



Here is an idea which I'll throw out for discussion. It sounds like an outgrowth of L.V.T., but I did not intend it to be.

Since there are only a certain number of radio and TV wave lengths available, in order to insure equal opportunity and intelligent and economic use of these, the channels should be rented on a yearly basis to the highest bidder.

The broadcaster would then build the transmission equipment and secure talent, charging listeners or viewers at a certain rate per hour (the pay-T.V. idea). This should result in a minimum of political corruption and bribes in dispensing wave lengths and licenses.

The quality of the programs would reflect the taste and choice of the public and they could probably be free of advertising.

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Victor S. Wasicki asks (September HGN) what harm faulty argument does. The point is not whether Georgists think Henry George committed errors, but whether in fact he did.

In the light of my experience over a considerable length of time, subject to tests and careful scrutiny, I am convinced that George made no mistakes, either in fact or theory.

People have said that nobody can be right all the time because nobody is perfect. But the Wright Brothers foresaw the possibility of aerial flight, Newton was right about gravitation and Harvey about the circulation of the blood. In the sense that these men were justified in thinking as they did, so was George.

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George predicted, long before the development of aviation, that such development would make the maintenance of tariff barriers impossible. Perhaps he is to be censured for not anticipating the development of controls of the airways, controls developed for the purpose of regulating commerce that do operate to prevent smuggling, although it is well known that planes have made the smuggling of jewels and narcotics a simple matter. To me, the fact that George prophesied the aeroplane in 1880 is remarkable while the fact that he did not predict the lengths to which officials would go in the matter of controls is not remarkable.

Mao Tse Tung, leader of Red China, said, in one of his speeches, that "the Marxist cannot tell precisely what will happen in any given circumstance, he can only point to the general direction society will take." George says much the same thing in his analogy of the woodsman who fells a tree, in *Progress and Poverty*. He knows the tree will fall if he severs its trunk. Whether he can drive a stake with it depends on a number of things, including his skill.

Further, Mr. Wasicki asks if mark-up is affected by supply and demand. My opinion: mark-up (due to taxation) adds to the cost of commodities with consequent falling off of effective demand, both of commodities directly affected by the mark-up and of other commodities for which they might be exchanged. Reduced demand checks supply, necessitating higher taxes. End result—industrial depression.

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