

fore disposal and tax incentives given to innovators. This would be expensive for the taxpayers in general. It is a pity that the alternative fiscal measure of taxing sites according to their potential values, a measure which would do much to ease the speculative elements in the property market, does not seem to be finding many advocates at the moment.

Useless Act

It is highly likely that events will prove that the Community Land Act is a poor weapon even for inner city planners. As Mr. Lomas points out, "The forces at work in the structure of employ-

ment suggest that their effects will often outweigh the devices of town planners." He might have forcefully added that the country is suffering from a surfeit of "disincentive taxation" and that in rejecting site-value rating the Layfield Committee has missed another chance of recommending "incentive taxation" — something highly relevant to pulling our cities out of the doldrums of the 70's.

1. "People and Housing" — Francis J. Amos.
2. "People and Jobs" — P. Christian Schumacher.
3. "Employment, Planning and the Problem of Deprived Areas" — Graham M. Lomas.

Papers delivered at Royal Town Planning Institute annual conference, Cardiff, June 1976.

Land Tenure under the Incas

RUUD MOORS

(from *Ons Erfdeel*, 41 Holland)

Translated by Basil Butterworth

THE Inca society was an agricultural society, without land ownership, or to be more precise, without individual land ownership. In the Inca society the land was divided into three: one part for the sun, one for the king, and one for the inhabitants.

The order of working was the sun's fields first and then those of widows and the infirm.

In each village there was a special overseer, who had to see that these lands of the poor (as they were called) were properly worked. These lands were worked in common, and each man took his own food with him so that the needy did not provide for them.

When these fields had been worked, the men worked their own land helping each other turn and turn about. After that it was the turn of the fields of the district chief which always came afterwards. Thus the Inca let the turn of his own land come only after that of his subjects.

Each Indian got a piece of land of the same size, of one *tupu*, which was sufficient for the support of a married man without children. For each son he obtained another *tupu* and for each daughter a half. When a son got married he got his *tupu* of land as well, as his father no longer needed it. The daughters, however, did not get theirs. It remained with their father, and when he no longer needed it he gave it back to the community, as there was no buying and selling.

Taxes to the king consisted chiefly in the working of the fields of the sun and of the Inca, and from the harvest and the delivery of the produce to the state storage barns. During the days of working for the sun and for the king the Indians were fed from the public storage barns. No-one had to pay taxes to the Inca from the produce of his own fields.

*The Incas were a royal family, 'sons and daughters of the sun'. They ruled over other Indian tribes (who thus were not Incas). The sun was their highest God.

LETTER

Fluoridation and Secrecy

SIR, — It has been brought to my attention that the case for fluoridation has been overstated by the authorities.

In order to justify what is in fact compulsory mass medication there has been some departure from the truth. The North Tyneside Health Authority has now recognized this and is demanding that fluoridation should be stopped.

It is the hope of reducing the cost of the dental service which has tempted the Department of Health to mislead the general public.

We all know that vested interest is very anxious to promote fluoridation for reasons which have nothing to do with health. I suspect that these vested interests have succeeded in bringing undue influence to bear upon the authorities.

The trouble is, that under the existing laws of secrecy, we do not have in this country the right to know the truth. We know that secrecy is the incubator of corruption, and there is mounting evidence that fluoridation will increase the death rate from cancer.

I do not believe it is wise to adopt a rather dubious economy in the dental service at the price of more people dying of cancer.

But I also believe that we shall not stop the vested interests having their way until we have achieved repeal of the Official Secrets

Act and have introduced a Freedom of Information Act in this country.

One thing is certain, the right to know the truth will do us no harm and not knowing the truth could well lead to a terrible disaster.

Before we agree to fluoridation let us first change the law regarding secrecy and restore our right to know the truth, with freedom of information legislation. I for one will sleep easier in my bed if I know that doctors and dentists have access to all the facts about fluoridation.

ARTHUR W. J. LEWIS, M.P.

*Chairman,
Parliamentary All Party Committee for Freedom of Information.*

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All-day meeting, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday November 27, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London W.C.1.

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