

SAN FRANCISCO—July 7-11—Holiday Inn, Fisherman's Wharf

Will you be there for the Henry George School Conference?

The U. S. Government owns 553 million vacant and unappropriated acres in western states and Alaska. This is land which was marginal—barren wastes, rugged peaks, etc. Alaska has the largest holding of 273 million acres, followed by Nevada with 48 million and Utah with 23 million. The pioneers were not interested in such land. Today, however, it has become extremely valuable, and in 1969 the Department of the Interior realized almost a billion dollars from mineral and timber rights. This made it the largest money maker for the government outside of the Internal Revenue Service.

If a billion dollars can be collected annually from what was once considered worthless land, what would be collected today from the rest of the land which was and is considered really worthwhile?

An indication of how enormous the economic rent of the U. S. must be is brought out by the news that the Interior department in December accepted 108 bids for drilling space off Louisiana's western coast. They totaled \$845,832,735. And yet people will say the treatment of land is secondary to capital. Will they ever learn?

From the February Gargoyle, NJHGS