

Publishers of
ONE-SENTENCE ECONOMICS
AND WORLD LEPROSY

- Howard W. L'Hommedieu

*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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THE DEATH OF TOMORROW

-John A. Loraine

*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.*

In 1873 over 1000 people died in London from air pollution, and there were similar episodes in London in Jan. 1880, Feb. 1882, Dec. 1891 and Dec. 1892. In Dec. 1952 an estimated 4000 died. Children cannot play in Los Angeles on days of bad pollution. 90 % of a German industrial town had to move away from their work. Many Tokio workers moved a two-hour ride from work. Gases and vapors may be dispersed over continents. We are in danger of global contamination from lead in our food, and in our drink, as well as from the air, partly from industrialization, and especially from autos. The annual rainfall in Tulsa rose, over 70 years, proportionate to the rise in particulate pollution. Closure of industrial complexes in Pittsburgh, Louisville and Buffalo resulted in diminution in rainfall. In greater Los Angeles water consumption is 1000 times the rainfall. Production requires enormous amounts of water—one egg 225 gal., one pound of meat 2500 to 6000 gal., a ton of steel 650,000 gal., aluminum 300,000 gal.

Rivers are terribly polluted, mainly from industrial discharges, domestic sewage and runoffs from chemical fertilizers. Mercury is exceptionally dangerous to all life, and the annual world production is believed to be 9,000 metric tons. One part per million of fluoride in water helps protect teeth, but more, coming from many industrial effluents, causes brittleness and decay. 90 million Americans, mostly urban, are believed to drink water below standard, or of unknown quality. The Potomac, in cherry blossom time, is said to be "the best dressed cesspool in America." The Mississippi is called the "colon" of America. Water distilled ten times at St Louis kills some fish in one minute. Food grown near the banks of the river cannot be eaten. Rivers in California's St. Joaquin Valley contain nitrates too dangerous for babies, and in Elgin, Minn. necessitated a new water supply. Michigan and Vermont banned all commercial fishing because of mercury pollution—also banned on the north bank of the Holston R. in Virginia. The Connecticut R. contains organisms responsible for typhoid and paratyphoid fevers, cholera, dysentery, poliomyelitis and tetanus; also numerous viruses, and a variety of worms and flukes. Fishing is forbidden in the prairie provinces of Canada, because of mercury pollution. All western Europe, the U. S. S. R. and the Third World are cesspools of pollution, as are most of the world's waterways. Pesticides and radiation are very serious menaces.

"...between 1930 and 1960 the U. S. A. alone accounted for more mineral products than all the previous peoples of the world had collectively used since history began. ... by 1980 it may reach 80 % of the total world production of raw materials." The U. S. Bureau of Mines has projected our annual "needs" in the year 2000 to increase from 4.4 million to 35 million short tons of aluminum; copper 2 to 6.5 million; pig iron and ferralloys 114 to 171 million; and lead 1.3 to 1.8 million. "The Next Hundred Years," in 1957, stated that every American, every year, was using, directly or indirectly, "3½ tons of stone and gravel...more than 500 lbs of cement, 400 lbs of clay, 200 lbs of common salt and 100 lbs of phosphate rock." Figures have soared since then. "Obviously no country, however richly endowed, can withstand indefinitely such an onslaught on its natural resources." If all the peoples of our planet were to have the per capita production of the U. S. (for use, waste or destruction), at the present population level, the extraction of iron would have to increase 75 fold, copper 100 fold, lead 200 fold, zinc 75, tin 250 fold.

In 1920 countrymen outnumbered city dwellers 6.4 to 1. By 2000 A. D. town dwellers will be in the majority, and by 2044 A. D. it is estimated that most people will be living in cities of a million or more people. New York is claimed to be virtually ungovernable, with Los Angeles, Chicago and others not far behind. Tremendous acreages of the most fertile land are being converted from farming to urbanization all over the world. This

endangers our capacity to produce sufficient food. Rio de Janeiro is 30 % slums, with great unemployment. Less than half its 630,000 domiciles have running water; fewer have sewage connections. Large numbers share a ditch with excrement, where it is not decomposed between dwellings. Gastroenteritis, infective hepatitis, dysentery, typhoid fever and various parasitic conditions abound. Most cities in Brazil have similar conditions. Rural and urban squatters in Venezuela exceed 65 % of the population. Dwellings of scrap, with little or no sanitation, extend up the mountains, and a cascade of excrement descends onto the roads in the rainy season. Conditions are similar throughout the undeveloped world--Ankara, Karachi, Manila, New Delhi, Johannesburg. Sleeping in crowded Panama must be done in relays. The average household in Ghana, in 1960, comprised 19.3 persons, while 27.5 % of the houses in Egypt had no roof. In Calcutta, "the world's worst city," 600,000 sleep in the streets; three-quarters of the people live in shacks, with no facilities, and during the monsoon much of the population wades through its own excreta. Greater Calcutta may have 66 million people by 2000 A. D., and become the catalyst for a world holocaust. Deforestation, overcultivation and overgrazing are the chief causes of soil erosion, which contributed to the fall of many civilizations. India's population increase, from 60 to 400 million in a little over 100 years contributes to its disaster.

As the popular economic beliefs here presented solve nothing, the following analysis is offered: We know that all the U. S. increased production has not improved our per capita real income in basic needs, as statistics since 1946, in "The Closing Circle," indicate. The reason is that the pressure of ten people competing for nine full-time jobs (the ratio given by David Brinkley in 1972) causes the least skilled to work for a subsistence wage, rather than go on inadequate relief, or take up thievery or prostitution. Real wages (in buying power--even ignoring deteriorated and poisoned food and air, dangerous occupations, crowded living space, noise, a 25 % chance of dying of cancer and a good chance of becoming mentally disturbed) of the more skilled (unless favored by monopoly) will be proportionately higher, but tied to the subsistence wage, and therefore also stationary. Thus, as noted by Ricardo, Henry George, Churchill and many others, general increases in production must be reflected in the rental value of land (the basic monopoly), and accrue to landholders, as such, (whatever, if anything, they may earn as producers). For the average person to benefit, indirectly, from general increases in productivity (or reduced costs of government, monopoly or crime--if they ever come), it will be necessary to assess the full ground rent--progressively, within five years--to help support government services, and permit reduced taxes on production and savings. Higher GNP now goes to monopoly and conquest. And waste.

The difference between the ground rent (created by nature and community development) and the fraction of that rental actually assessed is unearned income. When fully assessed, land will have only a nominal sale price, as the price is the capitalization of the unearned income, and there will be no basis for speculation and hoarding. All land will quickly be forced into its best use, to pay the assessment, or released for others to use. Opportunity will tend to be equalized, with business and residential sites obtainable at their true rental value, paid as assessments, instead of at current high speculative rentals or purchase price, paid to nonworking landholders (which now keeps millions unemployed). Ample choice from the surplus opportunities opened up would enable everyone, of any skill, any race, religion, ethnic background, and either sex to obtain the equivalent of his production, in safe, healthful work--his true economic wage--which can be determined and obtained in no other way. We should, of course, eliminate every type of favoritism: depletion allowances (now enjoyed by more than 100 industries), investment tax credits, accelerated depreciation, tax exempt foundations, private trusts, farm and "wild life refuge" subsidies, exemptions on church lands and industries, tariffs and import quotas (except to cover subsidized imports), non-competing conglomerates, trade union demands obtained by force, interlocking directorates, bank control over industry (furnishing 60 % of the investment, with 14 banks controlling 25 % of all deposits). Monopoly income must be eliminated, and taxes greatly reduced, as they provide an effective demand for the superfluous and the dangerous. Only full employment, ending fear of dismissal, can make free speech possible. Independent experts must set guidelines on the use of materials, coordination of most efficient transportation, cleanup of pollution, socialized medicine and adequate charity. To function as human beings, we need self-expression within socially acceptable guidelines, scientifically determined.