

# Nil Sibi Omnia Aliis



**P**HILIPP KNAB died in Rehlfeld garden-suburb near Hallein on August 7 in his eighty-third year. He was a pioneer of the movement for garden-city suburbs and home-ownership in Austria and in his youth had come into contact with this movement when in Berlin and particularly in London, where, before the First World War he was active as a businessman and oil-specialist.

He distinguished himself during the First World War in the defence of Przemyśl (1915) and Monte Pasubio (1918). In the intervening years, after repeated attempts, he succeeded in breaking out of Russian captivity and escaping across the breadth of the Tsar's kingdom. After the First World War he devoted himself with verve and enthusiasm to his real life's work. Countless families in the Vienna garden-suburbs owe him thanks for the results of his unswerving work, often beset with severe setbacks and disappointments.

Families in the Wasserturm area of Vienna, in the workers' community settlement in Lainz, in the formerly depressed area of Leopoldsdorf, in Aspern and Breitenlee and in other areas owe their pleasant homes in natural surroundings greatly to Mr. Knab's work as an official planner of "Gesiba" (Society for building of community settlements). After the second World War as a supporter and fellow-worker of "Wüstenrot" (an organisation for reclamation of and building on wasteland) he instigated the setting up of Taxham, the large community settlement-area in Salzburg.

Philipp Knab wished to enable people (if only through small-scale community-ownership) to remain free and independent of those economic and political forces and crises which he himself had repeatedly experienced. Hunger and want during and between the first and second World Wars strengthened his thoughts and actions. He upheld in speech and writing the right of every human-being to cross politically/militarily determined boundaries freely. He

held that a tax on land values should replace income tax and also, at an international level even out the anomalies existing between those lands favoured and those handicapped by nature, between those lands sparsely and those heavily populated. He set out these and similar thoughts in countless essays and articles, above all in the *Oesterreichische Volkswirt*, in *Berichten und Informationen*, in the London periodical *LAND & LIBERTY*, and occasionally in the daily paper *Die Presse* and other publications. At the same time he rejected the Marxist paths of thought just as decisively as those of monopoly. He was able to assemble and express some of his ideas in a paper published for him by George Fromme entitled "Taxation in the Light of Natural Rights."

Also important during the years of inflation after the First and Second World Wars were the cost of living indices, compiled by him monthly and published in the *Oesterreichische Volkswirt* and in *Berichten und Informationen*. These indices were his own idea and they were valued more highly in economic circles than were the later official publications. In his old age he felt young up to the last, and busied himself more and more with daily matters concerning the good of the community, traffic-safety, danger of atomic warfare, protection of monuments and the environment. Always he based his work on practical experience—a "dowry" as it were from the time he spent as a youth in England—and set little store on degrees, titles or official recognition. Indeed, he received little of the latter—although—or indeed because his motto was *Nil sibi, omnia aliis*. (Nothing for yourself, everything for others). "The emperor rewarded me after one and a half years at the Front with one of the highest distinctions—the Order of the Iron Cross and Sword; after a life's work dedicated to peace the republic has not thanked me." He made this observation once when looking back over his life in his eighty-third year, but he made it without bitterness, mindful of the randomness of human recognition, and thankful that he had been granted a successfully creative life. Philipp Knab was buried in Huetteldorf Cemetery, not far from Wolfersberg garden-suburb which he himself had helped to found and where he also lived with his family.

ECKHART KNAB (son)  
Translated by J.A.B.

## Shameful US Handouts

**P**PRIVATE enterprise in America is in receipt of "welfare benefits" to the tune of roughly 30,000,000,000 dollars a year, much of which is hidden or disguised. This thirty billion, says the *San Francisco Examiner*, Sept 17, is only an estimate for no one in the Government or out of it knows exactly what the figure is for there is no complete list of subsidy payments.

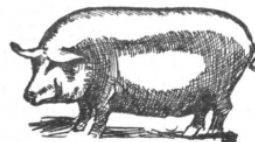
This Federal aid for private enterprise is almost twice what the Government spends on all its welfare programmes and three times what it spends on strategic nuclear forces and ten times what it spends to control pollution and fifteen times what it spends to fight crime.

It appears that the nation abounds in lame ducks. The *San Francisco Examiner* lists some of the outlets for this aid which include a one hundred million dollar loan guarantee for Penn Central Railroad, 18,000 dollar advance for a mercury mine in Oregon, four and a half million subsidy for a single Californian farm and 20,000 dollars technical assistance for Grandmother's Bakery in Chicago.

Among other news items from the US is one which states that the Nixon administration is carefully but resolutely dismantling the anti-poverty agency. Officials of the Office of Economic Opportunity (which was the anti-poverty agency) have been forbidden to use the word "poor".

But—

To help farmers market their crops domestically, the department churns out 20 million releases at an annual cost of \$7.5 million, including the *Honey Market News* a 12-page



monthly publication prepared by a staff of 18 for 1,250 beekeepers and a few hundred honey handlers at a cost of \$50,000 a year.