

Dear Mr. Harris

December 3rd 1980

Thank you for sending me five copies of your pamphlet. Did you also send copies to the different addresses I mentioned in my letter of January 2nd '80? I am anxious to know. I sent one copy to Mr. Blundell, editor of Land & Liberty - see letter on the reverse - and one to the board of Grundvest.

On the envelope I noticed that a ~~Coordinating~~ Coordinating Council for survival research and education has been established. I am anxious to learn about their activities and publications. I welcome every new approach.

In my opinion not only the term "rent" is responsible for a lot of confusion and misunderstanding but also the term "groundrent" embodies conflicting opinions. Groundrent embodies natural rents, cultural rents but also rents claimed on account of ownership of land. If a plot of land has no natural rent at all - zero xrent - the owner is allowed to claim rent from landless people. To break monopoly of land: "no man should be allowed to hold land idle without payment to the state" as the film For the Land is Mine says. Did you read Wonderful Wealth Machine by Phil Grant? If not, you should! Butterworth commented: it is pretty good George. Morrow commented: it does not go nearly far enough to clarify the issues very well in my opinion. MacMurchie commented: at first glance it's well set out and illustrated but I do not agree with the superficial viewpoint of WWM. Had it been a "cook book" the recipes could be tested and proved. But it is economics - who is interested at that - unless it is top class.

WWM has been written for uneducated adults, it was meant to be understandable by common people. Without the help of the masses we will not be able to put the plan into operation. And WWM serves this aim better than any other post-war book. To my son it meant a turning-point in his life. He undertook translation of WWM but started studying economics as well and now he thinks economics so complex that it is unfit for the masses. So he designed a discussion paper "rent", one of "inflation" addressed to craftsmen and much more, but not yet published, it requires more study.

From other post-war books I mention:

Nature of Society by MacLaren.

Land for the people, compiled by Herbert Girardet, in which 11 authors explore the land issue.

Open Sesame, wealth for all, by MacMurchie. I highly appreciate that booklet and recommend this to you. The author criticizes the Georgian movement in a positive way. He sent a contribution to the H.G. centennial conference (7 pages) and one to the Scottish League for L.V.T. (6 pages) on account of their draft document "a new approach". If you want I am willing to send to you copies of these contributions.

Landlordism separate the population into two parts: the lessors of land and the lessees. And there is no proof that it is understood - not even by the Georgists - that that separation is responsible for all unearned incomes as from rent, interests, savings and from all other paper-values.

Hope to hear soon from you, kind regards, sincerity yours.

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2nd december 1980

To Mr. Born from Vic Blundell:

Thank you for your recent letter and for sending the pamphlet by Morgan Harris. I have ordered some more copies direct from him as I think it is an important paper.

Land & Liberty does not usually discuss "domestic issues" in its pages as we wish to show a united front to the many uncommitted readers we have. I suggest you write to Bob Clansy and suggest he print something in the Georgian Journal which does discuss

november 24th 1980

Dear Mr. Blundell,

Enclosed I have pleasure in sending to you a pamphlet, written by Morgan Harris from Culvercity California.

Though I enjoy reading L&L, I don't think that its influence on public affairs is of any importance. The same is valid for Grondvest, after ten years its number of favourers amounts about 250. The editor of Recht en Vrijheid announces in the november issue that the number of members has increased in 1980 by ten and now amounts to 90 - after fifty years of propoganda. And as far as I am informed, bigger groups exists nowhere in the world. The movement in Holland runs about 100 years. In my opinion there must be something wrong in the presentation of our cause and in our tactics, just as Morgan Harris maintains. Apart from dutch affairs - I keep these internal - I like to say a few words about our international movement.

Rent embodies so many items, it reflects buildings, roads, sewers, water, gas, etc, the unlooker cannot see the fish for the crowd round the barrow, as "Open Sesame" item 20 says. In the film "For the land is Mine" rent is determined as the difference between its maximum potential productivity and that of less productive land actual in use. (unquote) This rent is natural rent. In the cities and villages natural rent is constantly developping into cultural rent. You may call these economic rents, but in reality only these rents are due to the community. In the past I urged english friends to coin an artificial word to distinguish that kind of rent from every other kind of rent. I proposed to name it:

comrent = community rent

cocrent = communal created rent

but now I propose simply xrent.

and to accept also its derivations as: to collect xrent, xrent-payer, xrent-office, exchequer of krents, zero-xrent for bare land, and so on. The target of collecting xrent is to open access to land for everyone, it forges idle land into use and prevent everyone to keep land idle for speculation.

Xrent principally differs from any other kind of rent. Rent-on-leasehold is a compulsory sum of money, claimed on the ownership of land and that rent surpasses economic rents to a high degree in cities and villages. Our target is to destroy land-monopoly and the only means by which it can be done is "collecting of xrent". Our policy should be to direct our attack against the weakest positions, not the strongest. The weakest positions are in the country, where land is cheap and/or idle and xxx where people understand and in the open plots of the cities. The film says: "no man should be allowed to hold idle land without payment to the state". The strongest positions are in the cities where taxation of land- and site-values is almost impossible on account of the heavy resistance of the vested interest.

Taxation of land-values doesn't do any harm to monopoly, it will only increase government's income and will enormously enlarge the expressive power of the state. And that frightens me!

Landlordism causes a maximum restriction of productive activities - England over two million of unemployed - while collecting of xrent would incite the whole society to its maximum production.

Now, please think the matter over. I should appreciate very much if you would - wholly or partly - publish this letter in Land & Liberty.

I am prepared to comment on every reaction by your readers.

Take Harris' message to heart and try to persuade your readers by a fresh tackle to take part in the propoganda and developpe new activities.

Sincery yours

Wim Born

since 1930 active for our cause.