

Herbert Hoover

When Herbert Hoover died on October 20th he had the distinction of being the longest-lived President of the U. S., both in respect of age and of years lived after his term of office. When he left office in 1933, he was a scorned and unpopular figure, widely blamed for the "Hoover depression" — simply because he had the misfortune of being President when the Great Depression started. But he lived to become a revered and respected elder statesman.

Hoover was of course not responsible for the depression, which came about from forces long set in motion. He coped with it as well as he could, using as capably as possible the inadequate methods at his disposal.

Frederick Lewis Allen in his book *Since Yesterday*, tells of Hoover staying up all night into the morning of March 4, 1933, his last day in office, in order to try to avert a bank crisis.

"At 6 o'clock a worn and haggard Hoover got up to perform the last routine tasks of his presidency. He was told that on the last morning of office the banking system of the United States had stopped functioning. 'We are at the end of our string,' said he. 'There is nothing more we can do.' The stage manager of history had been too cruelly precise. For all Hoover's asperities, his awkwardness, his political ineptitudes, he had been a resourceful and resolute soldier of a doomed order, and deserved no such personal humiliation. But now the curtain was coming down and he could do no more."

Could it have been different? Could we have reached Hoover's ear with *Fundamental Economics*? Or did the drama have to work itself out, and is our time reserved for a better tomorrow?

— R. C.

"THE GREAT AMERICAN TAX SHIFT"

"Local governmental units (in New York State) collected \$735.3 million in non-property taxes during their fiscal years ending in calendar 1963. A record amount, it was \$59.1 million or 9 per cent more than was collected in the corresponding periods in 1962. It was an increase of \$169.6 million or 29.9 per cent over 1961," states the New York State Taxpayer of September, 1964.

Several requests have been received for the September and October Henry George News, but the supply is exhausted. If anyone has extra copies of these issues and will send them to us we shall be grateful.

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