

The Right Means To The Right Ends
Freeing The Economic From The Political Means

"I have never seen, nor could I conceive of a society which was not capitalistic." - José Ortega y Gasset. As "Capital" comprises everything in the intermediate stage of production, between "Land" - all natural resources - and "Wealth" - all human satisfaction having exchange value - and as little is consumed directly from nature, the observation is correct; but economic returns exclude monopoly - the result of direct or indirect favoritism. "THE STATE" - Franz Oppenheimer: "...one's own labor and the equivalent exchange of one's own labor for the labor of others, the 'economic means' for the satisfaction of needs, while the unrequited appropriation of the labor of others will be called the 'political means.'" Our 1983 restrictions upon auto imports caused a 10% price rise, some firms making as much in 3 months as they formerly had in 12, 75% of their income thus resulting from a 'political means'; as 25% of our steel industries' did when a 1¢ lb. tariff enabled them to charge 5¢ lb. for steel which they could have sold for 4¢ lb.

"AMERICA, INC.," "POWER, INC.," "THE RELIGIOUS EMPIRE" cite a great many forms of "political means" for enhancing income, which should all end. Adam Smith's "unseen hand" would adjust supply to demand, in a free economy, but Smith severely excoriated monopoly practices which actually existed, and observed that "...ground rents...can best bear to have a peculiar tax imposed upon them." "PROGRESS and POVERTY" emphasizes the chief "political means" - gross underassessment of ground rent - the superiority of any piece of land, used to best advantage, over marginal land - a value created by nature, population and community development, without individual effort, to which we are fully entitled, in the form of public services. The "unearned increment" - current underassessment - and speculation on its enhancement are capitalized into a sale price, together providing titleholders with underpriced assessment costs in anything they may produce, monopoly profits from reduced competition, and easy price or exclusive area collusion with the few competitors; unearned incomes from land sales in growing communities or from zoning changes; while speculatively priced hoarding of sites deprives many millions, worldwide, of the opportunity to exercise their faculties, support themselves, and provide a home on their natural inheritance of the earth; resulting in perpetual malnutrition, starvation, premature death from sickness, disgusting slums, wholesale crime, dissipation, social disruptions, inhuman repression, formal and guerrilla warfare and terrorism, to obtain access to the earth, and the same, combined with fiendish torture by 98 countries, including the U.S., to deny the masses equal access to the earth.

Competition for a scarcity of speculatively priced sites results in offers of as much rent or purchase price as producers can afford, holding wages to a minimum for each skill level, increased production or savings going, perforce, to landholders, constantly widening differences between larger landholders, as such, and nonlandholders. "CRY OF THE PEOPLE:" "The ratio, in Brazil between minimum wages and top executive salaries is 500 to 1; in the U.S. 60 to 1. Under British colonialism, investments netted annual returns of from 30% to 300%, while England suffered heavy taxation, poor health and lowered height. In the U.S. there are a million homeless, 600,000 eating from garbage pails, and half the population never seeing a dentist, with many others getting inadequate medical care. Full ground rent assessment, absorbing the "unearned increment," would provide nominally priced sites, equalizing, for all, the cost of this vital factor of production, thus assuring surplus residence, and jobs in the type of work and business structure desired, at one's skill level, receiving the equivalent of one's production, at any time, with no discrimination possible; permitting all to leave unethical work, work or residence unsafe or undesirable for any reason; minimizing a plethora of crimes, illnesses, dissipations; permitting a society with Herbert Spencer's "complete freedom, limited only by the equal freedom of others." This would more effectively control work now subject to government agencies and activist groups, minimizing the need for legal action and other pressure; the ability of people to "vote with their feet" ensuring more prompt and thorough enforcement, whether EPA, OSHA, discrimination, war, nuclear, or other poisons. We cannot afford to waste scarce resources even on conventional arms, and half such arms are usable only to suppress and exploit the Third World - a fiendish practice which we must end. As the Soviets state that any war between them and the U.S. would become nuclear, which would destroy all human life, and as each,

since 1969, has been able to destroy the world several times over, irrespective of a first strike by either, further arms are mere boondoggles. We should agree upon a freeze of all arms, and confine DOD expenditures to maintenance. Testimony on tax reform, before the Treasury Dept., 6-25-84, estimated \$6 trillion or more to be available in annual national ground rent assessment (enough to repair the now unaffordable broken down infrastructure of buried piping, roads, streets, bridges, rails of our cities and country, clean up our poisoned earth, air and water, develop every form of clean power, fit our coal smokestacks with scrubbers, convert all poisonous chemicals into harmless byproducts or discontinue their manufacture, retrofit equipment, to use now wasted energy, insulate buildings, produce organic, unadulterated, unpoisoned, tasty foods, close to markets, requiring no preservatives; reduce taxes on current production, except for existing monopolies, eliminate taxes on improvements and other savings, consolidate comprehensive free social services (the need greatly reduced). Total advantages of this one act of simple justice - assessing the full ground rent - are incalculable, and we should trust the right means to attain the right ends, force it through, and enjoy the Renaissance of civilization, with free access to our only safety net - our born inheritance of the earth itself. As Henry George asserted, all could live well, and travel, on a few hours of pleasant work a day. Such a society would induce a demand for emulation everywhere.

ON REAGAN, The Man & His Presidency - Ronnie Duggan

"the crown prince of the extreme right" A Bircher director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, both in Calif. and the U.S. Millionaire executives as advisors, passing on appointments. Sale of land, costing him \$85,000, for \$1,930,000 (twice its evaluation) made him a millionaire. James Watt: "We're going to get things fixed here, and you guys are never going to get it unfixed when you get in." Bechtel in large scale developments, in many countries. A former official controls U.S. nuclear power policy. Our Navy Sec'y. from consulting firm for weapons contractors. Regulators from firms they are to regulate. "he would like to see (Social Security) destroyed." Winds blowing over oil slicks are healthful. EPA exempted from notification of use 60% of chemicals. Some suspected carcinogens are unrestricted. Only 5 of 418 chemical dumps cleaned up in two years. \$25,000 accepted from company, toward cleaning up its \$10 million dump cost. Superfund to care for only 300 of over 2,000 hazardous dumps. EPA budget cut a third. Cutting taxes the same percentage for all, 4.4% of taxpayers receive a third of benefits. Attempt to end the progressive income tax likely in second term. Fantastic campaign funds from monopolies. "I would like to make government a friend of the American industrial community." Oil company gougers allowed to settle for 3% on \$1 penalties. No energy efficiency required on building loans. Solar energy development and small business loans slashed. Nuclear plants to get construction and operating licenses simultaneously. Serious multiple defects endanger existing plants. SEC weakened. Deregulation of Savings and Loans raises interest rates, hurts home buying. Great concentration of bank powers, mergers. \$700 billion loans to bankrupt Third World and Eastern Europe. Safety deregulations save money, cost lives. Antitrust laws weakened. 660,000 children lost Medicaid; a million people lost food stamps; reduced for 20 million. AFDC checks lost to 365,000 families; reduced for 260,000. Almost 4 million children lost school lunches; 500,000 lost summer meals. Two attempts to cut Calif. Medicaid overruled. 8 of 13 Calif. service centers eliminated. Cutbacks in 100 service areas for 5,000 crippled children. \$5 million school lunch bill cut 90%. Wanted a \$25 million cut in aid to aged, blind, disabled. Stopped. Opposed cost-of-living increases. Mental and alcoholism treatment slashed. Calif. cut payments by the in-kind benefits received by fetus in its mother's womb, in lieu of food, clothing and shelter. HHS cut benefits \$1 billion its first year. Women's infants' and childrens' (WIC) programs cut; lost by 60% of needy. Legal Services Corp. cut 25%. (The Soviets) "are the focus of evil in the modern world." Moscow is the capital of everything revolutionary. Former CIA deputy director: Reagan "is far less informed on nuclear weapons...than any president since the nuclear age began." Intelligence, "to support foreign policy," may "use...electronic surveillance, (breaking and entering), mail surveillance, physical surveillance, or monitoring devices." ACLU (a "criminal lobby"): Reagan more dangerous than McCarthy or Nixon. "erosion of the Bill of Rights...primary goal." "S.I.O.P. The Secret U.S. Plan for Nuclear War." (Rube Goldberg, hang your head) "La patrie en danger!" - our would-be Robespierre. (Power, for reaction, and for monopoly)

Justice - for today's "Les Misérables" - and any future.