

Thomas Jefferson recognized the duty of government to secure the rights of the individual, not only when he wrote the Declaration of Independence, but also after he became President, and his first Inaugural Address is sometimes referred to as bearing the same relation to government that the Sermon on the Mount bears to religion.

Just the other day a bill passed the House to appropriate several million dollars to aid the farmer in getting seed and food. When the bill reached the Senate, however, Senator Glass quoted from an old Congressional Record, Grover Cleveland's message on a bill to appropriate \$10,000 for the purpose of helping the God-forsaken farmers in Texas, which he vetoed because he could find nothing in the Constitution authorizing it, adding, "The people support the government, the government should not support the people." Giving Federal aid tends to develop in the minds of the people the concept of paternal care, and undermines their character, which is what our legislation is doing today, but although it is regrettable, there seems to be an absolute necessity at this time, for doing so.

Woodrow Wilson said twenty years ago, "I do not want the help of the Government, either directly or through any of its agencies. Give me right and justice and I can take care of myself." This is of course good sound philosophy, to which any Single Taxer and Democrat can subscribe, but during the half century that has passed since Grover Cleveland penned that farmers' veto, the American people have failed to preserve and develop that America which Thomas Jefferson and his compeers established. We have sown the wind and are reaping the whirlwind.

It was Woodrow Wilson who said that all America needs is a new thought in politics, sincerely and boldly expressed by men who are sure of their ground, and it is our duty to express our philosophy boldly that those who are yet in the dark may receive the light.

The goal of the Single Taxers is a clear-cut as a die and we know the road, but I realize that it is impossible for the leaders of government to remain on that road at all times. There are periods when it becomes necessary for them to detour, and I am hoping that the things the present Administration is doing are simply detours, and that in due time they will get back on the main highway that will lead to the goal of economic freedom.

It seems to me that unless there will come during the years that are ahead, a different view-point, we may depart from the foundations upon which this government was built and that our course will be in a different direction. In his annual message to the present Congress, the President said, as I recall his words, that the deeper purpose of democratic government is to assist as many of his citizens as possible, especially those who need it most, to improve their condition in life. Of course that is humanitarian, but after all, as Single Taxers and as Democrats, it does not express our philosophy. In fact, it is just the opposite of what Grover Cleveland said in that message fifty years ago, and it seems to me there is a great task ahead and a great responsibility upon those American citizens who have their feet on the ground and know their philosophy.

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The subject for discussion at the People's Lobby luncheon held at the Cosmos Club on February 13, and attended

by a number of Single Taxers, was, "The Right to Earn the American Standard of Living."

#### RADIO ADDRESS OF HERBERT S. BIGELOW BEFORE THE PEOPLE'S LOBBY FEB. 13, 1937

Our Problem is not to level down incomes and pass them around. Our problem is to free men and let them produce their own incomes. May I explain:

There are two opposing philosophies of statecraft. One is socialistic—the other individualistic. One makes in the direction of a managed and regimented society—the other seeks to limit government to essential function and leaving our commercial and industrial life to automatic action in a free and open field.

The socialistic philosophy now has the right of way. The philosophy of freedom is becoming a cry in the wilderness. Most persons would say that it is a lost cause. While despising the name, we are rapidly going the way of Communism.

It is undeniable that modern life must submit to controls that were not called for in a more primitive economy.

But much of our socialistic legislation is an attempt to correct evils which might better correct themselves. If we could first uproot monopoly privilege—the weeds with which our garden has become choked.

It seems a folly of statecraft that we should be trying to impose socialism on top of private monopoly. We should first destroy private monopoly and see how many, or how few, ailments then are left for which we need socialistic treatment. We have patent laws which foster monopoly. Anybody and everybody should have the right to produce and give the public the benefit of any patented commodity—subject to the condition of paying the patentee a reasonable royalty.

The private ownership of public utilities has developed into a gigantic monopoly. Private monopoly should never be tolerated. We cannot afford to leave natural monopolies in private hands.

There is no way of measuring the injury inflicted by patent monopoly. Mr. Morris Cooke estimates that the light and power monopolies alone are exacting from the public an excess toll of four hundred million dollars a year.

Down at the bottom of all other monopolies is the monopoly privilege that individuals have of appropriating to themselves ground rent. Owning ground rent is like owning black slaves. It is an economic fallacy which involves the power of some to appropriate the earnings of others.

What is somebody's cabbage patch in one generation will be in another generation a million-dollar lot in the center of a city. That ground rent value is a community value. We let that value slip into private pockets, although it is clearly a community product. And because our communities do not take these ground rents, which in all reason and right belong to them, they have to support themselves by making tax raids on private property. To shift taxation from tax-loaded commodities to ground rents, would reduce by billions the cost of things—and it would open and free for use half of the American continent which is still unused. Much of our trouble is due to the misuse of this power of taxation.

We cry for slum clearance. But, if anybody does build a decent habitation, he is penalized by taxes. If, instead of fining men with annual taxes for the crime of building