

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE FROM LAND MONOPOLY
Assertion of God-Given Right to One's Natural Inheritance of the Earth

The principle is a right to civilization

SOCIAL STATICS: "Given a race of beings having like claims to pursue the objects of their desires; given a world adapted to the gratification of those desires - a world into which such beings are similarly born - and it unavoidably follows that they have equal rights to the use of this world. ...each of them is free to use the earth for the satisfaction of his wants, provided he allows all others the same liberty." No sumptuary laws (playing God), or compulsory schooling.* (Children's Rights. An average 12-yr.-old can learn the essentials of grammar school in four months. DESCHOOLING SOCIETY) It was said long ago that governments were set up by conquerors to enable them to enjoy the labor of the conquered without personally having to stand guard over them. The principal means of accomplishing this is gross underassessment of ground rent, assuring the hoarding and speculative pricing of sites, anticipating community growth, so that one must offer all that he can afford, for an overpriced artificial scarcity, to obtain a place to live and work. This Bed of Procrustes fits the public to a subsistence wage for each grade of skill, all surplus production, irrespective of continued improvements, going, in rent or purchase price, to landholders (PROGRESS AND POVERTY), the larger of whom control basic industry, government, schools, media, and major religions. To break free of this slavery, we must ethically assess the full ground rent, created by nature, population and community development, without individual effort, and apportion it among federal, state and local services (natural resource rent to the federal government). It is the only ethical revenue, other than taxes on monopoly income, which shouldn't exist (and a few others, such as licenses), and would be sufficient, with a just economy, honest government and peaceful world. The federal tax, after the Civil War, came to only \$1 a person. (A tax on non-monopoly production is a form of slavery, appropriating an extension of the producer) Full ground rent assessment would make the public independent of landholders in the following ways:

1. By absorbing the "unearned increment" of now unassessed ground rent - capitalization of which, enhanced by speculation, constitutes sale price - sites would become available, at a nominal sale price, and assessment equal to their superiority over marginal land; equalizing, for ALL, the cost of this vital factor of production, and thus equalizing opportunity, as competition keeps labor and labor products - overpriced or not - costing approximately the same to all; while credit is available, from banks or suppliers, where there is access to the earth. With equal production costs, EVERYONE, of any skill, race, religion or national origin, of either sex, at any age, any time, could work at his skill level, at what he wished, in a safe, ethical occupation, in the business structure desired, obtaining the exact equivalent of his production, without the intercession of government or strikes; one wage earner able to support a family in a home. No dangerous, disgusting slums or public housing. School, work, marriage, divorce at will (N.Y.C. dropouts are 50%); minimizing an infinity of problems.
2. Endemic shoddy business and professional practices, thievery, prostitution of men, women and children, arson, vandalism, violence, drunkenness, smoking, drug addiction, rape would be minimized. Police firearms, use of force in arrest and questioning would end. Representative mediation would replace adversary law (unphilosophic, EREWHON, biased, overpriced), money payments replace detention (emotionally unsafe excepted), not beyond value of injury, and reasonable ability to pay. Mediation and money payments would also replace war; beyond border defense.
3. Military, financial and subversive intervention would cease; debts of bankrupt countries would be voided, as would internal government debts. We cannot ethically bind future generations to pay current expenses. The budget can be balanced by closing countless extravagances, boondoggles and loopholes, especially unassessed and underassessed ground rent, of over \$6 trillion. No tariffs or import quotas, other than of a temporary nature, while an equitable economy, with an end to all direct and indirect favors, is being established. Innumerable necessary adjustments would be facilitated by virtually free land.
4. Various forms of clean energy would be used, wherever practicable, and available devices to reduce pollution from present unclean energy use. Energy production would be retrofitted, to utilize as much of now wasted energy as possible, and businesses and residences would be well insulated. All natural resources would be recycled, as precious metals are; using incentives and penalties, as necessary. All, even gravel, are scarce.

* EREWHON - *Colleges of Unreason*, pp. 177-8 (Penguin). Da Vinci: "The beastly madness" - war, lack of work and home, from hoarded land, the curse of the world, and source of "volunteers" for every evil.

- Proclamation of the New World*
- "To the Victor..." - Govt., since ancient China, a cesspool of patronage, waste, graft, bias, incompetence. (Free land, surplus jobs, no-cost elections will ensure popular control, provide for all.)
5. No one would work on any stage of the production of nuclear power or weapons, or poisonous chemicals, unless safe working conditions, conversions and waste disposal were available. None would shorten his life as a "jumper" on maintenance or repair at a nuclear plant - an unaffordable hazard for trained personnel. No one would live or work near a nuclear plant, nuclear or poisonous chemical waste dump, or near a poisoned water supply.
 6. Food deterioration, from artificial fertilizers, driving out normal nutrients; harmful pesticides, antibiotics and additives, processing and handling; worn out poultry and their unfertilized eggs; the long human intestine's unsuitableness for meat digestion; abnormal fattening, carcinogenic fattening agents, rearing and slaughter torture, gross excess space, pollution, and cost of animal nutrients; excess use and poisoning of water, would turn us to organic farming, a vegetarian diet, crop rotation, waste product utilization, preservation of forests, ground cover and top soil; discontinuance of river diversions and the "mining" of irreplaceable aquifers, for communities or short term irrigation in arid regions, and the conversion of delicious, nutritious foods to those less so - some imported, coated with banned pesticides.
 7. Hundreds of millions of torturing animal experiments would be limited to those approved and supervised by animal rights organizations; vital, and not otherwise determinable, with minimal abuse. No duplication or practice; none in prisons, asylums or hospitals, or for competition.
 8. All medical, dental, hospital practices and costs would be supervised by a board of peers and grass roots ombudsmen, using a holistic approach; considering all means of preventing and curing illnesses and injuries, without medication or operations, when possible; by nutrition, fasting, vitamin and mineral supplements and injections, herbs, exercise, chiropractic, acupuncture, acupressure, hypnotism, mental attitudes and faith cures. Private agencies, free or otherwise, available, for advice and treatment, competing with government or subsidized establishments. No treatment, successful anywhere, prohibited. Free medical and dental care denied to none, Indian reservation residents included. (One-half of Americans get no dental care)
 9. All federal, state and local acts and expenditures, and all natural monopolies - everything in limited supply - privately or government operated: banks, rails, airlines, interurban and urban transportation, electric, gas, telephone, garbage, postal and express services would be supervised by grass roots ombudsmen; differences settled by representative mediation. Correct wages and working conditions are those that attract enough people to get the work done, where surplus opportunities exist. Balance of nature a prime consideration in all decisions.
 10. WE REJECT THE UNSCIENTIFIC ASSERTIONS OF PSEUDO ECONOMISTS ("a monkey with a microscope, a mule packing a library"), who don't differentiate between economic and political means; whose monopoly employers would blacklist them if they advocated an end to monopoly - legal robbery (the political means) - as the only solution to our problems. 3% in the western hemisphere (similarly elsewhere) own the land, and could legally expel others from the earth - a reductio ad absurdum. "Interest," as a "return to waiting," or a "return to the increased production of the borrower" is an abstraction. Any net "interest" (beyond insurance) comes from monopoly, in business; from taxes, in government. Pitt and Hamilton set up sinking funds, expecting "interest" to pay off national debts. As a reductio ad absurdum, such a fund might do all the world's work. Only 18% of private pension funds pay out. Inflation (dishonesty), to make jobs; "massive unemployment" (inhumanity), to curb inflation; or "moderate" inflation, with "moderate" idleness are contrary to the natural order of things - as dishonest as the doctor's "pregnancy cure," given to the girl in "The Rake's Progress." We can simultaneously have zero inflation and surplus jobs. "Economists" offer, and the public expects no proofs. Henry George: "Liberty calls to us again. We must follow her further; we must trust her fully. Either we must wholly accept her or she will not stay." With free land, mediation and ombudsmen, we helots, peons, esnes and pawns shall have accepted her, and ridden ourselves of the whims, caprices, avarice, sadism, ignorance and stupidity of our rulers (Schiller: "Against stupidity, even the Gods are helpless." Talleyrand: "It is worse than a crime; it is a mistake."), now, like rogue elephants, trampling down the earth and its peoples with PERPETUAL WAR FOR PERPETUAL PEACE, hundreds of millions homeless (a million in the U.S.), thousands starving, torture in 98 countries, including the U.S., and inflicting irresponsible damage to our foods, economies and environment - crimes for each of which private citizens would hang - sentences to run consecutively.

"The American Economic Review," Nobel Prize "economists" - transcendentalist algebraic, calculus equations and charts, a library of statistics, 8-yr.-old girls' "just becuz" credos; one to a customer. *All who see surplus jobs as the main solvent for world ills will vote against opponents of this basic right - our worst criminals.*