

The Barryville



"A throat, multiple,
about." Opinions ex-
pressed herein are those
of the writers and not
necessarily endorsed by
the Henry George School.

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY

Issue #182

Aug./Sept. 1974

BASIC COURSES IN NEW JERSEY

Arrangements have been made to hold classes in Woodbridge and Roselle Park Libraries starting late September. The course will be given in five sessions. It is possible than an advance course - probably Money & Credit will follow the basic courses. If you know of anyone who might be induced to participate in these courses, please send names and address to school headquarters. Details may be obtained by writing or telephone.

The documentary film - ONE WAY TO BETTER CITIES is available for showing to any group in northern New Jersey area under the auspices of the N.J. HGS, with speaker. Cobnace school office.

HENRY GEORGE GROUPS CONSULTATION

An excellent conference was held at Chatham College, Pittsburgh by the Henry George Groups with the Henry George Foundation of America acting as host. A complete report was published in the Georgian Journal, July 1974.

The complete proceedings of the Labor Day '73 Conference of the Henry George Schools and the School of Living, entitled MOVING INTO THE FRONT RANKS OF SOCIAL CHANGE, is available from the School of Living, Freeland, Md., 21053 for \$1.25 postpaid.

WELCOME! - THE LAND REPORT, new publication of LAND, EQUALITY AND FREEDOM, a new Georgist venture based in Calif., and intended to be nation-wide.

There is only one way to bring about the millennium when war shall be no more. Mankind must realize that the earth was given equally to all mankind regardless of race, creed, or color. Having taken that step a great deal of thought must be given to how this desirable state of affairs may be implemented. The more thought given, the closer people will come to a realization that land has a unique quality in that it bears RENT which is produced by the community as a whole, and that this rent must be restored to the community responsible for its production. Taxation will be seen as a denial of equal freedom, and its cessation will strip government of all unwarranted power.

FREEDOM - Brittsich Columbia

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50 Washington Terrace,
East Orange, N.J. 07017

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HENRY GEORGE INSTITUTION
55 W. 42ND ST., N.Y. 10018
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036

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WILBUR JOHNSON RIDES AGAIN!

So reports Bob King, Press Agent for the Free Enterprise Association. During three decades Wilbur was quite successful in getting Negro editors to print his articles weekly in six Chicago papers, publicizing Henry George. Sometime ago Johnson moved to North Carolina where he continued his writings, which were printed there and he spoke anywhere and everywhere. Recently Wilbur so impressed the Wake Count League of Women Voters that they put out a Land Use Taxation Bulletin. They then contacted several state legislators urging them to introduce a Land Value Tax bill.

Wilbur in the past has offered \$500. to prove that land value taxation is the only way to abolish slums, business stagnation, unemployment, crime and war. Bob King offered to add another \$100. and others followed pledging amounts which ran up to \$3,000. - with no takers!

In a recent Letter to the Editor Johnson offered \$50. to the first group of Black Professional Women who will read and prove they understand PROGRESS & POVERTY, and THE LAW by Frederic Bastiat. Wilbur put 20 copies of each book in the County Public Library.

On two occasions, Johnson telephoned from North Carolina to persons in New Jersey who he had learned were interested in "our field" and then informed the Henry George school in East Orange so they could follow up. Yes, surely Wilbur rides again!

THANKS "CHICK"

C.O. ("Chick") Reinhart, formerly a Trustee of the Henry George School of New Jersey, now living in Florida, writes - "Maybe I need a re-indoctrination in Georgism; but I do find cynical reactions or realism vs the Henry George idealism. While we have GOVERNMENT that wastes beyond the most fantastic dreams - a giveaway government that thinks it must support the world by taxing its own people - where the Mayor of Fort Lee, N.J. must go into hiding and have 24 hour a day protection because he won't take a bribe. Here's a totally bankrupt government that can't pay the interest on the interest of the interest of the national debt. The U.S. government pays over 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ % for 6 month loans of vast amounts - with prime interest rates at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ % - usurious to put it mildly.

We discuss "single tax" on land value and how taxes on improvements stiffle desire to improve. It is self-defeating not to put land to use for its highest income. I see Bell Tel. Labs and condominiums pushing as far out as Peapack and Gladstone, N.J.

I think the HGS of NJ could lead off a rocket if it publicized wasteful spending, inflation, soaring taxes and misuse of nuclear energy. Electric power plants are unsafe. Not only the fact that wastes are indestructible, and that any malfunction is of danger to all life in the area, but

any subversives can bomb from without or within and release death. We concentrated on Fission and attained it. We are only now starting on safe Fusion, and are probably twenty years away from discoveries, let alone another 20 or 30 years to commercially harness it.

We ought pay more attention to spending and inflation - maybe national bankruptcy is needed - however we would only start out again to repeat past fallacies.

Maybe all H.G. schools should be warning of the coming "Armagedon in finance. What is the least painful bankruptcy method for all - and how like the Phoenix bird, do we rise again?

Can we shut off the running water before trying to mop up?

FOR LANDS SAKE

Jack Tetley

The GARGOYLE was originally published as a "house organ" of the Henry George School of New Jersey to inform graduates of activities and maintain their interest. Copies were sent to all of the Henry George Schools. Other persons interested in the Henry George movement have requested the GARGOYLE be sent to them and so long as possible, under the limited budget of the school this will be done.

The GARGOYLE has never been considered more than a medium for keeping its readers informed of some of what is going on in the movement with brief articles believed to be of interest to Georgists.

We have at times deviated from strictly "Henry George", but then, the publication as its mast-head indicates it is a mouthpiece, or throat and we welcome material from readers.

From California comes the news of establishment of a yearly prize for "journalism in the Henry George spirit". This award is symbolized by a bronze medal to be provided by Mrs. J. Rupert Mason in memory of her husband. A \$500. cash prize accompanies the medal.

The award will focus on journalistic work appearing during the previous calendar year that best reflects the criteria expressed in the spirit of Henry George. The award is open to all media.

All entries must have been published for the first time in 1974, may be submitted by the author or any person and must arrive by Jan. 31, 1975 in the hands of the Mason Medal Jury, c/o Henry George School, 833 Market St., San Francisco, Cal. 94103. The judges are looking for news stories, etc., and need your help in finding and submitting entries worthy of the J. Ruppert Mason prize, which is essentially a journalism award.

LEAF (Land Equality And Freedom) is a new venture originating in California. Its purpose is to assist students, newsmen, anyone who needs information about land ethics. It is reported LEAF will also

FUND Dr. Steven Cord's New City Financing which will promote land ethics in new towns. One of the incorporators of IIRAF is Wm. Truehart, former Director of the Henry George School in Los Angeles.

Invitation to Dinner? Before you accept one from a land selling organization you would do well to read "UNREAL ESTATE" by the Sierra Club. It elaborates on one reason why our present land tenure system permits land speculators to be enriched at the expense of the unwary. I also sets forth illustrations of what tremendous prices are paid by taxpayers for land which actually belongs to them and which, under the system of land tenure whereby those who wish to hold title to land would pay the annual rental value of the land to those who surrender their equal right. Illustrations are given of how speculative land developments have unfavorably results upon the environment and the book is interesting and informative even if you are not invited to dinner.

PRESIDENTIAL POWER SHOWN?

Oscar B. Johannsen

Now, that there has been a changing of the guard in the White House, many believe that the Presidency has been weakened and the Congress and the people's power increased. But, unfortunately this is doubtful.

The Constitution gave to the President powers greater than most kings have had, and these powers have been increased not only by judicial decisions but by deliberate acts of the Congress. It is interesting to note that during the "energy crisis", while Congress was deeply suspicious of the President, and politicians and others were arguing that he had too much power, Congress granted him almost unlimited power to solve that "crisis". Why did it go out of its way to give such power to a man with whom it was almost at war? Simply because it did not want to have to exercise such power as rationing gasoline. Inevitably, rationing would have brought down upon itself the anger of the people as problems developed. By giving the President discretionary power to impose rationing, he would get the blame.

So, to expect that the power of the Presidency has been shorn is to indulge in fantasy. It is true that for a while the present occupant will undoubtedly act with great restraint, but that will only be temporary. Inevitably, he will be exercising the same degree of power, if not more, than previous presidents.

And this is very sad, for it means that more and more decisions affecting the lives of millions of people are being decided by the President and his advisers. But, no man or coterie of men, have the wisdom or knowledge to exercise the power which the President possesses.

We can be sure that all Presidents have tried to do a good job, but no matter how hard they try, they cannot help but make terrible mistakes, and when they do we all suffer.

What is occurring is the gradual granting of power to the President to plan and run the economy, much as is done in a market economy is that there the rule is from the bottom. The people by buying or not buying determine what shall or shall not be produced. Any errors that businessmen make do not cause much harm to the mass of the people. If some entrepreneur produces too many low heeled ladies shoes which it turns out that women do not want, only he suffers. Other businessmen have probably anticipated correctly so the women get what they want.

In a true democracy as power is decentralized, no one man makes the decisions. Thus, the likelihood is great that there will not be so many terrible mistakes. Not only that, but democracy works slowly. Sometimes a problem which seems so important is solved by the ordinary processes of business. When power is concentrated in the hands of a few then when a problem arises, they may act quickly. But such hasty action may be precisely the most unwise thing to do. The first Queen Elizabeth was so well regarded because she was so slow in making up her mind. She deferred making decisions as long as possible so many problems eventually solved themselves without it being necessary for her to interfere.

Today, as modern means of communication are so rapid and widespread, and technology is so advanced that decisions can be quickly made and implemented, the danger is that these decisions will have been made too hastily and so the possibility of error is greater than ever.

What should be done is not merely to try to reduce the President's power but the power of the government itself. If the government does not have the power to interfere in the economy, the President will not. But to reduce the government's power means that the people must be educated to the knowledge which existed in the early days of the Republic, which is that the best governed people are the least governed.

Can the people be so educated?

Certainly, but it will be a tremendous job for far too many of us have come to believe that the government can solve our problems. What each of us can do individually is to set an example by not looking to the government for help for ourselves and by constantly preaching the old fashioned gospel of standing on our own two feet.

* * * * *

The proper revenue of a nation is the site rent of its land.

SENSE & NONSENSE

Australia may be giving us an idea of the shape of things to come. Due to the inflation of its money supply and the consequent increase in wages and prices, an air of wartime austerity has set in.

Services have been cut and goods are in short supply. Pharmacists earn \$15. on a Sunday so drugstores have cut their hours. The post office has eliminated Saturday service and will cut service further as the government will not raise postal rates. Milk deliveries have stopped in some suburbs. Supermarkets have ended delivery and bagging services, and some restaurants have become self-service. The nation's most exclusive department store now charges for delivery as clerks' wages have risen so high. To get minor car repairs, an appointment must be made, often at least one month in advance.

Due to the shortages, shoppers have responded with panic buying. They don't buy merely for a week but for longer periods of time, adding to the shortages.

The Australian government has made matters worse, as even some of the politicians admit.

It will be interesting to watch how they solve this problem of inflation for it may give us an idea of how we should solve ours.

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Borbon, England and Whitehill, are in a turmoil due to the actions of a determined individualist and the enclosure laws enacted in the 18th and 19th centuries. Those acts abolished the old manorial rights, that is the common rights to use the open land. The acts made the land private property, but there was much obscurity about what common rights remained to the land. Nine years ago, Parliament passed a bill to clear up the matter once and for all. It provided that anyone had five years in which to claim common rights. If no one objected to these common rights within two years later, the rights would be established.

This maverick filled for 3,450 acres, including a military reservation. The Defense Ministry noted his claim so it objected and thus reduced his claim to 1480 acres. But nobody else noticed his claim including the officials of Borbon and Whitehill. A typographical error had lulled people into indifference for when his claim was put in the local newspaper as a public notice, it appeared as 3,450 acres, (a period having inadvertently been placed where there should have been a comma.) Thus even if someone had noticed his claim it was probably shrugged off as unimportant.

So, now the inhabitants of Borbon and Whitehall learn that if his claim is up-

held, he can graze on the land they consider their own, dig up gravel and sand as well as cut down trees, take turf and catch fish in their ornamental ponds.

The individualist who has stirred up this hornet's nest is fond of arguing. His principal argument? Against private property in land!

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Did you know that inflation is getting so bad that it is believed that 1974 will end in October?

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The way the stock market has been going these days, a stockbroker has set up a new program for an investors goal during the next five years -- it's called breaking even.

SALT OF THE EARTH

A lot of people didn't mind putting the nation on daylight saving time. The hour they saved was the only thing they did save this year due to inflation.

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It used to be that people would step outside for a moment for a breath of fresh air. Now, sometimes, they have to step outside for days before they get it.

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A good earnings statement is very important to a company. Sometimes it's just what the auditors doctored.

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Do you know what busing is? It's when 20 million school children and 60 million taxpayers get taken for a ride.

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Food prices are so high, shoppers have the same problem as some baseball teams. It's awfully hard to get the bags loaded.

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Things were better before technology took over. Cigarette lighters didn't work, but people did.

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Do you know why banks keep pressuring you to save money? It's because it might be valuable someday.

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Deliberation: Carefull weighing every aspect of a project before tackling it.

Procrastination: When it's not your project.

Q U O T E

Communism is based on the belief that man is so weak and inadequate that he is unable to govern himself, and therefore requires the rule of strong masters.

Democracy is based on the conviction that man has the moral and intellectual capacity, as well as the inalienable right to govern himself with reason and justice.

Harry S. Truman - Inaugural Address

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When St. Louis had a population of 300 it was predicted that if a bridge could be built across the Mississippi, it was absolutely certain that 60 years later St. Louis would have at least 1,500 people! The bridge was built and St. Louis now has over a million population.