

# Noah D. Alper's Brief Cases

## TAXATION AND RELIEF IN THE U.S.A.

Mrs. Elna Sawicki, a divorcee in the mid-thirties, with ten children (nine at home), won a \$4,000 free swimming pool. This raised the equity of her property above the allowable limit of \$7,500 and caused the loss of her monthly A.D.C. (Aid to Dependent Children) payment of \$129. Fortunately, states the AP item from a St. Paul newspaper, "she is still eligible for about \$250 in direct relief."

These brief details indicate how the business of government has grown. What is needed is to mass the unorganized marginal people, now too utterly unimportant as a voting power, into one that must be noticed by politicians. All marginal dentists and doctors, nurses, shoe polishers, business executives, and marginalites of every kind everywhere will be eligible. Then let them demand, "what's good for farmers, depressed areas, and dependent children, is good for us!" Then we'll know just how good all this is for man and country.

## YES, LEAD THEM INTO TEMPTATION

"Road Appraiser Resigns After Disclosure of Deals in Land," read a headline in The St. Louis Post-Dispatch of October 7, 1961. A suit for \$5,000 profit involved in a real estate transaction revealed that the "road appraiser" had been using information and a real estate business owned by him and his wife to convert such information into profits.

This may be considered as just one example of what is involved in making and improving millions of miles of roads in the United States. Case after case has reached the newspapers. The real "graft" due to professional developers and their projected or established road-improvement maps, involving unknown political and engineering tipsters, runs into many millions, perhaps billions. But should we be irate over this? It's the obvious result of our system, a marvel of inevitable corruption, within the law and outside the law.

By failing to collect for public use the publicly earned rental value of land we advertise to all the possibility of profits in the path of public improvements, and by permitting a tax structure which falls basically, directly or indirectly, on the wages-and-interest rewards of human effort, we encourage a tax shifting from land value to non-land value which increases further the net income and the price of land.

## THE SALMON WAR IN NORWAY

"Poachers' men lounge casually around the dock in Larvick where the police boats are moored," states a news dispatch from Norway. In a matter of minutes they are warned by private police officers employed by the landowners along the river who sell fishing rights from their land at substantial prices.

Although it's against the law to catch salmon in their annual trek upriver, the local population at Larvik regards the nightly engagements between poachers and private police as a kind of free entertainment for the warm summer evenings. They stroll along the river banks or sit in groups around bonfires, applauding the heroes (the poachers), and booing the villains (the private police).

Successful poachers could make as much as \$210 a week last summer, according to the report, and with that kind of reward in view, and with the moral support of the local citizens, they were not likely to be put off by a few confiscated nets and occasional fines. "The fight probably will go on as long as there are salmon in the river, and as long as the price of salmon stays as high as it is," the reporter noted.

Anyone who understands how to apply a land rent charge to locations suitable for salmon catching knows that poachers could be put out of business, and poaching could be stopped, even the poaching of land rent by landlords — and all to the profit of the people of Norway and all consumers of salmon.