

"A throat, mouthpiece, a 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 #196

J A N U A R Y 1 9 7 6

200 years ago, in 1776, Adam Smith published THE WEALTH OF NATIONS. 2,500 sets were sold in the British Colonies in America within five years of publication.

Edmund A. Oritz - THE FREEMAN

The New Jersey Libertarian Party which Promotes decentralism and free-market capitalism, will hold its fourth annual State Convention on Saturday, Feb. 14th at the Magnolia Inn, Route 79, Matawan. Planned activities include workshops, entertainment, an auction, and regular convention business. Further details are available for a self-addressed, stamped envelope (No. 10 - large) from the N.J.L.P., Box 247, Bernardsville, N.J. 07924.

While, of course, the Henry George School does not endorse political parties or candidates, this information is given in the interest of an informed citizenry.

Bill Newcomb is looking for someone to write professionally in Land Economics. A person who is a Georgist - one who can write an ANALYSIS of our economic problems in a popular newspaper style. Should anyone be interested in filling the job - write Wm. Newcomb, 532 Wickham Road, Melbourne Florida, 32901 - enclose a self-addressed No. 10 (large) envelope, and Bill will send suggestions.

YOU are requested, if you have not done so, to write to The Hall of Fame for Great Americans, 2 Washington Sq., New York, N.Y. and nominate for the 1976 election HENRY GEORGE. Say WHY.

#### OUR MISLEAD PEOPLE

Australians given 7 possible causes of inflation, in a survey, answered:

Unions have demanded too much	32%
Government policies are bad	20%
Govt. tried to do too much	12%
Most people are selfish	11%
Big business is only concerned with making a profit	10%
We are influenced by overseas economic conditions	10%
The Govt. has been badly advised by public servants	2%
Don't know	4%
<b>GOOD GOVERNMENT</b>	
August 1975	

#### FREEDOM THE ONLY END

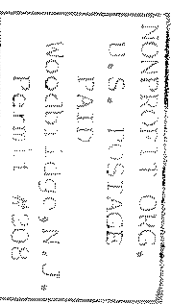
"There is no way of forcing men to be free and happy and there never will be. All that men can do for their fellow men is to remove the artificial shackles that fetter them."

\* \* \* FRANK McEACHRAN  
Let's give the land question a full and fair hearing for America's Bicentennial. THE ANALYST  
1776 - - 1976

In the early days of the U.S.A., the Federal government did little beyond run the Post Office, collect tariffs and provide for the common defense. And the State governments did even less!

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY

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THE YEAR OF THE BICENTENNIAL

1776 ushers in the Bicentennial signing of the Declaration of Independence--a truly remarkable document in the annals of history.

It will probably never be satisfactorially resolved what impelled three million Englishmen to revolt against their mother country. While they were exploited, it was nothing compared to the exploitation which European governments had been practicing against their own people for years on end. The litany of reasons advanced such as taxation without representation, were questionable arguments for so momentous a step as a revolution. Even Thomas Paine's "Common Sense", published on January 10, 1776, which summarized the reasons for independence and was the spark which turned into the roaring flame of the Declaration, needed some tincture--whether of discontent, vexation, exasperation, or some unknown quantity--to nourish it, or it would have flickered into nothingness.

While no one can definitely say what were the exact combination of events, philosophies, or frustrations which led to the Declaration, the fact remains that the Revolution occurred.

Were the signers of the Declaration men of heroic stature as fourth of July orators would have us believe? Not really. For the most part they were plain ordinary human beings with all the strengths and weaknesses of those of us alive today. What is undeniable, however, is that they had reached a point where they were laying their lives and their property on the line. If the Revolution had failed almost certainly all of their property would have been confiscated, and if they had been captured, they probably would have suffered the fate of Nathan Hale.

As we look back across almost 200 years, has our government lived up to the tenets of the Declaration? One would have to wear the most delicately tinted beautiful pair of rose colored glasses to believe that it has. To the extent that the government has abided by the Declaration's principles, the government has been weak. As it has adopted the very same principles which we are told impelled the colonists to revolt against George III. Today, we have conscription--a modified form of slavery. Regulations bind us all up in a maze of red tape delightful to the bureaucrat's soul but which increasingly are becoming so onerous that people no doubt will soon be looking for another Thomas Paine to write a 20th Century "Common Sense".

But the 200 years of relative freedom has brought into existence accomplishments so unique as to have brought about a veritable revolution,

not only materially, but politically and socially. The telephone, the airplane, and the TV are but a few of the more significant examples of the material benefits which have flowed out of the freedom existing here. The overthrow of monarchies, as occurred in the French Revolution, had their impetus in the example of our revolution. The freedom we have had has led to changes in social mores, the most significant of which, has been the liberation of women from the age-old domination of the male in the western countries and increasing liberation in other nations.

The good effects are still continuing but at an exponentially decreasing rate as we drift away from the Declaration's principles. Will we return to them? It does not appear likely. But just as in spite of what the historians tell us, we are not certain at this late date of the real reasons for the Revolution of 1776, so we cannot tell what reasons may impell us to start a new Revolution from too much Big Government.

Our government in Washington today resembles that of George III's to such a startling degree that if we are of the same temper as the colonists, we too might revolt if our pleas for more freedom go unheeded. But there's the rub. Are we of the same temper, wishing merely to be free to live our lives as we wish and beholden to no one? Or are we merely little better than men-dicants with our heads outstretched to the Great Father in Washington for more and more for which we give less and less?

The year of the Bicentennial is an excellent one for us to assert our independence and to demand that Big government get off our backs. Will we try? Can we afford not to?

OSCAR B. JOHANNSEN

SENSE & NONSENSE

Finally someone has taken the trouble to study the Botter decision, which has been causing so much trouble in New Jersey. In effect, this decision equated the amount of money spent with the quality of education attained. That is, in order to obtain "thorough and efficient" education, it was necessary to spend sufficient money, and if the various school districts did not have enough, it was necessary for the State to equalize the amount of money. This has led to the politicians attempting to put over an income tax on the citizens of N.J.

A lawyer has written a comprehensive critique in a pamphlet entitled "While New Jersey Slept: The Botter Decision Revisited". He brings out the obvious fact that there is no necessary relationship between the quantity of money spent and the quality of education. (Continued on Page 4.)

FOR LAND'S SAKE

It so happened, I was born in New Jersey, U.S.A. I might have been born in Moscow, Russia, or in Peking, China, or South Africa, or So. Carolina.

In other words, I came into the world at a place. It rather seems to me that there is a scheme of things, and it is intended that human beings fit into this scheme.

Human beings must have, in addition to air to breath, and water to drink, space to occupy. They must have food to sustain life. On most parts of the planet Earth they also need clothing and shelter. The only source of food, clothing and shelter is Natural Resources. Therefore human beings must have access to Natural Resources if they are to live.

It is also evident that Natural Resources vary as to quality, extent and location. For instance, soil varies from the most fertile by degrees to the most barren. Minerals vary from the finest to the worthless. For particular uses, locations vary from the highly desired to those desired least.

How is the allocation for use of natural resources to be determined? Which human beings are entitled to use the very best and which next best, etc., down to those who must use the least desirable? If human being "B" surrenders his right to use the best to human being "A", would it not seem fair and just that "B" be reimbursed for so doing? Of course there follows "C" and "D" and many, many more human beings, each surrendering their equal rights to superior resources, accepting use of poorer ones.

Is it an impossible task to devise and administer a system which would give every human being compensation for surrendering to all others the advantage of using the superior Natural Resources?

Probably - yes. At least, at this point in human development such a system cannot be conceived. However, some approach to it might be within the realm of possibility.

What is involved roughly may be divided into two categories: the Rental Value of Land and the Severance Value of Natural Resources. When the annual rental value of land is collected by the community for the support of local government, as an example, the effect is that each person using land above the marginal land is paying into a fund and that fund in effect is used to reimburse those who surrender their equal right to use superior land.

Thus the desirability of equalization of rights of individuals to the surface of the earth would seem to be achieved. In other words, I, born in New Jersey, by virtue of the present scheme of things am a citizen of the U.S.A. (a political and geographical unit) I am entitled to the very best "chunk of land surface" in the United States. So is every other U.S. citizen. However, as things exist now administration on a local basis seems best for "site occupancy". Therefore a system whereby the annual rental value of land is collected by the community would seem to be a fair and equitable Land Tenure System.

Now, in a larger political and geographical unit of which I am a citizen, there are minerals, natural gas and oil, etc. perhaps none of which are to be found in the local community in which I reside, or even in the State. But they are found elsewhere including off the coast of some States such as Mississippi. I believe I am just as much entitled to ownership of these natural resources as is the guy who just happened to be born in Miss. or in Oklahoma City. Therefore, if the Federal Government of the U.S. is to collect the severance value (royalties) of natural resources, in effect, I would be reimbursed for surrendering my equal right of proportionate ownership in all such natural resources.

It seems to me that if all the royalties for inland and off-shore severance value of such resources were collected by a Federal agency there might be sufficient revenue derived for the support of the Federal Government and I think an excess. This excess might well be allocated for use in the States for such things as highways, Parks, and the like.

The "accident" of place of birth then would not be so advantageous to some and disadvantageous to others. All would be sharing equally in the use of the earth.

JOHN T. TETLEY

For further information of the Land Tenure system envisioned by Henry George - which the above is a summary, may write to Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, 50 East 69th Street, New York, N.Y. 10021. Ask for a list of books and other publications.

The collection of the annual rental value of land is equivalent to, or may be considered in lieu of the General Property Tax, so far as the local government is concerned.

Federal collection of the severance value of natural resources might well replace the Federal Income Tax, and State Sales and other taxes.

tion obtained. One would think this was so obvious that it was not necessary even to argue the point, but ten witnesses, who were supposed to be experts, testified that there was a significant relationship between the per student expenditure and the kind of education received. Just how expert these witnesses were is questioned by this lawyer as there was no extensive interrogation of their qualifications. The two witnesses offered by the defense--that is who were supposed to argue against this relationship--instead joined the other ten and upheld that absurd contention.

The Judge, apparently, had no choice it would appear since the arguments raised were so weak except to agree, unless he wished to take it upon himself to analyze the situation independently. The State Supreme Court upheld the decision because it had only the court record to go on, and it did not wish to act on its own independent judgment as so often happens when judges wish to.

So the people of New Jersey are stuck with this decision. Since the people are supreme, however, they can overthrow the decision by the legislature passing an amendment to the State Constitution, or possibly even a law to counteract the Botter decision.

One wonders how anything as absurd as saying that you get a good education because you spend a lot of money ever got off the ground. Possibly because a lot of the teaching profession are more concerned with their salaries than with education.

Soviet Russia is supposed to be the classless society. But, of course, this is not true. The bureaucrats, politicians and the highly skilled professionals constitute the class which gets all the cream that floats on top of the skimmed milk which the mass of the people obtain.

The children of this class show all the arrogance and stupidity that the children of the stupid rich in capitalist countries often show. In Russia they are known as the "gilded youth". They are largely the children of the affluent scientists, engineers and bureaucrats.

They appear to be more interested in material comforts than in moral advancement, if the advice received from Russia is true. What brought this class prominently to the front was a case of four 15-year old girls who beat a classmate so severely she had to be hospitalized.

It was found that the emphasis on material comforts came from the parents. The father of one of the girls on trial looked down on anyone who

was not his equal in intelligence and position. The attacked girl was a "second-rate" person so apparently she deserved to be beaten.

So the socialist heaven has just the same problems as the capitalist purgatory--arrogance, stupidity, pride, and all the other traits which all human beings have. Maybe Marx and Lenin can explain this if the Soviet rulers could only contact them. Was not socialism to lead to people who were kind, thoughtful, considerate and angels on earth? What happened?

Those women libbers who are so desirous of having women work may wish to emigrate to the communist countries for more women between the ages of 51 and 64 work in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe than in the Western Countries. The following gives the percentages. Russia 82%; East Germany 80%; Bulgaria 74%; Hungary 73%; Romania 73%; Poland 63%. In the United States, the percentage is 49%. And, of course, the type of work performed in our country by women is hardly of the heavy, brutal type that women in the communist countries must perform. Without the women working in the communist Paradise, production there would be so low that it would be in danger of collapsing. Come to think of it, maybe that wouldn't be a bad idea.

In the U.S., one is born free and taxed to death.

#### SALT OF THE EARTH

At the beginning of the century everyone got around in the horse and buggy. Autos were the toys of the wealthy. But now things have turned around quite a bit, for almost all have cars. It is only the rich now who move into the country and buy a horse.

Today for some, college bred means a four-year loaf with dad's dough. Some crust, eh what?

If you want economy, never let an economic question get into politics.

A great leader is one who never lets his followers discover he's as dumb as they are. j

With the bicentennial here, we wonder if the founders of our country would have talked so glowingly of posterity if they had known we were going to be it?

Isn't it the truth that many a man of Presidential timber turns out to be just another splinter.

A wise man left the bulk of his fortune to his lawyer. Now, if everyone did this a lot of time would be saved.

Judging by what goes on today, one shudders to think what will be needed to be a radical fifty years from now.