

BOSTON has four basic classes in session located in suburban libraries and high schools. They find the suburban classes more effective in reaching students than downtown courses at headquarters. The formation of a Land Value Taxation Committee last year to promote interest in local political activities, has proved very successful in alerting beginning economists to civic problems and their solution.

NEW YORK director, Robert Clancy recently appeared at a meeting of the Independent Political Citizens at the Harvard Club, together with James D. Farrell, assistant di-

rector of the Budget for the City of New York. There was a lively discussion of land values as the sole base for taxation to meet New York's budget needs. The speakers' bureau has filled a number of other important engagements.

Friday-Evenings-at-Eight will offer on March 2nd, a program to encourage better speech. On the 16th Mitchell S. Lurio of Boston will speak on "Money," and on the 30th, Arnold Weinstein, member of the board of trustees and the faculty at New York headquarters, will speak on the "Law of Inheritance." Programs on March 9th and 23rd will present interesting color films.

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## Noah D. Alper's Brief Cases

### THE RESULT AND THE REMEDY

"Urban sprawl" is not the growth of cities," according to statements from Life Magazine and House & Home. "Instead the cities are 'disintegrating and spreading the pieces over miles and miles of countryside.' It is an affront to aesthetics, to human relations, and to nature. It will take far more use of the infant art of 'environmental planning' to correct this misuse of land. The new art is hampered by its lack of community support (and frustrated by our old practice of encouraging unproductive speculation by undertaxing unused land."

Not only "unused" land, but all land of value, is undertaxed. Price depends on how much of the value of land, or rent, is taken for public use. This is one of the most unrecognized "believe it or not" concepts in America today. Though taught in most economics courses, it is not taught comprehendingly. Quality, not quantity, is indicated here.

### "THE ELITE UNDER CAPITALISM"

"In the feudal society the economic situation of every individual was determined by the share allotted to him by the powers that be," wrote Ludwig von Mises in The Freeman (January, 1962). "The poor man was poor because little land or no land at all had been given him. He could with good reason think—to say it openly would have been too dangerous—I am poor because other people have more than a fair share. But in the frame of a capitalistic society the accumulation of additional capital by those who succeeded in utilizing their funds for the best possible provision of the consumers enriches not only the owners but all of the people."

But private property in land can enrich limited groups of people in the moving generations of men with no thought of the utilization of capital or consumer cooperation. While an almost irrefutable case can be made for the control of production and rewards by consumers through the free market mechanism and for the best use of land, the fact of sharing in distribution without contribution by mere title holding of land cannot be so refuted.