

# Color Country Spectrum

ST. GEORGE, UTAH

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# Who's to blame?

There is an increasing tendency to blame many of the world's problems on the increasing complexity of society. In fact, many feel things have become so complex that we should despair of ever being able to solve problems which will inevitably lead to worldwide depression, nuclear war or any of a number of varieties of catastrophes. It's hard to tell which one might catch up with us first.

Time was when you had some control over the things which affected your life. As the distribution and manufacturing systems have ballooned out to international proportions, we find ourselves at the mercy of international cartels, dictatorial governments and a number of self-interest groups.

Probably what we are seeing is many of the same elements at work as have always been present in the world—greed, lust, selfishness and injustice. Altruism is part of man's nature, too, but it seems to be getting ground under in a stampede to survive.

The difference is that there are so many more of us. By the year 1987 the population of the world is expected to reach the 6 billion mark. That's what's new in the world. How do you deal with the necessity of rubbing elbows with so many people of differing philosophies, religions, political persuasions, etc.

One of the reasons we have to rub elbows is because much of the land and resources of the land are tied up by the world's very wealthy few. Access to the land is withheld by tax laws which favor the landholders. Speculators, with the help of the country's upside down taxation system, can hold land out of production indefinitely. They can deny people, who were not fortunate enough to inherit land, any access to it.

By keeping the tax on undeveloped land low and taxing improvements heavily, we have rewarded the large land speculator and penalized the productive persons in our society.

If land could not be held, for speculative purposes but could be made available for development through a proper incentive tax program, many more people would have the opportunity to produce and the free enterprise system could be made to work better. Poverty could be reduced. Wars over land would be less numerous.

Such a land reform tax is not a panacea for all the world's ills but it could go a long way toward solving the frictions between the "haves" and the "have nots," in my opinion.

After all, there is only so much land in the world and I know of no single individual who has been able to produce more of it. In fact, I don't know a single individual who knows how to produce it at all.