt to Henry George's idea for the collection of the full ground rent (taxes on land values) for community services instead of taxes on productive activity. This would also cut out the sweetheart deals to lumber cos. who are devastating the forests because there is no financial reason to conserve. A land tax would encourage proper conservation of the trees and leave marginal areas out of production.

On the local scene, I have been working diligently to produce classroom activities for teaching economics which is now required for graduation. Also have been using my own personal history in teaching American History - the modern period (of course). After all, McCarthy, the War in Korea, the Cold War in general, the case of Archbishop Stepinac of Yugoslavia and Cardinal Mindszenty in Hungary were made very real for me at Cardinal Hayes HS. But the most forceful lesson was in Tuckahoe NY in one of Our Lady of the Assumption's annual street fair festivals. I was Cardinal Mindszenty in red cap and piped cassock & red shawl praying on a predieu in a cage while another altar boy (in reality Guido Massi) clad in a Russian type tunic with a hammer and sickle emblazoned on it. His hand held a whip with which he struck the cage occasionally in case the on-lookers didn't get the point.

So, you see by 14 when I wrote TRUTH VS. COMMUNISM for a national essay contest, I was well prepared to look at the dark side of the USSR. Gave the essay to my students to show them how the milieu of the late 40's produced great anti-Communist fervor and produced the belief systems of each President from IKE, JFK, LBJ Nixon and Reagan.