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FREEFOK

DEVOTED TO: explaining the
social nature of ground-rent and
the injustice of taxation.
ADVOCATING: the complete
abolition of taxation. The public
collection of the freely offered
and automatically adequate
ground-dues.

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CALLEY

Recently the trial of Lieut Wm. Calley has caused controversy throughout North America. Opinion for his culpability is as dogmatic as that of those who would see in Calley, the "fall guy" whose conviction will exculpate the powerful groups which want war. As usual when rational people are so dogmatic for and against, the reason is because there is some circumstance not fully understood.

Readers of "FREEFOK" should have no difficulty in identifying the source of confusion. It arises because people have taken a social problem (that of war) and treated it as an individual problem (murder) when an individual makes up his mind to kill another individual, when he finds the means and seizes the opportunity to take another person's life, that is murder. So, it is not strange to us when at a murder trial, much is made of motive, of capability and possibility.

One person may be led to murder from intense emotion, from a desire to gain another's wealth, from fear of the victim testifying to a crime, or merely from a sadistic desire to kill. Finally, killing may be committed in self-defence, or by accident.

Lieut Calley is alleged to have killed a number of civilians and it has never been suggested that he assembled in one place all the individuals he hated, and then mowed them down. Hatred as a motive for the alleged murder must therefore be eliminated. He obviously did not shoot the Vietnamese for their pitiful possessions. Before he began shooting he would have no fear of any testimony the victims might give. These circumstances relative to murder did not prevail. However, maybe Calley had a sadistic desire to kill. Maybe even he thought he was killing in self-defence, for he had been told that even civilians and children have been known to kill U.S. soldiers.

If we now ask whether Calley provided himself with the means and the opportunity to kill those civilians, we must agree that he did not. Uncle Sam took Calley, trained him to kill, shipped him to another country on the understanding that he would kill to order. In this respect Calley was not responsible for any deaths, the whole U.S. society must accept responsibility for providing the means and the opportunity. Perhaps Calley's guilt lies in disobeying an order, or maybe in the crime of doing what was tactfully accepted but not formulated as a command. He was not an obedient servant nor the cunning servant of the fabliau for he let himself be convicted.

War is not individual, it is a social thing. A person in uniform knows that he is not allowed to act according to his conscience notwithstanding the Nürnberg trials. By refusing to carry out an order on the battlefield he risks being immediately shot. Many a draftee in the U.S. who does not object to defending his own home but who does object to the Vietnam war, finds that his conscience is brushed aside. The draft boards have decreed that to be exempt from service on the grounds of conscience, a person must object to all wars. This is a curiously twisted form of reasoning, for it assumes that government has the right to decide for us what is a matter of conscience whereas the plain truth is that it is merely a question of the power to punish the minority whose conscience leads them to oppose the policies of the rulers.

Killing in wars is a social evil which will continue as long as we allow governments to tax us on our earnings, for inexorably they gain ever-increasing power over our lives as they take from us more and more of what belongs to us as individuals. At the same time they and their intimates share out amongst themselves what belongs to all of us as a community.

Adam Smith in his Wealth of Nations offered the opinion that the rent of land would defray all normal public expenses of a state, but he doubted that it would provide funds adequate for waging war. By limiting the government to ground-rents and other freely offered funds, we are automatically denying it the power to wage aggressive war. In such circumstances the types of tragedies associated with Lieut. Calley would never occur.

BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

According to C.B.U. radio, Leslie Peterson, minister in the Sacred government has announced that the recent legislation banning tobacco and liquor advertising from B.C. publications would not apply to the sale of anything published outside B.C.. Anent this the Hon. Leslie offered a little parable. He said in effect that if leaves blow over from our neighbour's garden, that does not stop us from cleaning up the leaves in our own yard.

Since this ban will affect people's livelihood, they will react defensively. Now, having lost the advertising revenue of the polluters and the distillers, the printers and publishers will feel inclined to move their businesses perhaps to Alberta where they can continue the advertising as before. More advertising will be shifted to K.V.O.S. T.V. to be beamed into B.C. from Washington State.

There's a likely end to B.C. businesses built up over years on good service, and it's all to get a few Sunday school votes for the Sacred.

ECONOMIC ILLITERACY

John Rogers reviews John Galbraith's "Economics, Peace and Laughter" in the Vancouver Sun. In spite of the fact that Rodgers states "even if some of the profundities of economics go over your head as they did over mine", he nevertheless feels competent to assess Galbraith's dicta as "the voice of sanity" Let us have a look at some of the sanity he quotes.

"All who speak about the environment and neglect to advocate the increased taxes (state and federal as well as local) to pay for improvement should be rewarded with loud and insulting laughter." Let us remember that the first people to deny that the earth was flat were rewarded with loud and insulting laughter. The men who said that coaches could be made to move without horses were similarly rewarded. Loud and insulting laughter was also reserved for the man who said that an iron ship would float, for everyone knows that iron sinks.

Is not this loud and insulting laughter a mark of the ignorant slob? A rational human being knows that an appeal to the mob for an expression of derision is a mark of the demagogue, is typical of the slave-state where terror, not reason rules. The banishment of reason is resulting in a state of affairs in which Caligula, Hitler, Franco, Stalin, Duvalier, would all have felt at home. The Galbraiths are like the sheepleaders who indicate the current objects of scorn.

It should be made clear that we can have a healthy environment without any increase in taxes. Society's natural and adequate revenue is already being generated, but it is now being diverted into the hands of private robbers within the law. Public services are now being provided by taxing privately earned wages. When we accept the rent of land for the public, we can abolish taxes and remove all the ills created by taxation, - ills that include pollution. Clean-up demands not increase but abolition of taxation.

Let us not reward Galbraith with loud and insulting laughter; rather let us feel sorry for his ignorance of elementary economics. Let us not merely deplore the fact that so many look upon him as an oracle, but let us take some positive action to spread straight economic thinking.

T.V. commercial says that teeth are "natural resources" B.C. tourist bureau, Tourism is our finest natural resource. School-board chairman - Our youth are our finest natural resource. Strange how everyone wants to get in at the kill when an expression is being mutilated and rendered meaningless. Plainly educational system is falling apart when communication fails.