

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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### REQUIREMENTS FOR A LIVABLE WORLD

#### RESOLVED:

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.

1. That peace, civil rights, ecology, economic and other organizations cooperate to provide really effective influence over government, if necessary, with strikes and political and economic boycotts. They should be empowered to appoint ombudsmen for constant supervision on vital matters, as power cannot completely and safely be delegated. John Stuart Mill: "But political checks will no more act of themselves, than a bridle will direct a horse without a rider." A divided public permits runaway corruption.
2. That the needy, including inmates of all institutions, be given an adequate, balanced diet and medical and dental care, by any means available; looking toward socialized medicine - the only satisfactory solution for any but the very rich.
3. That all station houses, jails, prisons, asylums, charity hospitals, nursing homes and other detention facilities constantly be inspected for violations of law and humanity; and that complaints, checked by polygraph tests, be suitably recompensed; also that such tests legally be accepted as evidence of innocence of suspects and prisoners, and that punishment of the innocent or unusual severity of sentence be recompensed; looking forward to early replacement of penology with monetary restitution, but only to the extent of damage done, and not beyond the reasonable capacity of the guilty to pay. (100 years of reports on the futility, inhumanity, expense and dangerous effects of penology, the need of many poor to commit crimes in order to exist, the ability of monopolies and officials to engage in wholesale theft and wage fiendish wars, ruining entire populations, in the interest of exploitation, and keep people at home, for the same purpose, unemployed, hungry and sick, driving them to drink, drugs and murder, all together make penology a disgustingly blatant and sadistic hypocrisy. And prisons are now being expanded as the new concentration camps, \$6 billion in 1973, \$12 billion a year soon.)
4. That a system of legal mediation be set up, to replace so-called positive law, with equity for all concerned as a guide, considering the infinite variety of human circumstances; with an effort to reach mutually agreeable solutions as the best assurance of justice. The absence of penology and capital punishment, and the fact that police, self-protection, insurance, seizure of property, boycott and ostracism would be the only protection available, except for psychiatric detention, are inducements to make serious efforts to remove injustices, which are the chief incentives to crime.
5. That the United States depose all its tyrannical puppet governments throughout the Third World, stop supporting extensive police terrorism, empty all their prisons, and destroy these torture chambers and slave labor camps, make restitution for some of the human and physical damage we have done to Indochina, and cease to interfere in their elections, thus probably ensuring our paying the right price for goods and labor.
6. That the United States cease to support, by any means, governments of slave states, such as South Africa, Rhodesia, Portugal, the Philippines, Spain and Greece.
7. That we immediately stop all planning and construction of polluting projects, especially nuclear fission plants, and develop solar, geothermal, sea thermal and wind power.
8. That schools be established, as described in DESCHOOLING SOCIETY, to stimulate self-development, which would assure better learning, and more correct learning.
9. That we nationalize the railroads, as recommended by Barry Commoner, so that they can continue to serve unprofitable areas and passenger traffic, at great savings in material and human energy, and pollution, while competing at cost on long freight hauls. Local transportation systems should also be publicly owned.
10. That we nationalize natural resources, to develop them in the public interest, without concentrating wealth and power, nor encouraging foreign exploitation.

11. That we nationalize banking, to end concentrated control over industry, discriminatory lending, power to set interest rates, influence over foreign and domestic policy. Banks can help or ruin individuals, business firms or areas. (See AMERICA, INC.)
12. That we nationalize utilities, as nearly all other countries do, to provide the public with the best, cheapest, most complete and independent service, with minimum pollution. (See THE MONOPOLY MAKERS, a Ralph Nader Study Group Report.)
13. That we set up an independent, competent patent board, to determine authorship and justifiability of patents, and establish royalties to be paid by any who wish to use them, thus assuring inventors of a market, and the public of access to inventions, at competitive prices, while reducing concentrated industrial power.
14. That the post office be returned to private management, long proved cheaper and better. The service could be competitive, with private delivery also permitted.
15. That we provide government insurance for most needs - mainly a matter of mathematical calculations, not requiring adaptability, advertising or commissions. Premiums would cover costs, with reserves remaining in banks, not invested in monopolies. Socialized medicine, sufficient charity, surplus work opportunities, government restitution for natural disasters, and adequate government disability and old age pensions would make much current insurance unnecessary; also private pension funds - 82 % unpaid - and which deprive employees of current income. Only monopolies can guarantee pensions.
16. That we increase the assessment of ground rent on all land (a value created by nature and community growth), progressively, to equal 100 % within five years, reducing taxes on improvements by an equal money value; working toward eventual elimination, first, of improvement taxes, then of taxes on current earnings and purchases (but not on monopoly, until it is eliminated); as foreign and domestic exploitation and the cost of wars, government waste, monopoly profits, charities, courts, police and prison repression, necessary to support exploitation, diminish.  
(As the sale price of land is the capitalization of the unearned increment - unassessed ground rent - it will be reduced to a nominal value, with full assessment. Speculative pricing and hoarding will end, and land will be available at its true rental value, if leased, or a corresponding assessment, if owned. This equalization of site costs will open up surplus work opportunities, and make slums, theft, prostitution, graft, shoddy merchandise and business practices unnecessary. This includes the ersatz foods now being thrust upon us. Nor will war or ecological damage be excused as means of creating jobs. Indian treaties were made under duress, and Indians have a legal right to the entire country. They should at least have local autonomy on their Reservations, and, with everyone else, a right to unused land, anywhere, by paying only the true ground rent on it. The same ample choice which would enable everyone to obtain an income the equivalent of his production would enable him to select safe, healthful, ethical work, usually in producer cooperatives, on peaceful projects, with no damage to the ecology. No one would have to live or do business on wetlands, subject to and useful for absorbing periodic flooding. No one would be obliged to try to farm on land with more than 20% slope, subject to washouts and loss of topsoil. No one would have to work or live in polluted surroundings, as business and residential sites would be available elsewhere, at their true ground rent. Removal of the population would both reduce pollution and inspire further efforts in that direction. Land development and the rezoning of land on which options are held is an important source of business and political graft, which would end with full ground rent assessment, as would our rapid loss of valuable agricultural land. Indian Reservations, national parks and irreplaceable wilderness would be spared from constant threats of encroachment. Ending land speculation would be a boon of almost incalculable value to humanity and nature.

Government operation removes the private incentive to work against the public interest on matters involving limited natural resources and facilities. Close popular control of government can reduce bureaucratic rigidity and inefficiency, while being used to break up the tremendous combinations of industrial power which largely prevent free competition - the normal operation for most business.