

# A Word With You

EVERYTHING is getting crazier and crazier! In fact, a view of the entire world today as one gigantic lunatic asylum could be supported in several particulars.

After all, what is insanity? Is it not characterized by irrational behavior, lack of control, unreal fantasies and perverse actions? Show me where on earth these things are not happening!

I call as my first witness the delicatessen proprietor around the corner. "The world is *meshuga*," says he. "I've been slaving for years over this store and I got nothing. A guy buys that property across the street for \$30,000 and he turns around and sells it for \$80,000. It makes sense?"

I tell him about our free course in economics, but that doesn't stop the world from being *meshuga*.

Next is the banquet manager at the hotel. "I don't know wotsa hoppen," he moans. "I go away from Italy thirty years ago because the taxes they are terrible and America is a free country. Now taxes are so bad here I can hardly stay in business. Why America wants to make this terrible mistake? *E pazzo!*"

Our tax structure is certainly stark, raving lunacy. No legislator will bother to deny it—he will just shrug and tell you that's the way things are. Is *nobody* interested in sanity?

The atom bomb race is the most monstrous madness ever perpetrated.

The fantastic expense of it, the overwhelming danger of it, the fact that nobody wants it—these factors don't mean a thing, the race goes right on. And while it is in full swing, a new idiocy looms—the race for outer space. The voice of common sense pipes up, "shouldn't we first solve some of our problems here on earth before we tackle the problems of outer space?" But who's listening?

America and Russia confront one another everywhere on earth—the North and South poles included, and are starting the same game in space. They're ready to follow and elbow one another all the way to infinity. *Sumaschedsby!*

In our daily lives pathological symptoms are increasing. More and more, people are looking for an isolated retreat away from the big bad world. Sure, we're all entitled to our private dream worlds and God bless us every one! But there should also be a public life—and the areas of common concerns and common deliberations are shrinking rapidly. Instead, in the courtyard of the asylum, we march around together in our gray flannel suits in a semi-somnambulistic state—then we go back to our private cells. *Coo!*

From all this you can deduce that I'm slowly going out of my mind. Well, at least they won't have to take me anywhere—I'm there already. Hello!

—Robert Clancy

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The Henry George News, published monthly by the Henry George School of Social Science, 50 E. 69th Street, New York 21, N.Y., supports the following principle:

The community, by its presence and activity, gives value to land, therefore the income from land values (rent of land) belongs to the community and not to the landowners. Labor and capital, by their combined efforts, produce the goods of the community—known as wealth. This wealth belongs to the producers. Justice requires that the government, representing the community, collect the rent of land for community purposes and abolish the taxation of wealth.

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