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A FREE MARKET - FREE PEOPLE

"He who cannot speak his thoughts is a slave." - Euripides

A free market starts with free access to the earth, on which all must live, and on which all wealth is produced. It is obtained by simple ethics - assessing, for public services, the full ground rent, a value created by nature, population and community development, without individual effort, absorbing the 'unearned increment' (unassessed rental value), capitalization of which - enhanced by speculation - constitutes sale price. This forces land into its best use, to pay the assessment, eliminating hoarding and speculative pricing, making all sites available at a nominal sale price, and an assessment representing their superiority over marginal land. (PROGRESS AND POVERTY) Equalizing this vital factor of production provides surplus opportunities for work or residence, the ample choice assuring wages equivalent to one's production, in safe, ethical occupations, of the kind desired, under satisfactory conditions, in the business structure preferred, at one's skill level; facilitating decentralization, without legislation or violence. (HUMAN SCALE) Marriage possible when biologically ready. Improvement tax reductions equal to increases in ground rent assessments. Compact development. Parks, play space, other public land free, except for any existing improvements. (SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL)

End ALL monopoly-creating, other favoritism, thus unearned income; fantastic, pervasive waste. Patents available to all, at a reasonable royalty. Free trade between nations, any export subsidies being balanced by import duties. Colonialism and neocolonialism - enforced by arms, trade or credit restrictions - must end, to end robbery of Third World labor and raw materials; to end transfer of production from developed countries to its slave labor, and to enable it to develop economic and political democracy; thus ending rivalry for its milking; all together, eliminating formal and guerrilla warfare, hunger, torture, slaughter, bankruptcy. (THE GREAT FEAR IN LATIN AMERICA) This minimizes destruction and poisoning of the environment, poisoning and deterioration of foods, dangerous loss of wildlife and topsoil, threatening the intricate balance of nature and means of sustenance; ending slums (everyone could afford to live elsewhere); with the millions of homeless throughout the world able to buy shelter. Full employment, better health, safe working and living conditions will minimize sickness, dissipation, crime and repression costs. We could furnish COMPLETE social services, free, except for some payment by the rich; replace costly, highly discriminatory, unphilosophic law with almost free representative mediation, using truth tests when necessary; stupid, sadistic, costly detention being replaced with monetary restitution (detention only for the emotionally dangerous). Convert present detention. (IN THE BELLY OF THE BEAST; WOMEN IN PRISON; YOUTH IN HELL)

Credit issued up to the value of goods in the market place, offered as collateral for loans, maintaining a balance; no inflation or deflation. Such unused credit can be granted to others. Activist ombudsmen should assure soundness and impartiality of loans, while supervising all else in government. Eliminate depletion allowances on ALL natural resources (over 100 industries). End ALL exemptions on ground rent. A flat tax rate on ALL business (THE RELIGIOUS EMPIRE), and on personal incomes above a certain level. Compulsory schooling - child slavery - must end; years of wasted life, in a uniformity unsuited to widely varying personalities; with unneeded and unwanted courses, often taught by faddist methods; elitist control molding subservience to statism and monopoly (assuming that children belong to the state); making reforms virtually impossible; causing prevalent rebellion, in disorder, crime and dissipation. Parent and individual control would produce cooperative schools, parent and self teaching, resource centers, with competent certification, some no-strings subsidies, and useful work, when desired. Far less time and cost, far more satisfaction. (THE TWELVE-YEAR SENTENCE) No politician, media, school, religion or activist group now more than dabbles with justice, lacking the security of surplus jobs. ONLY FREE LAND CAN MAKE A FREE PEOPLE. (W. Europe - no capital crimes, maximum Swedish sentence - 12 years, home visits; Danish civil cases - 75% mediated; 5% of Japanese guilty are imprisoned; parts of ancient China - ALL crimes mediated, paid in money; U.S. - least services, vacations, most sadistic laws, courts, police, prisons in developed world)

TIME, 8-1-83 Japan, 1 danger in 10,000; U.S. 1 in 400

Japan, 1-4 murders, 1-9 robberies in 100,000; U.S. 10-2 and 2340

FULL GROUND RENT ASSESSMENT, NOMINALLY PRICED SITES AND
SURPLUS JOBS - OR NOTHING

Without it, there will be no prosperity, and thus no peace, in Latin America, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, the Philippines, Africa, Northern Ireland. Full assessment, absorbing the "unearned increment" of now unassessed rental value - basis of sale price - makes all sites available at nominal cost, thus restoring ownership of the earth not only to the nation but to the people, in free access to work and residence, assuring surplus jobs, while using the assessment for public purposes; ending both neocolonialism and local land monopoly, in the milking of cheap resources and labor. Without it, there is no end to international terrorism, the threat of nuclear annihilation, unpayable national and international debts; to homelessness for a half billion (a million in the U. S.); no end to world slums, unemployment, and chattel or economic slavery, hunger, malnutrition, starvation, unnecessary illness, medical expenses and shortened lives; no end to police and prison brutality, sodomy (to be forced on 10 million, now free, in the U. S.), torture and death, especially in the Third World; no end to vandalism, arson, thievery, prostitution, rape, political corruption; to dislocated industries and populations, destroyed rainforests (one half already gone), changing rainfall, temperature and wind patterns; to destroyed wildlife, affecting vital plant and animal interrelationships; to diverted rivers and uneconomic dams, injuring the environment; no end to vast farming in irrigated dry lands, until irreplaceable aquifers dry up, or canals salinize; with agribusiness monoculture, vulnerable to pestilence, vast loss of topsoil, use of artificial fertilizers, and loss of vital soil nutrients.

Without it, no reduction of large city populations, with inadequate play space and parks, wasteful transportation costs, traveling time, street, parking and elevator space, deeply laid utilities, with serious water loss, too costly to repair - to economically and socially viable size. All ills greatly increase with size. (HUMAN SCALE) Urban and rural infrastructure, of rails, roads, bridges, water and sewer mains too expensive to keep up, in a monopolized economy. Our compulsory, autocratic educational system leaves us illiterate, and miseducated on nutrition, civics, history and economics, with limitless nuclear power dangers, stalled clean power development, and ever increasing smoking, alcoholism and drug addiction, to forget economic pressures, noise, crowding, dangers of assault and murder. No end to cruel "sports," of hunting (a third only wounded, to die in agony), rodeos, bull, dog and cock fights, horse and dog races, circus and movie stunts, many zoos; cruel stock raising and slaughter; many millions of fiendish, frivolous, duplicated and prolonged experiments, when mechanical means are available; unwholesome eating of meat, putrefying in the long human intestine; greatly fattened with carcinogens, poisoned with pesticides and antibiotics, and requiring many times the acreage and cost of more valuable vegetable nutrients.

We should produce nothing dangerous, without means for safe conversion, but have created enormous unredeemable sewers of toxic ground water. SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL both in production methods and total production; rather than in collecting useless gadgets, luxuries for monopolists, and in gratifying their dreams of glory in area or world hegemony, at the cost of slaughtered and crippled soldiers and civilians (civilian casualties: Korea, 84 %; Vietnam, 90 %), back breaking taxes and Third World wretchedness. Congressmen can live well, without perquisites, effectively doubling their salaries, and kickbacks from grossly overpriced, often unneeded weapons, furniture, consulting firms, and holiday junkets abroad. Parkinson's laws: government will expand, to use up any revenue received; and the larger a department grows, the less efficient it becomes. There can be no end to useless, incompetent growth, without surplus jobs - for excess bureaucrats, workers on useless or unethical projects, and for discharged whistleblowers. (TRUTH...AND CONSEQUENCES) To convert to law based upon "Complete freedom, limited only by the equal freedom of others," in place of unphilosophic, discriminatory, too expensive adversary law; to representative mediation and money payments, in place of sadistic, expensive detention, we need a just economy, decentralized communities, and little violence, as in Scandinavia. We must boycott and filibuster, to obtain full ground rent assessment - for itself, and so that other reforms may follow, with the public able to "vote with their feet," when nominally priced sites are available, for work and residence, without being forced to rely upon the delegated power of officials. An ethical world is sustainable.

"The Condition of Labor" - Henry George's "Open Letter to Pope Leo XIII."