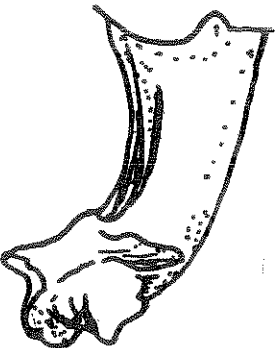


The Gargoyle



"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 #124

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1963

WE HAVE MOVED

Early in August THE GARGOYLE and The Henry George School of New Jersey relocated at 149 South Harrison St., East Orange, N. J. 07018 - Telephone (201) 672 - 0313. We are located on the ground floor in The Bellmore, adding the Hotel Suburban. You are most cordially invited to come and "inspect" us should you be in the neighborhood. Official reception will be announced later.
(See page 3 for further details)

DAYTIME PROGRAMS

The Afternoon Discussions will resume here in East Orange on Sept. 10 1:30. These sessions are held on the second Tuesday of each month - 2 hrs. Open to all - public invited. Come if you can and bring a friend.

FALL TERM CLASSES

The Basic Course is scheduled to be given at headquarters on Thursdays 7:30 to 9:30 starting Sept. 26th. Locations in other cities are pending. Advanced courses to be held at headquarters: ECONOMIC SCIENCE, based upon The Science of Political Economy by Henry George will be on Tuesdays 7:30 to 9:30 starting Sept. 24th. DEMOCRACY and THE WELFARE STATE, based upon Max Hirsch's book, Democracy vs Socialism, on Wednesdays 3 to 10 p.m. starting Sept. 25th, the instructor, Oscar B. Johannsen. No tuition charge for these courses. Enrollment fee of \$2. will be charged for the Fundamental and Science courses and fee of \$3. for Democracy course. These fees cover cost of text books and materials.

White Man's Medicine

An Indian chief who is also an opposition Member of British Columbia's legislature called yesterday for a ban on the sale of Japanese-made totem poles - "otherwise the Indians will go into the chopstick-making business."

"Human vanity can best be served by a reminder that, whatever his accomplishments, his sophistication, his artistic pretension, man owes his very existence to a six-inch layer of topsoil--and the fact that it rains." Quoted in THE COCKLE BUR - from READERS DIGEST MARCH 1968

We make fine Bourbon - at a profit if we can - at a loss if we must -- but always - FINE BOURBON. This might not work for anyone else, but it has kept us going for 117 years. - Advertisement (Free enterpriser?)

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~~602-0203~~, John T. Tetley, Director

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CONSERVATIVE REVIVAL?

Now that the Republicans have nominated Mr. Nixon, the question which is in the minds of many is whether the country is once again turning toward conservatism and the traditional values which stood the nation in such good stead for so long. Mr. Goldwater's nomination in 1964 led many to believe that a conservative revival was under way but his defeat dashed such hopes.

Something, however, must be brewing today. After all, the nation has gone through the New Deal as well as the updated versions of that program. It has spent billions of dollars and has established innumerable bureaus and agencies in attempts to solve such problems as poverty and unemployment with little real success. If some politicians are to be believed the "one-third who are ill clothed, ill housed and ill-fed" are still with us, as they were in the 1930's.

Statistically, the incidence of unemployment may be low, but this is probably because many who would be unemployed are now either in the armed forces, in government service, or in some governmental program which takes them out of the unemployed classification. In other words, many who would be unemployed are now in some make-work programs by means of which they eke out an existence. But that is all that can be said of them.

Beyond that are the millions of citizens in jobs of one sort or another which do not challenge their capacities and to which they are chained by fear or inability to obtain a job with better salary due to age, education or other reasons.

Apparently, the people are at last coming to the realization that a paternalistic Big Government will not solve the real problems--that all it can do, and that badly, is keep people on what amounts to a dole. While such might be satisfactory when one is desperate, once one is on a dole one tends to degenerate into a bored apathetic and indifferent person or else into a frustrated and dissatisfied one.

Possibly more people are frustrated than apathetic which has resulted in disturbances of one sort or another. At the same time, not only are those on doles or the equivalent becoming disillusioned with the ability of Big Government to solve problems, but also many who call themselves liberals. Thus, there are increasing demands to see what local government and individual initiative can do. In New York City, for example, many dissatisfied with the centralized bureaucratic educational setup are demanding local autonomy over the schools. But the greatest disenchantment is with Federal Government. The result

is that more and more people are urging the institution of incentives to encourage individual initiative rather than government handouts. Daily, demands are uttered to get private enterprise involved in the poverty program. A former postmaster general--a liberal--actually urged the establishment of a non-profit corporation to run the post office system.

These are all straws in the wind. They do not mean that the people are willing to return to the condition where the government acts more or less as a policeman merely keeping order and acting as an impartial umpire. But it does mean that the people are not so prone to claim that the answer to any problem is to let the government do it--particularly the Federal Government. Rather people are now a bit more willing to see if the problem cannot be handled by local citizens, either in their private capacities or with the aid of local government.

If this is the case, it is all to the good. But not too much will come of it unless the people stumble on some reform by which land becomes available on easier terms than at present. This writer has urged as a means of putting people on the right track that a ten or twenty year tax moratorium be placed on improvements with taxes levied only on the value of the land. Such a plan would aid in the reconstruction of the devastated ghetto areas. In addition, it would bring on a greater business boom as businessmen rushed in to avail themselves of the tax moratorium to update their plants and offices. It would also give employment to many of the little skills as the construction industry is one requiring many people often for jobs requiring little ability or skill which can easily be acquired on the job. But most important, it might lead to the people questioning our system of land tenure. Once it is debated, possibly with the modern means of communication as TV and Radio, a greater impact might be made on the people than was done in Henry George's day.

If such is the case, the revival would not merely be a conservative one, but more importantly might become a truly individualistic one where in the people begin again to recognize that society revolves around the individual and not around itself or the State.

Oscar B. Johannsen

American Taxi - a necessary inconvenience to get you from one point to another.

Men never learn from the history of nations which died in the past.

THE GARGOYLE is now accepting financial contributions.

PROPERTY TAXATION SURVEY

"One of the most interesting trends in social and economic reform is the use of comparative inter-national data

"Looking for some further explanation for the paucity of data it might be assumed that of all economic studies, that of the import of property taxation on national development is considered to be relatively insignificant; and some would even consider the whole concept alien to individual and social justice. In the words of Richard W. Lindholm, however, "Individual justice can be obtained if property tax is based on benefits enjoyed; social justice can be obtained if the tax takes account of society's right to benefit from the exploitation of natural resources and from land value increases arising from society's expansion in numbers and productivity."

"Lately there has been a revival of interest in property taxation and its effect on urbanization, particularly in the U.S.A., Australia, New Zealand and some developing countries. Even so, such discussion as there has been has been mainly confined to the specialist literature and little attempt has been made to produce a consolidating work in simple language unadorned by copious footnotes on specific idiosyncracies of contemporary legislation."

from

The above/article by P.R.Hudson in LAND & LIBERTY. Professor Lindholm it may be remembered is Professor of Finance and Dean, School of Business Administration, University of Oregon; Editor of "PROPERTY TAXATION USA 1967", and was speaker at the Banquet at the Annual Conference of the Henry George Schools held in New Jersey in 1959.

"Statistics are like mini-skirts; they cover up the essentials but give you ideas." London HGS Magazine

N.J. HGS HEADQUARTERS

"The Oranges" are suburbs of Newark and consist of Orange, East Orange, South Orange and West Orange. East Orange borders on Newark. The neighborhood in which the school headquarters are located is delightful--spacious lawns, shrubbery, flowers and trees in abundance. Well maintained apartment houses and office buildings line the street. The HGS is on street level in The Bellmore. It is just one-half block in from Central Avenue, a shopping center, 4 blocks from Main Street, another commercial area.

Diagonally across the street is a large parking area with reasonable rates (25¢ after 6 p.m.) The Garden State Parkway is but a short distance as is the new East-West Thruway. Public transportation by frequent buses and Brick Church station of the Erie

Lackawanna Railroad is within walking distance.

All in all the atmosphere here is conducive of expanded activity and progress of the educational effort in which we are engaged.

H.G.S. Conference & News

The Annual Conference held in Miami Beach, Florida in July, as usual provided the inspiration so helpful to meet and greet old and new Georgists from all over the U.S.A and Canada, as well as from some foreign lands. The Hotel Barcelona, headquarters for the conference adequately met our need and as usual, this was "the best conference ever." Next year we go back for the third or more time to Chicago and in 1970 there is a bid in for Calgary, Canada.

Mr. Arnold Weinstein has been elected President of the Board of Trustees, of the Henry George School of Social Science. Robert Clancy, Director of the New York School has been granted a two year sabbatical leave and during his absence, Mr. Weinstein will assume the duties of the Director assisted by William L. Hall, formerly Director of the HGS-NJ. The GARGOYLE and the HGS of New Jersey congratulate Mr. Weinstein and Bill Hall.

"HENRY GEORGE", the new biography by Edward J. Rose is an excellent review and evaluation of George, with summaries of all his works. As announced in the July issue of Henry George News, it sells for \$3.95. This 176 page book might well be read by all HGS teachers and others wishing to learn more about Henry George. Also mentioned in HG News, a reprinted edition of REBEL PRIEST & PROPHET By Stephen Bell @ \$3. For time being, those who order both these books thru the HGS of N.J. will receive without charge, THE AMERICAN CENTURY of JOHN C. LINCOLN by Raymond Moley (Published @ \$4.95) Mr. Lincoln was formerly President of the Henry George School of Social Science and founder of the Lincoln Electric Co. Famous for its Incentive System. These three books will make a splendid addition to your library.

+ + + +

The HGS of N.J. announces with sorrow the death of Alvin G. Seales, member of our Faculty and Board of Trustees.

Mr. Elwood A. Shepherd of Maplewood, was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of the N.J. school and Chairman of the Special Activities Committee. He is active in civic affairs in his home community and greatly interested in promoting justice among his fellow humans. Mr. Shepherd received his introduction to the HGS when it was on 29th Street in New York and Frank Chodorov was the Director.

SENSE & NONSENSE

Those who stretch the truth find that it often snaps back and hits them.

Even Soviet Russia is afraid of its youth. To keep them nonrebellious, the Russian leaders encourage jazz and pop music, but try to do it thru the Communist Party's youth organizations as the Komsomol. By channeling youth's energies thru these organizations it is hoped to keep the youth patriotic. So far increased recreational and leisure-like activities have helped keep the youth in line.

The Soviet has even permitted more contact with the West. However, this has resulted in an increasing Westernization of the youth. They have their beatniks, their Deatle haircuts, just as we do, but the leaders feel that while some of the youth's habits may be westernized, it does not mean that their thought will follow suit. Nonetheless, there are underground literary movements which publish poetry and literature which is critical of communism. This can become increasingly important for ideas are the most potent force in the world strong enough at times to bring the most powerful dictatorships to their knees.

Don't worry if you can't get all the things you want. If you live long enough, you'll get over wanting most of them.

Czechoslovakia has been in the news most of the summer, for it has been attempting the nearly impossible. It is trying to change a communistic country into a more or less democratic one. At least, it is trying to permit freedom of speech, press and assembly. It is also apparently willing to permit other parties than the communistic one to exist.

Russian leaders have been up in arms about this for fear that such radical thoughts will permeate their own country and possibly topple the leadership.

But it is a real question if it is possible peacefully to change from a planned society to a more or less voluntary one with the marketplace as the arena in which the people direct the activities of the nation by buying or not buying.

While at the time of this writing all eyes are on the confrontation of the Czech and the Russian communist leaders, attention really should be directed to the lower echelons of the Czech bureaucracy which has been in control of that country ever since the end of WW II.

It may well be that the Czech leaders will force the Soviet to accept the program they have set up. The

only alternative to accepting this program as gracefully as they can is for the Russian leaders to intervene militarily as they did in Hungary in 1956. This they are not likely to do as they stand to lose world opinion and the support of other communistic countries as Yugoslavia and the communist parties in France and other countries.

The Czechs' real problem is how to dismantle the bureaucracy. This is an almost impossible task. Already some dispatches, usually in the back pages of the newspapers, indicate that there is opposition from the bureaucrats in the lower ranks. After all, to dismantle the controls means fewer jobs for these bureaucrats. In America, which is presumed to be in favor of a market economy it is almost impossible to close government bureaus. How much more difficult in a country dedicated to a planned economy?

It will be wonderful if despite the Russians' and the Czech bureaucrats' opposition the Czech people are able to institute a market economy. However, don't bet on it. As far as this writer knows, a true conversion has never occurred, and he doubts if one ever will. A change occurs either as a result of a revolution, or a defeat in a war, as in the case of Germany. The sad truth is that it is much more likely for a market economy to change into a dictatorship than the reverse.

Oscar B. Johannsen

SALT OF THE EARTH

Adolescence and snowdrifts are about the only problems that disappear if you ignore them long enough.

After listening to the opposing candidates, the voter whispered to his friend, "I'm thankful only one of them can be elected."

Every mother knows which side the bread is buttered on -- the side that the kids drop on the floor.

College students: Those who concentrate on tests and protests.

One of the dangers of keeping an open mind is that it gives a lot of people the opportunity to throw a lot of rubbish into it.

Hippie Philosophy: A belief in life, liberty and the pursuit of happenings.

A fish grows about an inch a year until it's caught. After that, it's an inch a day.

Progress: That continuous effort to make the things we eat, drink, and wear as good as they used to be.