

The Bargoyle



8019

"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 #133

August - September 1969

SEPTEMBER 2nd is the 130th Anniversary - Birth of Henry George
FALL TERM CLASSES AFTERNOON DISCUSSIONS

Maplewood - South Orange-Maplewood Adult School, Tuesday evenings 7:50, starting October 7th. Tuition \$18.00 (Non-residents enrollment fee \$1.00)
East Orange - School headquarters; Tuesday evenings 8 p.m., starting October 7th. No tuition. Enrollment fee \$2. covers Text and materials.

Other locations: Arrangements are being made for Perth Amboy Public Library and possibly elsewhere to start early October. For details contact school office.

It will be most helpful if readers of GARGOYLE will inform people of these classes and/or send names and address of prospective students to office so announcements may be sent.

The second Tuesday each month day-time Discussion Group will resume on September 9th at 1:30. This group is open to all who can attend in the afternoon. These are two hour meetings which cover all sorts of topics and prove to be most interesting. If you can come, you are most welcome and if you can bring others - fine.

Opening discussion will deal with topic - **ARE YOU REALLY CONCERNED** - for the future of our cities and suburbs - for yourself and your children - What can you do about it?

Here is an opportunity for those who are unable to do extensive reading to discuss with those who do keep up with current affairs.

YOU - and your friends are most cordially invited

ANNUAL FALL RALLY - Henry George School, Friday September 19th 8 o'clock.

THEME: JUSTICE & YOUTH - Speakers: Mrs. Josephine B. Hansen, Member of Faculty, Henry George School, New York City

Dr. Geoffrey W. Esty, President, Henry George School, N.J.

ENTERTAINMENT & SOCIAL TIME

Come out for an interesting and informative evening. Each adult is requested to bring a youth, or youths (male and/or female) If you are a youth you may bring an adult or adults or other youths.

149 South Harrison St., East Orange
 adjoining Hotel Suburban

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY
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East Orange, New Jersey 07018

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A133BARY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Henry George - born September 2,
1835 - 130 years ago.

The anniversary of his birth will not be widely observed. It is not a holiday. A Proclamation was issued by the Mayor of Chicago proclaiming the date "Henry George Day in Chicago." However, this will probably go unnoticed for the most part. All be it, Mr. George is not entirely unknown. Many who have a bit more than a vague knowledge of the man and his writings, have more than admiration for Henry George. Admiration not only for his contribution to "thinking" but to a great extent, for his definite proposal with regard to land tenure system and public revenue.

It is possible that perhaps in the year 1865, greater evaluation is being made in these fields than ever before. Evidence: nation's cities exclusive report "Financing our Urban Needs". This is a summary of a round table conference attended by representatives of nation-wide associations of business, and government, local, county, and federal. The National Commission on Urban Problems, headed by former Senator Paul H. Douglas. Articles in top magazines written by prominent leaders in government, business and education. Expanded activities of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation and the Henry George Schools.

From a letter dated July 22, 1977, written by Henry George to George L. Rusby - "It may be a long, long struggle, but to see the truth and do what one can to spread it, brings its own independent and rich reward."

The stone on George's grave, bears his own words; "The truth that I have tried to make clear will not find easy acceptance. If that could be, it would have been accepted long ago. If that could be, it would never have been obscured. But it will find friends - those who will toil for it; suffer for it; if need be, die for it. This is the power of Truth."

Henry George sought truth - he set down his findings for others. This was approximately a century ago. The United States of America is slightly less than 300 years old. The history of this nation may be considered one of great progress. Yet, particularly of late, many people are concerned about serious maladjustments in this country. The twin problems "Land-Tenure" and "Public Revenue" certainly occupy a position of needed re-evaluation.

The man born on September 2nd one hundred and thirty years ago, has passed on to us wisdom which ought not be disregarded.

John F. Tetley

Possibly it may merely be a temporary reaction, but the French Government is now concentrating on trying to make the people happy rather than to make France great. Charles de Gaulle, with the typical arrogance of a militarist, stressed greatness of the French state while ignoring the state of the French. His successor, President Pompidou, apparently has learned the lesson that people care little about greatness but much about happiness. For that reason, he is now denigrating greatness and stressing the need of helping to solve the domestic problems.

Maybe it is wishful thinking, but could it be that this is part of a trend? After all, even in our country there seems to be a tendency toward concentrating on internal problems and less on foreign ones. The President's recent statements indicate that America may not be so ready to intervene in foreign affairs in attempts to tell other nations how they should be run.

At the inception of our country, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution clearly put the government on the side of helping people to be happy rather than to be great. Unfortunately, in practice, adherence to this principle has often been honored more in the breach than in following it.

It is interesting to note that despite all the absurdities of the present young people's revolution, one thing shines through and that is their belief that life should be a happy one. They recognize that one of the most important ingredients for happiness is the integrity of the individual, and all of us are indebted to them for emphasizing this truism.

Governments, of course, can do nothing positive to make an individual happy. All that they can do is of a negative nature; that is, not to interfere with the individual. To many, the real function of government is to maintain conditions of justice, by which is meant, to maintain conditions under which the *laissez faire* principle predominates. This is the principle of a fair field to all with favors to none. And, of course, to maintain a fair field for all means that all must have equal right of access to opportunity. Since opportunity means access to the land, the maintenance of justice then becomes the maintenance of free access to the land.

That no government ever existed which religiously practiced this principle is obvious. The closest any government came to it, among the

great nations of the world, has been the United States Government. That is the main reason the American civilization rose to such heights. That our society has now been retrograding has been due to our increasing cavitation from this principle of justice.

If France indicates that there is now a trend toward more emphasis on individual happiness and less on national greatness, then possibly not only the French people, but the American and other peoples will begin, at least, to have more opportunity to be happy.

Happiness is and always will be a highly subjective matter. However, it does appear that to be happy one must utilize one's faculties to the optimum degree. If governments adhere to the laissez faire philosophy, then one has the best opportunity to use one's abilities. If one chooses not to do so, that is his prerogative. But since happiness is such a universal desire, it seems reasonable to assume that most will use their capabilities as best they know how. If such does happen, then who knows not only will the people be happy, but as a corollary, great.

Oscar S. Johannsen

SADOL & INDIANAS

The mills of the gods grind slowly, but they grind increasingly small. On August 3th, France devalued the French Franc by 12%, another signal that the nations of the world are grudgingly admitting the depreciation of their currencies.

Only about two years ago France had been sitting on a pile of gold valued at over \$5 billion which was supposed to have made the Franc impregnable. Today, her gold supply has been cut in half and the relatively modest devaluation just initiated is, itself, suspect.

DeGaulle, who had given the French Franc stability, suffered from the illusion that it would be possible to achieve an economic revival by establishing a sound currency. But, the sad truth is that while a sound currency is an important ingredient of economic good health, by no means does it follow because the currency is sound, the economy is healthy.

Since there appears little recognition that France is suffering from the same fundamental cancer that all western nations are afflicted with--an unjust system of land tenure--it is hardly likely that any reform of value will be instituted. There may well be some more tinkering with the monetary system, hoping thereby to achieve some economic stability, but such are doomed to failure.

wind up in the devaluation of the dollar, with the "price" of gold being raised. The process may be somewhat delayed as the Big Ten nations have agreed to utilize a form of credit, Special Drawing Rights, popularly known as SDR's, as a substitute for gold. But this is analogous to a profligate who has been given some more credit by over-indulgent relatives. Temporarily this may enable him to continue his mode of living, but once this credit is used up, the day of reckoning will be at hand.

So the SDR's may delay the devaluation of the world's currencies for a while, but until something is done about the land problem, it is inevitable that a major monetary upheaval will occur within the next few years, if not sooner.

The more things change, the more they remain the same.

One reassuring thing about economics is that it is like modern art. And you know in modern art, things can't possibly be as bad as they are painted.

Some of the great corporations are becoming land conscious. Union Camp, one of the country's largest paper manufacturers, finds that it is better to build a golf course than to use land to grow pine trees. U.S. Plywood-Champion Papers, Inc. is participating in 25 different land development projects. Some of the most famous names as General Electric, Alcoa, Gulf Oil, Chrysler and Westinghouse Electric are becoming increasingly involved in land development.

They are beginning to learn what every Geologist knows, there's usually more profit in land ventures than in such prosaic things as manufacturing.

Then a man's golf score is below ninety, he is neglecting his business; if above it, he is neglecting his game.

The 11-nation International Monetary Fund is planning to help poor nations finance their contributions to international commodity agreement better stocks. These agreements, no matter how they may be dressed up are merely price fixing schemes to keep the prices of goods up.

You would think that people were suffering enough from high prices due to inflation without adding to their burdens with financing international schemes to keep prices up.

The only satisfaction the people can get out of it all is that all such price fixing schemes fail. But in the meantime, the people, of course, are rooting the bill.

Contributions to GATTOLJ always are welcome - something to spout about - financial (in spite of threatened devaluation) to help meet rising costs of paper and ink.

SPEAKERS AVAILABLE

Someone called attention to the fact that it might not be remembered the Henry George School may be called upon to furnish speakers upon ANY SUBJECT whatever. Any reader of the CARGOYLS who can arrange for a speaker to appear before any group will be rendering appreciated service.

Sign over a Milwaukee real estate office: "Buy LAND now - it's not being made anymore."

Readers Digest June 1967
The Power to Tax

There is agreement in Washington on at least three points: a simple extension of the 1 1/2 surcharge is politically unpopular; maintenance of the 7% investment tax credit is politically untenable; and some alteration in the personal income tax structure is politically irresistible.

Monthly Economic
Letter - First National
City Bank, N. Y. C.

Capital punishment is when the government taxes you to get capital, in order to go into business in competition with you, and then takes the profits on your business in order to pay its losses.

Hold those cheers - "The gross national product rose to a new record of \$306.6 billion in 1965, according to the Commerce Department. The gross national product is the country's total output of goods and services. The figure for 1965 is about 2% higher than the \$299.7 billion scored in 1964 but don't jump to any premature conclusions about how magnificently the country is doing. More than half of the increase is simply a reflection of higher prices. During the last year the dollar lost about 4.3% of its buying power. This brings the increase in 1967 dollars down to a more modest \$59 billion or so, or about 4.2%. And when all of the figures are in, we would not be surprised to find that most of this reflects higher spending by federal, state and local governments. If there is anything left, you can call it economic growth."

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

TOO LATE!

Our cousins in Britain ran a weekend school at Pendley Manor-Saturday morning to Sunday evening, June 21st and 22nd. Advertiser: EAR - PLASAIT SURROUNDINGS - CONFIDENTIAL ACCOUNTS - DATIONS.

SALT OF THE EARTH

The most practical of practical nurses is the one who marries her wealthy patient.

Definitions:

Overtaxed property: Grim reality.
Compulsory piano practicing: Dach

ache.

Fort Knox: Yellow stone park.
Counterfeiter: One who gets into trouble by following a good example.
Dogooders: Misfortune hunters.

Wife: I have nothing to wear. If anyone came to visit us, they would think I am the cook.

Mummy: Not if they stayed for dinner.

Uncle: Here's a dollar, Fred. Be careful with it. Remember, a fool and his money are soon parted.

Nephew: I will, Uncle. Thank you for parting with it.

Isn't it the truth? You can't judge a girl by her clothes. There just isn't enough evidence.

HUMAN EVILS

The result of this hastily drafted legislation and ultra-lax administration, the committee found, is an unprecedented opportunity for greedy medical operators to indulge themselves at taxpayers' expense.

Sen. Long himself catalogued several cases of flagrant abuse, including that of one general practitioner who billed Medicare for \$50M in 1963 for house calls to only 67 patients. At \$7. a call, this works out to a visit every third day for every one of his patients for an entire year. The senator noted: "Who says you can't get a doctor to make a house call anymore?"

Definition - A tax reform is a measure designed to plug any small loophole through which the citizen may have been able to sight daylight.

Federal bureaucrats are getting richer and richer. The non-partisan Tax Foundation reports that federal workers have received nine pay hikes in the past nine years and that their salaries have risen 47 per cent since 1962. The government's civilian payroll now totals \$50 billion, with approximately \$6 billion of that doled out in Washington.

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If you did not read all of Page One - this issue - turn back - there is an invitation to FALL RALLY.