

The Baritone



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

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H O L I D A Y G R E E T I N G S T O Y O U R F R I E N D

Never a Christmas morning, never the old year ends; but someone thinks of someone; old days; old times; old friends!

I heard the Bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play
And mild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

1 7 7 6 - 1 9 7 6 200 years
of FREEDOM in U.S.A.

HAPPY NEW YEAR
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR -

Before we know it, Christmas will
be here
It is a very joyous time of the year
It's a time to give and also forget
So make it the best year ever yet.

Arnold Kleiner

It taketh age to make a sage;
The wise no longer doubt it.
The older we grow the more we know,
And the less we brag about it.

P.D.K. Newsletter

O U R T A S K

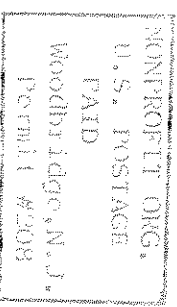
"Let us go on, each in our own way, spreading the fire and the hope of a new crusade, not merely in our meetings but in our homes and our lives, talking to friends and acquaintances, in asking questions and setting men to thinking. Our work is the work of education, the education of men and women, of graybeards as well as the little children. What we have to do is to awaken thought to arouse conscience, to get men to see the simple truth that Justice and Liberty are the great remedies for all social and political evils."

HENRY GEORGE

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"We hold these truths to be self-evident - that all men are created equal - that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights - that among these are the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness --"

THOMAS JEFFERSON

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WILL NEW YORK CITY'S DEBACLE
LEAD TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF
LIMITED GOVERNMENT?

The financial morass in which New York City is presently in is but a precursor of the mess in which the federal government will eventually find itself. Just as the nation is too big and has too many people to be governed from Washington, so New York City is too large and has too great a population to be governed from City Hall.

A terribly important question which probably has hardly ever been considered, and certainly has never been resolved is the degree of government of which man is capable. Altho one cannot say so definitely, it would appear that, possibly he can govern when the government is barely above the family level and the area involved is small enough so all the residents can be acquainted quite intimately with it. But above that level and area size, it is extremely doubtful that man can govern.

People simply cannot get together to solve common problems when too many are involved and too large an area is encompassed. The assumption that it can be done by selecting individuals to represent a certain number of people and a particular area has been proven false time and again. All one needs to do is to examine the proceedings of our Congress.

Those chosen simply do not represent the people. They cannot, no matter how wise nor honest they may be for it is not a question of wisdom or integrity. It is simply a fact that no one can really represent another person. We are all too different. What does occur is that those chosen if they represent anybody other than themselves, it is those who put up the money, exerted the influence and put forth the effort to get them elected.

In New York City, for example, the politicians for many years have been elected with the aid of the money and the efforts rendered by the laborunion chiefs and their minions, as well as by the liberals and their followers. Thus, these politicians are not answerable to the people, altho they indulge in plenty of lip service to the people, but to the pressure groups who helped put them in office.

If one does not believe the City is run for the benefit of these groups, how does he explain that a sanitation worker starting at the age of 18, after 20 years, can retire at the ripe old age of 38 with half pay? The list of favors to labor and the liberals is endless.

It has reached such a high level that the so-called services that New York City renders costs twice what it costs Chicago. And Chicago is certainly not a model of efficient government.

As for do-goodism, the politicians at the behest of the liberals outdid themselves. The City has 19 city owned hospitals whereas Chicago has only one. And these hospitals are often only occupied to the extent of about 25%. The City College is probably the only "Free" college which any city in the nation runs. And of all the absurdities, altho the City is the center of the main radio and TV stations of the country, it maintains its own radio station. To date, despite the City's problems, no one has suggested that it be closed to save the money it costs.

This is not to say that the politicians are alone to blame. The inefficiency with which the City has been run has been aided and abetted by the banking fraternity. When the City started to borrow to pay operating expenses every banker in the City should have been on his toes hollering so the people might become aware of what was occurring for the easiest way to go into bankruptcy is to pay for your operations by borrowing. No business could ever be run that way. But the bankers did not for the returns were apparently too lucrative. Now they are loaded with city obligations which they are fearful will represent huge losses so they are bringing pressure on the President of the United States to intervene. It is not the City they are worried about--it's their banks and their own lack of banking ability.

Of course, one of the main reasons the City is so hard up is that in virtue of its past control laws, which it passed to satisfy the liberals, as inflation became more virulent, it became impossible for landlords to maintain their property for they were squeezed between rising costs and fixed rental ceilings, which it was almost impossible to raise. So they abandoned their buildings at such a high rate that parts of the city look as tho it had been boomed. The City's tax base has been eroded. But will the politicians do anything at all to eliminate the rent ceiling? Yes, maybe in the hereafter, but certainly not in this world.

All of the above merely emphasizes the impossibility of men governing a city as large as New York. What should have been done, and was even suggested at times, was to divide up the City into small areas of say two or three blocks in size. Each of these areas would be self governed by the residents in those areas. With small areas in which everyone knew what was needed and to which those interested could come to discuss common problems, many of the problems which seem unsolvable today would easily be overcome.

Interestingly, right in New York City is a model of how this could be accomplished for right near Coney Island is a small area which is self governed by the residents. All they get from the City is certain fire and police pro-

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FOR LAND'S SAKE

At a discussion group consisting of men and women I supplied to each person a sheet of paper and announced I would display one word. I requested each person to write on the paper a word or a few words indicating what the word I displayed brought to their mind. Several persons wrote "Taxes", one person wrote "Social Security." The word I displayed was Government.

This, I think is rather interesting. My purpose was to briefly discuss the four principal levels of government local, county, State and Federal and their functions and source of revenue. However, the idea that Government was associated immediately with Social Security, I think, is far more than just amusing. That it is associated with "taxes" was not surprising. And, in a sense this is about what I wanted to bring out in asking the question.

To those of us who have gone beneath surface thinking in economics and understand the role government plays in the production and distribution of wealth, there is a vast opportunity to enlighten many people on what is the role of government.

To illustrate, let our concept of Economics be the science which treats of the production and distribution of wealth.

We follow: human energy, applied to natural resources, using tools and machinery, results in a product - a material thing. To convert to economic terms: Labor applied to Land, using Capital, produces Wealth.

Wealth is Distributed among the owners of the factors of production - the owner of labor, the laborer; the owner of Land, the landowner; and the owner of Capital, the Capitalist.

Since Government is not a factor of production, it therefore has no claim for a share of the product - wealth. It is quite necessary that we have some government. Some organization to administer the allocation of natural resources and to protect infringement upon such allocations is needed. For this administration revenue must be provided. At present it is provided by a system known as taxation, whereby a portion of the receipts - distribution of wealth - are coercively taken from the laborer, the landowner, and the capitalist.

If a comparative simple change were to be made in our land tenure system, and our system of compensation for severance value of other natural resources, the revenue to administer minimum government thus collected, conceivably could be far more than is required.

Another factor would be to remove from government most all regulation and control of production and distribution of wealth. This would greatly decrease the revenue required for administration of necessary and desirable functions.

Thus might come about a true free enterprise economy, the establishment of Justice and equality of opportunity.

It will be noted that the medium of exchange and credit functions necessary to efficient conduct of the production and distribution of wealth have been omitted. These might well be performed by private enterprise entirely without interference of government.

By opening up the opportunity of unlimited production it is conceivable that involuntary poverty may be over come. Concurrent with this would be employment for all who wished it - no need for public welfare.

Of course not all problems would be thus solved. However the solution of government, social and economic problems should then be much simpler.

As our government, social and economic system operates today and reform after reform is proposed, tried, abandoned and retried - the ultimate result is to delay the basic re-adjustment - land tenure.

The present system of land tenure is the underlying cause of malfunction of the production and distribution of wealth.

We need and must have a simple and efficient government - as near perfect as may be devised monetary system. However, given both of these - the land tenure system remaining as is - the result would be still higher land prices and more and greater land speculation - continued recurrence of business recessions with unemployment, poverty, slums, crime and other social maladjustments compounding.

An economic system complying with natural law brings harmony - one which interferes with natural law - brings chaos and disaster.

JOHN T. TETLEY

Recommended Reading

Abridged PROGRESS & POVERTY - Madsen
Henry George - SCIENCE OF POLITICAL
ECONOMY.

Write to the Henry George School of
New Jersey (address above) for more
information.

tection but just about all other services required are administered by the residents themselves. And they enjoy taking care of their little community.

The bankruptcy of the city might be a good thing. If they lay off the police and the firemen, the City will not be without police protection and fire protection. The people, themselves will get together to provide this protection. This might be the way in which these small self-governing areas might develop almost spontaneously in the City, and when the people do what is needed themselves it will be well done.

It could be as these small self-governing areas become the accepted thing, people will begin to inquire what is the government of which they are capable. And when they inquire, it means they will start thinking. Who knows what this might bring in its train? It might be the beginning of the breakdown of Big Government, from which the country is now suffering.

So, let us all hope the President of the U.S. withstands the political pressure and lets the City completely alone. Out of its mess might come a new and better form of government.

OSCAR B. JOHANNSSEN

Word has been received that Oscar Johannsen has won top award in a Bicentennial Free Enterprise Essay Contest sponsored by the National Association of Manufacturers. The award was presented at a Luncheon on December 4th at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York City, at the Session of the Convention of NAM.

SENSE AND NONSENSE

A businessman at one of the nation's largest tire companies noted that his firm spent \$30 million last year in complying with government regulations. This is equal to 3400 workers at their regular wages for a year. Based on his figures, it is estimated that the nation's business concerns must be spending about \$16 billion in complying with all these regulations. There are apparently about 63,000 employees in the governmental regulatory organizations costing the taxpayers \$2 billion a year.

All this red tape and for what? To interfere with the private enterprise so as to make it less efficient. One is reminded of France before the Revolution. Regulations abounded all over the country. It was partly to eliminate these regulations that the Revolution broke out. How long before the American people say - "Enough?"

Dr. Frederick Leboyer has instituted a new way to deliver babies, and has written a best seller "Birth Without Violence", describing his new method. Under his method babies come into the world smiling, instead of crying and in pain. After delivering babies the old way into blinding light and loud voices, he decided that was not natural. Instead he had dim lights, low voices, and instead of separating the baby from the mother, kept the two together so it would adjust to the new world it entered. The result has been fantastic, it is said. Women are demanding this new method as it is believed, babies born in such a way develop into better and happier people.

Some physicians are following his example but the profession still opposes it. What is interesting is that the patients are demanding it while the practitioners are resisting. It's an old story. Organization, particularly if it is a legal monopoly, as the medical profession is, tend to resist new ideas. It's the people who force them to change, but only after a real fight.

Now that the New Jersey taxpayers have decisively defeated the four bond proposals which would have cost them, when interest is added probably in the neighborhood of \$2 billion, and have emphasized their dislike for taxes by defeating of the politicians who voted for an income tax, the politicians in Trenton wish to foist the income tax on us by means of a lame duck session.

Nothing seems to faze these politicians. They are in power in virtue of an alliance with labor and gambling interests, and to favor them hope to put across taxes which the people do not want. The lame ducks have already been discredited so they have little to lose by voting for taxes. Only a determined outcry by the public will prevent the politicians from thwarting the people's will.

In Great Britain, taxes have reached such a ridiculous height that it is driving people of achievement away from its shores. The income Tax rates range up to 83% on earned income and up to 98% on investment income. The result is that such pop favorites as the Bay City Rollers will probably leave the country. The Rolling Stones left in 1971. Richard Burton, David Niven, Rex Harrison, and Elizabeth Taylor all have escaped Britain's absurd taxes by living abroad.

While this is bad enough, even worse an estimated 1500 physicians are leaving England every year. No Senior doctor or surgeon on the National Health Service earning \$20,000 or more a year is allowed an increase in salary.

There will always be an England, they say. Maybe so, but who will be living in it?