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There were several article in GJ 81 that had important implications deserving comment:

1. Special interests who oppose reforms beneficial to the public but detrimental to the interests (such as grazing fees).

2. Danish Dilemma: Reversal of successful Georgist reforms in Denmark in 1960 (due to special interests).

3. Lessons from Alaska where land rent from oil pays a public dividend.

There seems to be an inviolate law of political economy when diffuse benefits distributed throughout society are pitted against concentrated benefits to a few special interests. The law is that the special interests will eventually win. Their benefits are clear and significant. The benefits to society are often diffused or unclear, so a strong lobbying effort is difficult to arouse. A committed minority motivated by altruism and usually penniless, lobbies against powerful special interests with money to spare. Guess who wins?

If and when the "single tax" becomes law, the same thing will happen. The small group of special interests who suffer great losses will outlobby (and outbribe) the public. Witness the example of Denmark in 1960 and recent backsliding in Fairhope, Alabama.

However, the example of Alaska shows the solution to the dilemma of backsliding. By paying an oil dividend

to the public, every one is now a special interest who would suffer great personal loss if the oil dividend was repealed. Any attempt to repeal it would undoubtedly meet with public outcry. Repealing a tax on the other hand is easy: witness Denmark.

Conclusion: Make every one a single tax special interest by using ground rent to fund a public dividend. Backsliding is thus prevented. Otherwise the single tax will inevitably be repealed.

Additionally, the example of Alaska shows that government agents are poor stewards of public revenue. Better to give it directly to the people.

For more information on paying social dividends from ground rent, contact the Institute for Geonomic Transformation, P.O. Box 157, Santa Barbara, California 93102, USA.