

Dr. Viggo Starcke

Tribute by Ashley Mitchell, President of the
International Union for Land Value Taxation and
Free Trade.

GEORGEISTS all over the world will read with sorrow of the passing of Dr. Viggo Starcke on the 22nd March 1974. Dr. Starcke had had a serious operation last year from which he had made a good recovery. Then a few weeks ago he had a heart attack and passed quietly away, retaining his faculties of mind to the end. He had a great sense of humour and a genial presence which made everyone welcome him with pleasure. His sense of humour helped him to put forward ideas in such a way that people understood his meaning. His famous pamphlet *Our Daily Bread* deserves special mention.

Some years ago he made a lecture tour of Canada and the U.S.A., and in discussing Free Trade and the American Tariff he thought it strange if the U.S.A. should be afraid of little Denmark. That was one way of putting the Free Trade case. He had been very active in politics in Denmark, having been in a Coalition Government when his Party — the Justice Party — had won nine seats in a general election. During that time, was held the International Conference in Hanover (1959), and he told us then from his inside information that the nations which had not joined the Common Market were going to form a Free Trade Area which they did and which was very successful. It was difficult to believe that E.F.T.A. could give us a Free Trade area without strings but that was actually the case. He unfortunately lost his seat in parliament after a bitter election campaign when his opponents had assailed him in a pretty shocking manner.

Viggo was very proud of the intellectual eminence of his own father and it must have been from him that he got so much inspiration for his own reading and writing. He wrote a fine book, *The Social History of England* and for someone who was born and brought up to speak in another language (Danish), to be able to write such perfect English as he did, in addition to the tremendous research which he must have put into it when he was writing, was wonderful.

There were always differences in political parties with regard to the best method of advance, yet he never lost the friendship of those of us who did not agree with him but who esteemed him for himself. I was happy to have enjoyed his friendship for so many years and to have welcomed him to England some years ago when he spoke at various meetings.

One can only say, when any of our colleagues pass away, that "somewhere, sometime, will the muster-roll be called."

To Mrs Starcke and the Family we extend our deepest sympathy in their loss.

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We hope to publish Dr. Viggo Starcke's *Our Daily Bread* in our next issue. — Editor.

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