

New Book by Agnes de Mille

AGNES DE MILLE, granddaughter of Henry George, has been called America's "first lady of the dance." Her contribution to the art has been considerable. She has danced and created dances, produced and directed, and has wielded great influence in lifting the status of dance in the theatre as an art form and a profession. She also writes - and knows how to write.

The author of several books, Miss de Mille has in this latest one* gone back to the early 1930's when she was still struggling to establish herself in her chosen profession. A good deal of this time was spent in London where she worked and studied at Marie Rambert's studio and met people who were to become leading personalities in the dance world - Frederick Ashton, Antony Tudor, Ninette de Valois and others. Persons in other fields who were already or were going to be famous also pass through these pages.

All this is related in letters to her mother back in New York, and they are here put together with connecting narrative. Anna George de Mille, the daughter of Henry George, gave unsparingly of herself to launch the career of her own daughter Agnes and there was a close relation between them.

Anna George attended Georgeist functions everywhere, including several international conferences. She was fully devoted to her father's cause. Agnes, herself an avowed Georgeist but not as deeply engrossed

in the movement as her mother, also attended meetings and amusingly describes some of the single taxers as "vocal, crotchety, selfless, dedicated, humourless." Yet she admired and had good relations with a number of them, including Ashley Mitchell, Arthur and Lily Madsen and others. (She also knew John Paul before he died.) She even managed to have a brief romance with one of the younger ones whom she calls "Robin Lennox." The main thread of this book, however, is the poignant story of a romantic friendship with another young man, Ramon Reed, a paralyzed cripple who was doomed to die.

Agnes de Mille, whatever her feelings about single taxers, writes, "I wish to make one thing very clear: I believe in the Single Tax," and she explains the principles in her own way. And at the end of the book she speaks of the current progress of the movement and concludes with "the essence of Henry George's philosophy in his own words" by reprinting in its entirety George's "The Single Tax, What it is and Why We Urge It."

Speak to Me, Dance With Me is a story of struggle - for despite having the world-famous Cecil B. de Mille as an uncle and Henry George as a grandfather, Agnes de Mille had to win every inch of the way for herself, chiefly aided only by her mother. Now she too is famous and, busy though she is with all her projects, is the most active member of the George family on behalf of his philosophy. It is always pleasant to surprise people when Agnes de Mille's name comes up with "Did you know she is the granddaughter of Henry George?" Now, thanks to her new book, more people will know this.

R.C.

* *Speak to Me, Dance with Me.* Little, Brown & Co., Boston and Toronto, \$8.98

The Land Reform That Wasn't

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IN August, 1963, the Philippines passed a land reform law that abolished tenancy relationships in selected provincial areas. In place of it, the tenant paid a fixed rental to the landlord, but not more than 25 per cent of the average normal harvest during the three agricultural years immediately preceding the date the leasehold system was established. And from this the

cost of seeds, harvesting, threshing, loading, hauling and processing was deducted.

As a result of this provision, the landlords whose holdings were placed under the coverage of the law found themselves receiving much less than what they got under the old 50-50 sharing basis. As a group and as individuals, however, they made it difficult for the government to enforce the law and for the tenant to shift to the leasehold system, by simply resorting to dilatory legal technicalities. With the help of a landlord-dominated judiciary which sought loopholes in the law, thousands of farmers, especially in the Central Luzon area, were ejected from

their plots.

A Filipino peasant who was interviewed was one of twenty-nine farmers evicted by their landlord, a former politician who still wields tremendous influence among public officials and in the military. The twenty-nine farmers, with the help of the Filipino Agrarian Reform Movement (FARM) brought their case to the Senate for investigation. During the time of the interview, the farmers were still encamped in front of the Philippine Congress, awaiting justice. Ironically, in a country that boasts of the largest number of lawyers in the Far East, the case of the ejected farmers now seems to have reached a legal dead end.