



WHO IS William W. Newcomb ?

Who is William Newcomb who brings you this package of enlightenment?

Mr. Newcomb has been all over the United States and in many countries in Europe, always studying the issues related to land. Born in Huntington, Indiana, he was raised in Bismarck, North Dakota, with his three brothers, (a retired Army Colonel, a microbiologist, and a former TV actor) in a Baptist minister's family.

Mr. Newcomb's college education was at the University of Rochester and Syracuse University. During his first year in college, Mr. Newcomb was introduced to Henry George's "Progress and Poverty" by his uncle, a dentist in Rochester, with whom Mr. Newcomb shared board and room. Mr. Newcomb did not cotton to the economics he was taught at the university. Instead of attending a mid-term examination, he wrote a paper on Henry George's economic thesis, which the professor accepted in lieu of, and gave Mr. Newcomb an "A". His professor whispered to Mr. Newcomb: "I wish the University would let me teach Henry George's economics."

Mr. Newcomb was formerly Editor of a scholarly economic journal in New York, and Economics Editor of a mass circulation magazine in Chicago. He has been a writer-producer-editor for two Teaching Film companies, and a Feature Writer on a metropolitan newspaper.

From 1955 to 1976, he has been a real estate broker in Melbourne, Florida. He says:

"Little did I realize that a multi-billion dollar Man-In-Space program would be created by the U.S. Government 25 miles northeast of Melbourne. Or that the population of Melbourne would rise from 4,500 to 140,000; that land prices in the "boondocks" would rise from \$50 per acre to \$6000 to \$10,000 and more in the newly created suburban towns; that the price of gas station sites rise from \$2,000 to \$125,000.

"Every time I brokered a 100, 200, 400 or 1000 acre tract I would ask the buyer to develop it. Did he? Occasionally. But usually he was a speculator and he would sell to another speculator, and he to another speculator ad nauseum. Every time I brokered a tract to a speculator, one-half of my com- 6-1533 mission would be allocated to one of the land value tax foundations.

So, whereas a nice three bedroom, two-bath house might be built or purchased for, say, \$20,000 under the land value tax program in 1976, it must be bought for \$40,000, \$50,000, and up, up, up. Tell me how a \$10,000 per-year family man can

pay a mortgage on today's house prices and meet the other necessities of life: food, clothing, a car, the many kinds of insurance he must carry, recreation, a savings account.....emergencies?

“But if Florida tax assessors were permitted by law to tax land only (with no other local taxes) imagine what would have redounded to the people of my county: Better schools, higher teachers' salaries, virtually no social service needs (except for the indigent elderly) because people of working age would find plenty of employment, higher wages without union demands, shorter working hours and best of all, lower costs for food clothing and other necessities of life, because the merchant's rent would be less.”

Mr. Newcomb has long been in the forefront of the land value tax movement: He is a Vice President of the Henry George Foundation of America; Florida Regional Committeeman of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation; Member of the International Union for Land Value Taxation, London; Charter Member of Land, Equality and Freedom. Member, Taxation With Representation, Washington, D.C.; He is a Charter Member of Common Cause; Former Membership Chairman, South Brevard County Chapter, Florida Common Cause. Founder and twice President of the West Melbourne Chamber of Commerce.

He has delivered papers at national and international conferences held in England, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Miami Beach, Chicago and other cities.

He is married to the former Helen Bakenhus, long-time secretary to the late Harold S. Battenheim, former co-owner and editor of “The American Magazine”, New York, who founded the New York Citizen Housing Council. Mrs. Newcomb was twice Commissioner of the Town of Melbourne Village; and served four terms as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer of the American Homesteading Foundation, the non-profit Corporation which created the subdivision that later became the Town of Melbourne Village.

David Hapgood

Author “The Screwing of the Average Man”
(Doubleday, 1974, Bantom paperback, 1975)

“The Average Man Fights Back”
(Doubleday, 1977)