

The Barguyle



"A throat, mouthpiece, spout." Opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and not necessarily endorsed by the Henry George School.

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY

Issue #140

A P R I L 1 9 7 0

Number One on the Hit Parade!

BETTER CITIES - Documentary film - to be shown at School Headquarters - 149 So. Harrison St., Tuesday, April 2nd at eight o'clock. Open discussion to follow film.

Do not miss this opportunity to see the New Jersey premier - invite your friends to come with you.

Group to Discuss RENT CONTROL

The Afternoon Discussion Group will have as its topic for discussion next meeting this controversial subject. School Headquarters, second Tuesday in April - 14th at 1:30 p.m.

For the first time since its being formed some years ago, the afternoon group had a predominance of men at its meeting in March! Discussion was

interesting and included such subjects as: Senior Citizens request for tax concessions and reduced fares on public transportation in off hours; Compulsory Education and Government Schools; Taxation of Church properties.

#1 HOME FRONT PROBLEM

Every effort ought be made to halt monetary inflation in the U.S.A.

Here is a brief quote from "INFLATION What It Means." by William B. Boyd - in THE FREEMAN, February 1970.

"First, what is inflation? Its basic meaning is a swelling up, a blowing up, a puffing up, an increase, an expansion. In its economic sense the word is used with at least five different meanings:

(Continued on Page 2.)

B O O K S

THE WORLD OF BOOKS - IS THE MOST REMARKABLE CREATION OF MANKIND - NOTHING ELSE THAT HE BUILDS EVER LASTS - MONUMENTS FALL - NATIONS PERISH - CIVILIZATIONS GROW OLD AND DIE OUT AFTER AN ERA OF DARKNESS NEW RACES BUILD OTHERS - BUT IN THE WORLD OF BOOKS ARE VOLUMES THAT LIVE ON - STILL AS YOUNG AND FRESH AS THE DAY THEY WERE WRITTEN - STILL TELLING MEN'S HEARTS OF THE HEARTS OF MAN CENTURIES DEAD.
Clarence Day

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Inflation (Con'T. from Pg.1)

- (1) Any increase at all in the supply of money (money in the broadest sense, which includes credit)
- (2) An increase in the supply of money (again in the broadest sense) that outruns the increase in the supply of goods.
- (3) An increase in the average level of prices - that is, any wide, or general increase in prices.
- (4) An increase in the prices of widely used goods - such as steel or lumber or oil or foodstuffs.
- (5) Any boom or period of intense business activity or prosperity.

In our country the only organization allowed to manufacture money is the Federal Government. Therefore, the Federal government is the only force that can cause inflation.

Goods and services are not becoming more expensive; our money is becoming cheaper.

Men in government are manufacturing money to pay for the costs of their programs which run beyond what they dare collect from us in taxes. The terms for this operation are "deficit spending" and "monetizing the debt."

Cure for inflation - restoration of a sound currency and a genuinely free economy."

AN OUTSTANDING CONFERENCE PLANNED FOR 1970

The Alberta conference committee reports that plans are well under way for a unique annual Henry George Conference in Calgary from July 7th to 12th. It is a 3-way attraction with good solid conference sessions, a full day excursion to Banff and Lake Louise in the Rocky Mountains and a chance to visit the world famous "Calgary Stampede".

Alberta has the distinction of collecting more economic rent for public purposes than any other political division in North America. All that mineral and oil revenue is harnessed for the benefit of all its citizens.

Calgary is only 300 miles from Great Falls, Montana; and Alberta and Montana have no sales tax. No other province and few other states can make that claim.

You who are coming up from the States will be pleasantly surprised to know that your American dollar will go about 12% further in Alberta. This fact is explained by the premium of 7% on American money and the fact that there is no sales tax, no hotel room tax, nor any other nuisance tax in Alberta. When shopping or ordering a meal, the price shown is the price you pay.

A special presentation of "The Alberta Story" outlining the collection of Economic Rent - past, present and future - will be given by the graduates of the school to show why Alberta is debt free. It is the last frontier of economic freedom. All this and beautiful scenery too!

Rooms are at an absolute premium during "Stampede Week" as it is like New Orleans during Mardi Gras. The Alberta school has reserved a block of rooms for conference delegates, but you will have to make reservations immediately to ensure yourself a place to stay. You can reserve directly by sending a one-day deposit to the Palliser Hotel (HGS-NJ) has reservation cards giving rates, etc. may be had for the asking) Free parking for those coming by car.

The "Stampede Parade", watched by some 300,000 visitors, takes place on Monday, July 13th and is well worth staying over an extra day to see. You might even see Burl Ives or any one of a dozen other personalities staying at the Pallister.

If anyone requires further information or help with vacation plans to fit in with the conference don't hesitate to write Jim Ramsay, School of Economic Science, #402, 535 - 13th Ave., S.W., Calgary 21, Alberta, Canada

We will be only too pleased to help with routes, prices, places to go, things to see, brochures or anything else you would like to know about.

Remember you can have an enjoyable holiday along with an enjoyable conference and do it for 12% less than if you stayed at home.

Just say **GEORGE SENT ME** to Calgary.

ECOLOGY

You can always be certain of one thing where America is concerned. It will have an issue to occupy the people. At one time it was bomb shelters. Now it is ecology.

Ecology is one of the more esoteric branches of science which deals with the interrelationships of organisms and their environment. Nature establishes a balance wherein organisms feed on one another vegetation grows and decays in a cycle all of which helps preserve what is known as an ecological balance.

And of course, everything goes along swimmingly until man interferes. And to listen to the pundits he is making such a mess of things especially through pollution that the world is in danger of destroying this ecological balance. Some pessimists even claim the earth will become uninhabitable by the year 2000 unless something is done. Others say no matter what is done it is too late.

Isaac B. Singer recently received the National Book Award in children's literature for his book "A Day of Pleasure." In accepting the award he said:

"There are five hundred reasons why I began to write for children, but to save time I will mention only ten of them. No. 1: Children read books, not reviews. They don't give a hoot about critics. No. 2: They don't read to find their identity. No. 3: They don't read to free themselves of guilt, to quench their thirst for rebellion, or to get rid of alienation. No. 4: They have no use for psychology. No. 5: They de- test sociology. No. 6: They don't try to understand Kafka in 'Finnegans Wake'. No. 7: They still believe in God, the family, angels, devils, witches, goblins, logic, clairty, punctuation, and other such obsolete stuff. No. 8: They love interesting stories, not commentary, guides or footnotes. No. 9: When a book is boring, they yawn openly, without any shame or fear of authority. No. 10: They don't expect their beloved writer to redeem humanity. Young as they are, they know that it is not in his power. Only the adults have such childish illusions."

Newspaper reports state that economists have developed something new--modesty. One economist in a new book pointed out that economists attained the high point in prestige in 1965. However, as inflation worsened their status declined. Since their prescriptions have not worked the way planned, they are beginning to be a bit more cautious in their predictions and smugness. This is just another proof that miracles do happen.

Do you remember when Khrushchev said Soviet Russia would catch up and surpass the United States about 1970? Well, if the U.S. wishes to match the Soviet economy it would have to:
: Tear down 60% of our homes
: Demolish 60% of our steel mills
: Rip up 2/3s of our railroad track
: Destroy 6 out of every 10 phones
: Reduce our standard of living by 60%

As one commentator pointed out, possibly we should spend less time worrying about their system and concentrate on preserving ours.

For some months now, there has been a lull in foreign exchange problems, but certain signs indicate that the serenity will not last much longer.. Pressure is being put on Japan to raise the Yen's value, as West Germany did last October. However Japan is not too anxious. Germany is finding out that its capitulation to the requests of its trading allies to raise the mark is hurting it, probably more than it ever expected.

Japan is obviously only too well aware of this and so is resisting the pressure on it. But when politics on an international scale enters, it sometimes becomes irresistible, especially if the United States brings the pressure. What is probably of more urgency is the status of the Italian Lira. It is in danger of being devalued. The political situation is unstable and there has been a large capital outflow. To stem this, it raised its discount rate by 1 1/2%. However, unless other factors intervene to cause a capital inflow, it is doubtful if this will help.

That something is brewing is also evident by the fact that the gold market is moving up slightly. Some of the gold stocks on the Stock Exchange are also rising. All of this indicates that probably some of the more sophisticated speculators and investors expect something to blow up and are trying to get into solid values on the ground floor.

It's an old story. Monetary tinkering solves nothing, but some clever speculators may make a fortune out of it.

SALT OF THE EARTH

Just why anyone should worry if the astronauts bring back bugs or not is a question. After all, the smog in our cities will soon kill them.

Judging by the over-crowded conditions of college campuses these days, the only way a student who seeks solitude can find it is by going to class.

You know, even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.

Truth is not only stranger than fiction these days--it's a lot cleaner too.

The best way to lose a friend is to tell him something for his own good.

The man who thinks he knows it all is a pain in the neck to those of us who really do.

Boss: I thought I fired you two weeks ago?
Ex-office boy: Oh, I just came back to see if you were still in business.

Boss: Get my broker, Miss Smith.
Secretary: Yes sir, which one, stock or pawn?

Bachelor: If I were married, I'd be boss and tell my wife where to head.
Married man: Yes, and I suppose when you get to a railroad crossing you honk your horn to warn the oncoming express to get out of your way.

What is particularly obvious of course is the pollution of the atmosphere and the water in the high cities and this gains the greatest attention. But the problem is really broader than that. It involves destroying Nature's balance in country areas through the careless denuding of forests the draining of marshlands and the specialization in one-crop farming. Such actions tend to destroy birds and insects which feed on pests so chemical sprays and poisons become necessary to do the job.

Smog and oil spills have brought the problem to the fore front and now everyone is getting into the act. Apparently students are concerned for their own future and their children so they are entering the lists. A nation-wide Environmental Teach-in (Earth Day) is planned for April 22nd. Student ecology groups are being formed primarily to educate themselves and others on the problem. But education is such a slow process that many are beginning to picket and boycott those accused of being the worst polluters. Student activism is on the march and it may erupt to a scale which will make previous issues minor by comparison.

As might be expected that old bogey over-population has been dragged into the picture. It is accused of being one of the major reasons for the ecological crisis. We are told that we are reaching the point where the Earth will not be able to support any more people, and much of the pollution is due to too many people.

Now it is perfectly true that men are using chemical sprays and other techniques which are upsetting the ecological balance in certain areas. Such is true of the pollution of the big cities. And also the means by which industrial wastes are disposed of, as well as the development of huge concrete roads cutting wide swaths across the countryside, may be creating ecological problems.

But it is one thing to recognize that man makes mistakes. Certainly he may make certain areas uninhabitable for a while but that is the limit of his ability. He can no more make the earth uninhabitable than he can over-populate the earth.

Why should anyone be surprised if pollution is so evident in urban areas. When millions of people congregate in small areas it is almost inevitable that sanitation will be a major problem. And if forests are cut down indiscriminately and swamplands drained it must have an effect. Also if men concentrate on one-crop farming it will also bring with it certain results.

Instead of rushing off in all directions on superficial cures would it not be wiser to try to determine why these things are happening? Why are so many

people pouring into the urban areas? Why one-crop farming? Why spill wastes into rivers so haphazardly instead of trying to recycle the waste?

If you try to find the answer to these questions you begin to see that there certainly is some connection between the ecological problem and our system of land tenure. Men would not bunch themselves together in urban areas like rabbits living in a warren if some pressure did not force them to do so. Men would not bother draining swamps if better land was readily available nor would they carelessly denude forests. Men would probably have a more diversified agricultural program if some pressure did not make it seem unwise.

But when land is treated as though it were private property with all the evils attendant thereto as land speculation such actions as those listed above become the logical thing to do.

Men are forced off the land so they rush to the cities. It happened in Rome, it is happening here. Under a sound system of land tenure, most of the ecological problems would disappear. People would be more spread out so pollution would not be so likely. Land speculation holds the best land out of use so men are forced to marginal land as marshland. Economics dictates raising one crop and the breakdown in Nature's balance necessitates the use of poisonous pesticides.

The real problem raised by the present furor over ecology is not that Nature will reassert itself. Sooner or later it will. The problem is that the agitation presents excellent opportunities on which politicians and bureaucrats can grow fat. The result will be that the government on all levels will become more powerful, armed with laws with which to interfere in some of the most personal and intimate aspects of people's lives.

Only a few fanatics as Georgists recognize that this ecological problem is primarily a symptom of the land question. Fortunately for those who like to become immersed in all kinds of activity if only to be active nobody pays any attention to Georgists. So the ecology fad will be in the forefront for quite a while until people get bored with it and something else rises to take its place. But it will leave in its trail a swarm of do-gooders and bureaucrats to plague you and me to death.

Oscar B. Johannsen

Science of Political Economy - advanced course will be offered at East Orange - Tuesdays 8 to 10 starting March 31st. Anyone who has taken basic course is eligible. Just put in an appearance at 3 o'clock March 31st - or Tuesday April 7th will not be too late.