

Noah D. Alper's Brief Cases

"One thing has never been discussed and I propose to discuss it right now," wrote John Crosby in his March 29th column. "If we get pay-TV, how much should the operators pay for the use of public air waves? So far no one has suggested that they pay anything. But shouldn't they? Vast fortunes have been made already by the broadcasters grazing for nothing in these public pastures. Are we really ready to sit by and watch the emergence of a whole new group getting monstrously rich on the public domain?"

"It is my suggestion that for every dollar of pay-TV revenue that comes into the box office, 50 cents go to the government. (And don't worry. The pay-TV industry would get awfully rich anyhow and so would the performers.) You might say that 50 per cent is a steep tax. Actually it is not a tax at all. It's rent for public property. Fifty per cent is the going rate for all exploitation of a natural resource. That's what the oil companies pay Arabia for mulcting the oil from the land. And both the Arabian princes and the oil companies are thriving on that percentage.

"In any case, these are two aspects of pay-TV that ought to be discussed. How much do we, the public, pay for it? How much do the entrepreneurs pay us back for use of our valuable natural resource? Neither of these questions has ever been discussed, which is one of the reasons for the confusion surrounding pay-TV."

In other words "to the producer belongs the product"; rent-of-land (for use of natural properties of the universe) is a publicly earned value of the public domain and should be collected and used for the benefit of the people.

MORAL DECAY WITHIN THE LAW

Nobody burglarizes the soil banks—but do soil banks lead to burglary? Here are some "for instances," discovered by "house investigators" who permitted five Coloradans to "burglarize" via a soil bank.

Henry A. Hammer bought 1160 acres of land for \$30,250—\$15 an acre for land alone, exclusive of buildings and improvements. The committee placed a \$40 an-acre-value for "conservation" purposes, which would yield Mr. Hammer \$7.50 an acre over a 10-year period or some \$25,000. The four others worked the same game for sums in proportion. The report also stated that 49 farm operators in 16 Colorado counties had 8546 acres of state owned land in the soil bank as of last April first. Investigators said the land is rented from the state at annual rentals ranging from 30 cents to \$2.50 an acre. Soil bank payments on the land in turn range from \$1.94 to \$12 an acre, totaling \$82,157 annually.

So, because we fail to achieve justice for the "children of men" in their inheritance of the free gift of land, we set up a chain-like reaction of evil compounded throughout the land. The urge to substitute "social security" for "social justice" is winning its rewards—economic hardships and moral degradation. Do such "do gooders" have peace of mind? If not, perhaps they say, "we did not go far enough."

"LIBERAL, PROGRESSIVE ECONOMICS"

"The glittering picture of an American filled with prosperity and comfort—a picture painted by much of the press and many political leaders, is bitterly false for nearly a fifth of all Americans, over 32 million people," according to the Labor newspaper's report of a Congressional Economic Committee study by Robert J. Lampman, economics professor at the University of Wisconsin.

A more aggressive government policy, the professor stated, would hasten the elimination of poverty and bring about its virtual elimination in one generation. The basic part of the program should be one of insuring high levels of employment and increasing average product per worker, he said.

There you have it—liberal and progressive economists, since they are not economic scientists, seeking cause and prevention, are liberal with other people's money and progressive like a cancer.