

PUBLIC PRESS

Publishers of
ONE-SENTENCE ECONOMICS

AND WORLD LEPROSY

Howard W. L'Hommedieu

An end to monopoly — in government, banking, land, patents, mergers, trade unions, medicine.

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

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS 60004

1020 N. Salem Ave.

Aug. 22, 1984

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 ensure a surplus of safe employment, at wages equal to one's production.

Government restitution for official or private injuries. Polygraph tests to be accepted as evidence.

The Honorable Walter F. Mondale
Vice President of the United States

Dear Sir:

To lose an election to a heartless, sadistic, irresponsible, pistol packing Old Emptyhead would haunt you for the rest of your life, but a decisively aggressive, constructive program is needed to avert a predicted Republican landslide. Much of the world, including the U. S., is in a state of disaster. Even those now financially comfortable face increasing crime, terrorism, perpetual job and inflation uncertainty, high interest rates, a deteriorated and poisoned environment and food supply, the threat of a clean water (even commercial water shortage), a chemically and nuclear poisoned earth, air, water and people. You said that we must raise taxes, but did not mention the countless loopholes by which corporations, foundations, and many individuals evade existing taxes. The U. S. News & World Report, Sept., 1981, I believe, stated that corporations don't pay taxes, and Senator Metzenbaum cited the billions of dollars by which government subsidized corporations, as a group, in excess of what corporations paid in taxes. Mrs. Ferraro's finances are immaterial, as she is a recognized liberal, contrary to Reagan's cabinet of millionaires, enriching the rich (TIME, 8-27-84, p. 22), increasing the destitution of the poor, wrecking the hemisphere environment, indulging in starvation, torture, slaughter.

Dare you insist on the logical point, that, as the U. S. and Soviets have been able, since 1969, to make the world uninhabitable, irrespective of a first strike by either, that further nuclear arms are a boondoggle, for profits and kickbacks; that a conventional war between them would lead to a nuclear war; that an autocracy, as well as a democracy, is too intelligent to contemplate such a war; that half our conventional arms are of use only against the Third World; that we have illegally and immorally committed at least 784 hostile acts against Latin America since the Monroe Doctrine, and should immediately cease helping dictators to rob, torture and slaughter their peoples, forcing them to produce for U. S. consumption; and confine our activities, when requested, to helping them set up just economies, benefiting all their own peoples; and thus be able to limit D. O. D. expenditures to maintenance? Will you say that we were wrong in supporting South African slavery, black exploitation in Rhodesia, and the three Portuguese colonies in Africa, whose suppression, it happens, consumed 45 % of Portugal's revenue; and that Russian-supported Cuban help in freeing these colonies was justified, as is Russian help in freeing any Latin American country from us? It is hypocritical asininity to claim that we originally protected Latin America from wicked West Europeans, and are now protecting them from communism, when we have been robbing and terrorizing the area for a century-and-a-half, and communists are their only source of help. It cost Nicaragua immense loss of life to get rid of us.

You could easily defend the Carter administration against criticism of the Panama Canal Treaty. Panama is entitled to whatever is in its territory. We are entitled to be repaid, and have use of the canal, as was the case

of France with the Suez Canal. The canal cannot be protected, as it can be bombed from the air, or shelled from the sea, or adjoining forests. The only protection is world benefit in shipping charges. President Carter also deserves great credit for his persistence and patience in bringing about the Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty, eliminating the possibility of formal war in the area. The idea that business should not be very good, as it "overheats" the economy, causing inflation, must be rejected. The government must pay as it goes, and stop borrowing money. The budget can always be balanced, by issuing tax receipts instead of bonds. The middle class should not be taxed for generations, to pay off bonds purchased by monopolists, who should have been taxed. One should know enough about the natural order of things not to believe that higher employment requires inflation, and that reduced inflation requires "massive unemployment," as our economic hirelings of monopoly insist; unable, without being blacklisted, to favor an end to monopoly, in the only possible way - by ending direct and indirect favors. You should take the offensive, in rejecting the term, "conservatives," for reactionaries, who conserve nothing, but who are robbing and wrecking the world and its peoples - these Bourbons, who "learn nothing, and forget nothing." They should not be allowed to deride liberals, who try to restore honesty, sanity and humanity to the world.

If you would like to be really daring, you could adopt the revenue policy of William the Conqueror, list all the landholdings of the country in what landholders would call the Doomsday Book, and assess the full ground rent, to support as much as possible not only of local but federal revenue needs

- needs which could easily be slashed out of all recognition, without cutting relief until surplus jobs reduce the need - something which Reagan and so-called "Cap, the knife" are far from doing. Nominally priced sites, resulting from assessment of the "unearned increment," capitalization of which now constitutes sale price, would bring surplus job opportunities to all, irrespective of skill, making discrimination impossible, enabling those now engaged in producing for destruction or poisoning to leave, for ethical work; and those being underpaid, or working at less than skill level, or under hazardous conditions, to find satisfactory work elsewhere. The opposition of both employees and communities to any changes reducing either military or polluting operations, for fear of losing jobs, would disappear. Even without this basic reform, much can be done to remove many unjustified tax exemptions, illegally reduced taxes on improved land, and especially on vacant land. The last is part of our miseducation, in taxing production, rather than the potential value which nature and the community have placed in the land. Playing dog-in-the-manger with it, or demanding a high speculative price for it is what keeps millions around the world unemployed and destitute. Full ground rent assessment would end an infinity of evils.

To make many friends, one must make some enemies. As Euripedes put it, "He who cannot speak his thoughts is a slave." Police often urge suspected murderers to confess, saying that they will feel better for it. Although that is not the police motive, it is a fact. The U. S., like other exploitative powers, will feel better if it confesses its egregious historic wrongs

- especially if it corrects them, and can enjoy the gratitude of all our hemisphere satellites, freed from our robbers, torturers and slaughterers, requiring the burden of our own heavy taxes, high monopoly costs of everything, and considerable loss of health, privacy and civil rights. Yours should be much more than a Party victory. The world situation requires far more than "the art of the politically possible." Whether or not the world is in immediate danger of extinction, by bombing or poisoning, there are hundreds of millions of miserable wretches, for a large proportion of whom we are responsible, while we can also help many others. We have the power, and thus the obligation to enter a Crusade for justice and humanity.

encl.

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ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS 60004

1020 N. Salem Ave.

Oct. 1, 1984

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 ensure a surplus of safe employment, at wages equal to one's production.

Government restitution for official or private injuries. Polygraph tests to be accepted as evidence.

The Honorable Walter F. Mondale

Dear Sir:

Your election would restore many benefits to the needy, but the majority must see sure benefits, to overcome present odds. Third World jobs would not be a concern, if we withdrew our support for dictators, and let their peoples produce for themselves, instead of for us, at \$ 1 hr., or \$ 22 a month in S. Africa. High technology and robots would not be a worry, if people of any skill level could always support themselves, with nominally priced sites available. The pork barrel "Christmas tree" and "Burning Money" should go, with ombudsmen supervision. Increasing taxes on the rich would largely result in the same evasion that now permits corporations to pay less taxes, as a group, than the subsidies they receive from government. All tax loopholes should go, including complete abolition of depletion allowances for more than 100 industries. Cancellation of the unethical, unpayable national debt would halve the deficit, assure future budget balance, while taxation of arms profits would deter war.

"Missile Envy" shows our superiority over Russia, our initiatives in new weaponry, our threats and use of them; also our nearly 800 acts hostile to Latin Americans. These sins, of which Reagan says we paragons of virtue are incapable, must be publicly admitted. We have effectively taken over the empires of Spain, Portugal, Iran temporarily, and tried for Indochina; we share Indonesia; enforcing indescribable wholesale wretchedness, torture and slaughter. We have no right to complain if these wretches accept aid from Russia, to escape from us and our fiendish puppets. The same applies to aid received by Portugal's African colonies.

There is no excuse for further arms, when we and the Soviets can each destroy the world several times over, irrespective of a first strike by either, and any prospective advances in the foreseeable future. The logic of this idea must be pounded into our thick skulls, in spite of the never-ending yak about "keeping America strong. We shouldn't wait for bombing to pound sense into our heads, as it has to the remainder of the developed world. Our "democracy" hasn't kept us from committing endless atrocities upon helpless peoples, throughout our history, and the fact that the Soviets have much less democracy doesn't mean that their leaders are idiots who would destroy the world, or even see any gain in conquering a country by destruction, even if they were left relatively untouched.

We should reorient our thinking into a great crusade for justice and humanity everywhere, starting with the abolition of our colonialism and domestic monopolies, collecting \$ 6 trillion in ground rent, ending taxes on improvements and other savings; assuring surplus jobs, with nominally priced sites, completely adequate free social services, repair of our failing infrastructure; removing the demand for barbarous prisons and capital punishment. Making a virtue out of necessity, you could become our greatest president and world leader.

Sincerely,
Howard W. L'Hommedieu

encl.

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ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS 60004

1020 N. Salem Ave.

Oct. 23, 1984

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The Honorable Walter F. Mondale
Vice President of the United States

Dear Sir:

You are quoted, in The Georgist Journal, from a letter to Steven Gord, President of the Henry George Foundation, as follows: "There are a number of things which the federal government could do to further the taxation of land values. It could levy such a federal tax itself and this would be much preferable to taxes on labor and capital investment. It could establish a new city based solely on land value taxation in order to demonstrate the feasibility of that principle..." The majority of cities of Australia, New Zealand and Canadian prairies provinces have long been demonstrating the principle. Boulder, Colo., was expected to die after the dam was finished, but because it was financed by ground rent, it prospered. Parts of urban and rural China, in the time of Confucius, paid both local and government taxes from ground rent, as did the England of William the Conqueror, until the Magna Charta traded civil rights for the nobility, for the king's privilege of taxing labor and labor products. By 1845, 96% of the burden of government had been shifted from ground rent, where it belonged, to labor, where it didn't belong, giving the English the poorest health in Europe and a greatly shortened height.

Republicans are having a field day, quoting your intention of raising taxes, when you should advocate reducing them, by assessing ground rent on federal and state levels, or at least using such rent for federal and state, as well as local revenue. Payments for natural resources should certainly all go to the federal government. There is no excuse for the countless loopholes by which corporations and monopolists in general escape paying taxes, as described in "America, Inc.," "The Religious Empire," and elsewhere. With both legal and illegal loopholes, evasions and exemptions eliminated, and the enormous costs of sickness, accidents, poisonings, thievery, prostitution, dissipation, unemployment, arson, vandalism and war minimized, along with fantastic graft and waste, ground rent would support government costs, and taxes on current labor and past savings could be eliminated. The "American dream" Reagan is constantly yapping about would have arrived, with everyone, of any skill, race, religion, national origin, either sex, any age, could find work, and support himself, in a house, with one wage earner sufficient. Mothers could stay home, to care for young children; or could get divorced, if they wished, and support their families.

Left alone by us, Latin Americans would support themselves, instead of starving, torturing and slaughtering themselves, to supply us with cheap resources and labor products, causing us to export jobs and take in their escapees from our exploitation. Only the logic of a cow would justify more arms than are needed to destroy the world several times over. Most, as described in "to the Victor...," are merely vote buyers and graft. Surplus jobs would solve or ease most domestic and international woes. It may also be the only means of saving the Party, the country and the world.

Sincerely,
Howard W. L'Hommedieu