

Publishers of
ONE-SENTENCE ECONOMICS
AND WORLD LEPROSY

- Howard W. L'Hommiedieu

An end to monopoly — in gov-
ernment, banking, land, patents,
mergers, trade unions, medicine.

Rational, humane laws. Prisons
abolished; replaced by fines,
with psychiatric treatment if
necessary.

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LAW AGAINST THE PEOPLE

Edited By ROBERT LEFCOURT

Assess full ground rent, without
exception, for ethical revenue
source, low improvement taxes,
an end to speculation. Choice of
sites at true rental value will en-
sure a surplus of safe employ-
ment, at wages equal to one's
production.

Government restitution for offi-
cial or private injuries. Polygraph
tests to be accepted as evidence.

"The legal system is bankrupt, ...Criminal courts protect existing economic, political and social relations. ...The roles of the judge, the prosecuting attorney, and even the defense lawyer for the poor and near-poor reinforce the bias, ...ninety-one percent of all Americans have violated laws that could subject them to a term in prison. ...'crime flourishes, and has always flourished, in city slums; those neighborhoods where over-crowding, economic deprivation, social disruption, and racial discrimination are en-demic.' ...it is still the individual's economic and social class and the color of his skin that determine his relationship to the legal system. ... (no one urges) a district attorney's office to arrest the property owners and corporate managers who violate air and water pollution laws, antitrust laws, housing codes, and the health and safety laws of the drug and auto industries." (Major criminals are not so designated.)

"...nearly forty-five percent of all arrests are for crimes without victims," (All sump-tuary laws should be repealed, as we not qualified to play God.) ...'bail is most often used against a defendant to 'teach him a lesson' or to 'protect the community.'" (illegally assuming guilt in advance, and not merely assuring appearance in court.) The weeks, months or years of preventive detention do not even count toward any sentence that may be im-posed, and pressure the helpless to plead guilty, even if innocent or deserving of con-sideration because of ameliorating circumstances, because of the usual collusion between the court, the prosecutor and defense counsel, however selected or hired. Seventy percent of criminal defendants plead guilty (over 90 percent in many states), because the one act may subject a man to several charges, each carrying a prison sentence, and if Black he will probably be convicted. He may therefore plead guilty to one of the lesser charges. This helps to keep the poor in subjection, and get through the overcrowded docket, which may call for about one decision a minute. "a cohesive white upper class, consisting of approximately one-half of one percent of the people in this country, controls every major bank and corporation and personally owns over one-quarter of the country's wealth, while eighty percent of all stock value is owned by less than two percent of all families. ... the profits of the top fifty corporations represent about forty percent of all industrial earnings, ...It is estimated that by 1975 three hundred corporations will own two-thirds of the industrial assets of the world."

A labor union in the early nineteenth century was defined as an illegal conspiracy to interfere with employees' freedom of contract. ...workers out on strike were criminals. By the late 1930s union organizing and right to strike were protected (except among the weak and public employees) and bosses were required to bargain. Union contracts became enforceable in court." Power determines what is legal. Legislatures in the eighteenth century were offering bounties for Indian scalps. The U. S. Supreme Court (1823): "discovery gave exclusive title to those who made it" - "upholding the land claims of whites who 'discovered' certain lands occupied by Indians, ...Governmental suggestions for dealing with "the Indian problem" ranged from penning them up on reservations to genocide. Ample efforts were made at both." Both Indians and Chinese were barred from testifying in court, and orientals were barred from owning or leasing land, or en-gaging in certain occupations. During World War II, 110,000 Japanese Americans, 70,000 of them citizens, were placed in detention camps, their property going at forced sale, within five days, and their bank deposits not released for a quarter of a century.

Chief Justice Taney:(Blacks) "had no rights which the white man was bound to respect." There was little difference between a post-Civil War Black Code and a pre-Civil War

Slave Code. While most discrimination is outlawed today, it is flagrantly and viciously practiced at every level of government. "Law...is simply a set of rules governing social relationships and determining how conflicts are to be resolved according to the interests of the dominant class, ...The legal process isolates crime from its social roots, ...it considers irrelevant the fact that our social system creates crime through its daily operation, sanctions the robbery of consumers by commodity producers and of laborers by employers, but not the reverse, ...The poorer countries have no legal recourse when the United States interferes in their affairs, expropriating their wealth and murdering their people."

"The rise of repression in America cannot be separated from the disintegration of the institutions of daily life." Morals, social, economic and property relationships, marriage are undergoing changing values, which undermine "the capacity of institutions to perform their assigned roles." This leaves a void for the ruling class. "Repression in its ideological cloak, law and order, has attempted to fill that void. ...the revolt of ordinary people against all forms of legitimate authority controlling the institutions of daily life and their simultaneous efforts to establish their own authority over these institutions takes the law from its preeminence in society and reveals it as an arm of class rule. ...the demand for popular control itself poses all the questions about the neutrality of law and the legitimacy of bureaucracies and hierarchies to manage our lives." Popular control is being sought, here and there, for our schools, hospitals, factories, churches and family life. It should have far reaching effects in giving us more participatory democracy.

George Jackson, speaking from Soledad Prison, California: "No other experience, no other social phenomenon, can equal the traumatic effect of imprisonment, the total loss of all liberty. Any further downward movement takes one out of this existence. ...Reducing men to dormancy and trembling is (the guard's) trade. There is no other method to successfully hold a man inside an American prison. A bad contact with just one of these guards can literally kill you; ...The unrestrained brutality, the strict regimentation, all under the title of rehabilitation for return to society, the whole thing is a very strong comment on the real nature of the society in which one is expected to 'fit,' ...the guard is less psychologically secure than the man he has trapped." Guards are "the most hated of men." Only by fear and terror tactics can they control so many prisoners.

"...the Chinese legal tradition has eschewed formal legal rules, which are regarded in Chinese philosophy dating to early Confucian thought as inherently inferior to principles of behavior derived from common consent or custom, and enforced through community pressure and community-based mediation agencies operating largely informally." Positive law represents coercion, and indicates an imperfect society. (The law, "Thou shalt not steal," indicates a need to steal.) "there are only 250 lawyers in all China." In "Panorama of World Legal Systems," John H. Wigmore states that the Chinese would not think of imposing a penalty on someone unless he could be persuaded that it was just. All penalties, even for murder, in certain times and certain areas, were paid in money, as agreed upon between the families concerned. Modern penologists are agreed that no one should be punished beyond his capacity to pay, without injuring himself. It should be apparent that no one could construct a code of laws to fit the infinite complexities of life, and mediation boards, with various group and civil liberty representations, should be set up for both civil and criminal cases. Knowing that cases were going before such boards, if at all, it is possible that they would not be greatly needed.

Without a prison system, we should have Herbert Spencer's proposal, of "complete freedom, limited only by the equal freedom of others." The entire society would have to become fairly reasonable, as one would have very little power, other than that of his own personality. It would be impossible to maintain any kind of monopoly. People could move onto idle land, whether for residence, industry, office space, farming, oil or minerals. People would voluntarily ^{pay} an inventor a reasonable royalty, but there would be no exclusive use. Cooperative banking would replace monopolized banking. Only ground rent would be paid. Campaigns of frightfulness would not be fought nor financed.