

ETHICAL FULL GROUND RENT ASSESSMENT  
- KEYSTONE OF JUSTICE AND SURVIVAL

Assessment devotes to public services the superiority value of sites - business or residence-created by nature, population and community development, without individual effort. By absorbing the now unassessed portion of ground rent - the "unearned increment" - capitalization of which, enhanced by speculation, constitutes sale price - all sites become available at a nominal price, equalizing, for all, this now variable, extortionate cost of home or production; providing surplus opportunities, the ample choice assuring residence, or work of any kind desired, at one's skill level, paying the equivalent of one's production, with discrimination impossible; permitting refusal of unethical work, or dangerous work or residence. Taxes on wages, savings, improvements, personal property can be reduced. Land for Indians, all public purposes available at improvement costs, freeing hemisphere Indians of virtual slavery. "World Paper," Dec., '83: 30 million slaves - chattel, voluntary bondage of poor, fake work promises, fake debts, sold or kidnapped children. (U. S. prison labor) Hoarding of sites will end, raising margin of cultivation, thus the base wage, and stairway of wages, for all skills. Producers must now offer all they can afford, for scarce sites, holding down wages for each skill, to avoid unemployment; increases in productivity going, perforce, to landholders, not producers. Family farms, near markets, will grow organic foods, no artificial fertilizers or pesticides; processed without harmful additives or preservatives, requiring no extra vitamins or minerals. Agribusiness, unwholesome practices, subsidized dams, diverted rivers, vast irrigation, dislocation of industry, excessive transportation, "mining" of aquifers will end. We'll adopt a vegan diet, for health, economy, least acreage for nutrients; no animal torture, in rearing and slaughter, excess fat, carcinogenic fattening agents, pesticides, herbicides, antibiotics, feed lot pollution, worn out poultry, unfertilized eggs, putrefaction in long human intestines. Crops where rainfall is sufficient, on level land. No business or residence on wetlands. Everyone can afford better than slums, avoiding rat bites, fires and freezing, death, property loss, uncollected garbage, dangerous potholes, vandalism, arson, rape, thievery. One million in U. S. now homeless. Runaways, kidnapped, unwanted, illegitimate children, venereal disease reduced, with marriage financially possible when ready; also divorce, abused wives and children, with one parent able to support a family. Greatly reduced crime will enable us to convert expensive, dehumanizing detention to money payments, with humane detention only for the dangerously disturbed. Free, representative mediation to replace discriminatory, capricious, expensive adversary law; saving men, women and children from wasted lives, brutality, rape; and ten million, now free, from sodomy. White collar crime, unpunished, creates poor criminals. Unviable large cities, with excessive crime, travel, parking space, water leakage, deeply buried utilities, little recreation, crowding, noise, lack of privacy, mental, physical illness, will decentralize. No toxic chemicals produced, until safe conversion assured. Nuclear plants will die, there being no safe production, nor waste conversion or disposal; nor anyone forced to risk such work. Ending all types of favoritism will end monopolies. Exploitive wars, destitution, shortened lives, terrorism, torture, wholesale emigration impossible, as few will support it, to "make jobs", or because unwilling to trade for commodities, instead of stealing them. Such policies will induce emulation, and demands for economic democracy everywhere, ending colonial rivalry, and thus the purpose of war, nuclear or "civilized", with unrescuable wounded screaming in agony, in no man's land, armless, legless, eyeless survivors; every building in Serbia razed, English women demanding polygamy, after World War I; every building in occupied Korea bombed by us; a million children born to Russian women raped by Nazis; half of Vietnamese children dying before age five, from our poisoning. DESCHOOLING SOCIETY promotes both efficient and honest learning. Activist supervision of government, political boycotts, and freedom to refrain from unethical work will develop a self-sustaining society, recycle all resources, preserve the environment, with government and business wasting or poisoning nothing, robbing no one. Producing much less, with more clean power, and reforestation, to absorb carbon dioxide, ice caps will not melt, to raise water level thirty feet, and all can live well on a few hours of pleasant work a day. The spoiled few cannot keep the world impoverished, and threaten its existence, for monopoly profits, kickbacks, and indulgent self expression in world or area hegemony. We must concentrate on basic justice, and the political boycotts needed to obtain it.

We, and the world are not, and never shall be civilized until there is universal full ground rent assessment, absorbing this unearned increment, the unassessed portion of which is capitalized as sale price; making all sites available at nominal cost, assuring surplus job opportunities. Our teachings and literature, however, ignore the vital effects of such assessment. We need it so that ANY individual, of ANY or NO particular skill can, AT ALL TIMES, exercise his faculties to the extent, and in a way desired, and support himself, living in his own home, with, as Henry George said, only a few hours of pleasant work a day. This assessment should FULLY replace taxes on production - current earnings, and especially past earnings, in improvements, equipment, supplies, and bank savings, which are multiple taxes on the same items. Taxes on a house, during its lifetime, are estimated to total the original cost - with no comparable benefits received. There is also no ethical right to pass today's costs of operation onto future generations, and we must therefore cancel the national debt (automatically assuring future balanced budgets), bonds for which should usually have been tax receipts. As no large national debt has ever been paid, bondholders, in any case, would lose only interest, until the debt is cancelled outright, or by inflation. Immediate cancellation would help considerably to balance the budget.

To obviate the need for taxes on production, we must eliminate the endless favors to monopoly, unconscionable waste, graft, ignorance, stupidity, exploitation of the Third World, with independent, cross-checking ombudsmen; and the military cost, deprivation, torture and death that exploitation involves; the poisoning and destruction of the environment, deterioration of foods, and consequent costs of trying to clean up our poisonings, repair our destruction, nurse the sick, wounded and crippled, supply vitamins and minerals, supplementing defective foods. Without reforms of every kind, taxes on production must increase, until poverty forces so much crime and consequent suppression that all order is lost, as it already is in much of the world. We are escaping reality at an ever increasing rate, in drink, drugs, sedatives, chain smoking, gum chewing, rock and roll, coffee, tea, colas and overeating.

With the fall of the Roman Empire, poverty in Rome caused so much crime and repression that the populace fled to the forests and mountains to escape it, and its size fell from nearly a million to 30,000. Major cities were almost denuded of people. When Britain seized the Dutch East Indies, to withhold them from Napoleon, they found that the natives had fled from Dutch overwork, underpay and torture. Sir Stamford Raffles replaced production taxes with ground rent assessment, and the natives returned to work. We must do likewise for ourselves, and advocate it for others; not only for its direct benefit, in assuring full employment, at wages equivalent to one's production but in enabling everyone to reject all unethical, personally unsafe, or otherwise unsatisfactory work. Boycotts must do what monopoly and government will not.

Our cities must be reduced, as in HUMAN SCALE; industry as in SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL. Agriculture must be naturalized, as in THE ONE-STRAW REVOLUTION. We can't afford the dangers of nuclear power production, quarantined plants and waste; and certainly not making the world unlivable, in war. With full ground rent assessment, there would not be a million homeless here, nor half a billion worldwide; no disgusting and dangerous public housing; a country full of thieves and prostitutes, muggers, rapists, vandals, arsonists, unsafe homes, streets, parks, with the highest percentage of prisoners, the most brutal police and prison guards, the longest sentences, and the only capital punishment in the developed world. It is the responsibility of all who can see the potential of full ground rent assessment to advocate boycotts of all who will not support it.