

A Word With You

WHATEVER is happening to *time*? Where is it going? Why are days, weeks and years whizzing by at an accelerating pace?

I suppose I ought to accept the simple explanation that I'm getting older, and this is what happens. But that's too simple, and not easy to take. Besides, I see younger people complaining of the same strange behavior of time. And so it is more eluctable to say that something is happening to time itself.

After all, the science people speak of time slowing down, speeding up, standing still, even moving backwards. I'm not referring to the H. G. Wells people, but to the Einstein people.

I do not believe that time has changed all by itself. The universe, if left alone, goes on its quiet way, with stars exploding and radioactive energy hurtling around. It must have been something *we* have done to time.

Sooner or later, when dealing with such a theme, you have to go back to that source-book, *Alice in Wonderland*. The celebrated remark of the Red Queen that "it takes all the running you can do to keep in the same place" has been quoted so often, it looks as though the secret is out. And the equally celebrated Mad Tea Party has to do with errant time, too. You remember that it was always tea-time — but *why* was this so? Aha, you don't remember! I'll refresh your memory. Because of such abuses as "beating

time" and "killing time" (as the Harter explained, time is *him*, not *it*), the revenge of time was to keep it always tea-time.

Whether it's "him" or "it," we have been offending time, thus making it misbehave. Just think of our present-day deportment: we're making everything move faster and faster; we're shooting jet planes and spacecraft around; we're sending out radio and television waves at an increasing clip; we're making machines that speed up everything — and to keep it all moving, we are turning into White Rabbits scurrying around, looking at our watches, and muttering, "Oh dear, I shall be too late!" Time has struck back by speeding itself up. All our frenetic activity has accelerated the earth's movements, thus producing the treadmill effect — the faster we move, the faster *it* moves, and we get nowhere.

The Single Tax will solve all that. I don't know if we'll get the Single Tax or space travel first. If the latter, I'd like to reserve a place on the next spaceship going to Mars. On that planet, one year is equal to about two of earth's, and that's just the right speed for me.

Meanwhile, I'll be back in this space two months from now, as our next issue will be devoted to the International Conference — but it will seem like one month to me.

—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, N.Y. 10021, supports the following principle:

The community, by its presence and activity, gives rental value to land, therefore the 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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