

for all candidates in Senate elections and to provide for proportional representation in elections for the House of Representatives.

OFFICE BEARERS 1978-1979

At the Annual Meeting of the New South Branch of the Society, held on 25th May, 1978, the office-bearers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:-

- PRESIDENT -- Mr J Wright
 - VICE-PRESIDENT -- Messrs J Webber and E Haber
 - SECRETARY -- Mr J Randall
 - TREASURER -- Mr J Webber
 - COMMITTEE -- Mrs K Wright, Messrs J Bonwick
N Biffin and J Baglin
 - AUDITOR -- Mr E B Donohue
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ECONOMIC BLINDNESS AND THE ALP

By S S GILCHRIST

Is it appalling blindness to the facts which leads spokesmen for the ACTU and the Labour Party to advocate increased deficit budgetting as a 'cure' for unemployment?

Even if logical, economic arguments are ignored, surely it is obvious that deficit budgetting has never caused prosperity; for it *has been tried* and failed, not once, but over and over again; not only in recent decades in UK, USA, and nearly all European and South American countries, but also throughout all history (look what happened to Marie Antoinette!).

But merely balancing the budget does not cause prosperity either! Although it may make things fractionally better to have a stable currency. Lack of prosperity is caused by all the laws which governments pass to prevent, restrict, restrain and discourage people from using sites and resources, and from working and producing, and from buying and selling goods and services, and thus employing each other.

Most of those laws are passed in order to give privilege and economic advantage to some group of able-bodied people at the expense of the rest of the community (quotas, licenses, subsidies, patents, 'closed-shop' organisations, patronage, sinecures, protection, monopoly rights, concessions and titles to land and resources, etc). Thus some able-bodied people are receiving large amounts of such tribute, and many are getting small amounts, (and all are pressing for more!), and of course many are deprived and pay tribute.

We cannot all live by receiving forced tribute from the rest of the community (legalised robbery). Conservative governments seek to reserve such privilege to a select group (mainly the holders of titles to sites and resources); but the Leftists want everyone to live at the expense of the community. However, robbery is an uneconomic transaction whether it

is legalised or illegal, and the more theft there is in a community, the lower the standard of living. That is why Communism is an economic failure in optimising living standards and in allowing people to satisfy their desires.

Transactions made under threat of force are uneconomic. And that is where our main forms of taxes are so wrong. Income Tax, Sales Tax, Payroll Tax etc, confiscate money just because it is changing hands! These taxes nearly always act as punitive fines which discourage, and even prevent effort, enterprise, and the exchanges of goods and services by which we employ each other and which are the basis of prosperity. No wonder there is unemployment.

To achieve prosperity, governments must ~~steadily remove privileges and they must reduce~~ taxes on normal economic transactions. Sales Tax and Income Tax must be steadily reduced, and be replaced by steadily increasing site-value taxation at a uniform rate on all sites without exemption. Site taxation is a tax which removes privilege, and it is an incentive to prosperity, to the full reasonable employment of resources, and to full employment opportunities for people.

The government granted permanent titles to sites and resources cause the biggest economic advantages for some; and the biggest disadvantage and undeserved poverty to the unprivileged. The title holder to land does get a 'free lunch' at the *expense* of the community.

One wonders whether the Left wing in advocating deficits is hoping that the government would thus make conditions more distressing and so discredit itself, to the opposition's advantage. The left wing and some union officials would appear to have a vested interest in maintaining discontent, and in causing free enterprise to fail.

Neither in government, nor in opposition have the Labour Party ever done anything to reverse the ever increasing issue of special privilege which costs us *all* so dearly.

Probably the fundamental problem is the failure of our education system to lead people away from the absurd idea that we can all live at the expense of the 'government'; maybe our educationalists are corrupted in some way by privileges?

It is only in the current century that a moderate semblance of democracy has evolved to replace ruling class governments. It may take many centuries for the 'people' to learn how to govern themselves well, having learned from repeated errors.

The prime function of government is to protect us from each other, and the corollary is that government must not use its powers to issue any privilege to some at the expense of others. Nor should the community as a whole

take advantage of any individual.

It is obvious that the private enterprise system will fail (as will any system) if it becomes corrupted by much special privilege; but if private enterprise can eliminate government granted privilege then it can provide a far better living than socialism or communism.

If the Labour Party genuinely wants fuller employment to be achieved (even while the Fraser government is in power!) they will campaign strongly, in Parliament and out, for the cancellation of the 2½% of income tax which is granted to local governments, and which has allowed councils to reduce site value taxation in a large part of Australia. They will reverse the trends of the aristocratic land-owner government which is steadily reducing the revenue from land-privilege, and is steadily increasing the taxes on labour and productive enterprise—(just the thing that caused the French Revolution).

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FRESH APPROACHES TO THE PROBLEM OF PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE OF SOCIAL PRINCIPLES

In the December, 1977 issue we invited readers to contribute their ideas on the problem of expanding our area of influence. Two widely divergent articles are published below and again we invite comment on them or the submission of different views. EDITOR.

SPECIAL PUBLICITY

By G HARDY

The 'Special Publicity' effort is based on the view, that our Georgist message needs to 'get across' to the community effectively if we hope to influence the thinking and policies of society.

I have envisaged that alongside the on-going usual publicity methods we shall explore alternative lines of publicity approaches, so as to multiply our results and to reach such groups of the public which do not respond favorably to current Georgist publicity.

My view is that many additional converts can be made, if we use a round-about way of stating our case. It is very difficult to overcome the hostile opposition to our views of almost all authorities: it is very difficult to convince the public and especially young people with a description of the future benefits of Land Tax, when the media is reporting the hardships caused by the present Land Tax, when the Premier describes it as a 'bad and iniquitous' tax; when economists, Taxpayers organisations and other specialists ignore or deprecate us.

The 'Special Publicity' effort is an attempt to express Georgist philosophy in modern terms, to relate it to everyday socio-economic problems and to express it in relation to such issues and subjects which are in the centre of public interest already. We had to take into consideration the absolute lack of manpower for any new, additional activity. A great number of appeals failed to bring forward volunteers even for such simple tasks as pinning pamphlets onto Notice boards or regulars to address envelopes etc.

1. Proposals to overcome this, with the use of an automatic, memory storage word-editing machine have been rejected up to now, and instead a subsidised junior typist was employed for a period of 6 months. She has discharged part of the general office duties and in the rest of her time she was available to type work for this publicity activity.

2. I am writing a weekly column in the Toorak Times, a suburban paper with app. 100,000 circulation. The column is entitled "Social Conflicts". The column deals with current topics and I interpret them from a Georgist point of view. Whenever possible, the problems are related back to exploitation through monopoly and proposals are put to introduce land tax on site values. In many instances, the League's address is given, and readers are encouraged to read Georgist books. According to the tally kept by Progress on 'Favourable Press Publicity', during the six months between April and October 1977, I was responsible for more than 1,000 column/cm.

3. On the introduction of Mr Morrie Williams, I was interviewed at length by the Editor of Maroondah Ass. Newspapers: "Lerwick", who published in 6 associated papers under the headline: "DO YOU KNOW HENRY GEORGE?"

4. Within a few months 'Libleader', the official monthly of the Victorian Young Liberal Movement has published two articles from us: 'Tax Reform For Social Justice' and 'Land Speculation: A Moral Issue'. They are likely to publish several other articles submitted.

5. Recently we have sent out several circulars using *Personalised Addressing*. This was an attempt to assess whether circulars, which appear to be individual letters instead of duplicated circulars, do in fact have advantages over duplicated circulars. The result of the most recent missiles is not known yet, but one circular sent partly on League and partly on 'Anti-Monopolist' letterheads, attracted replies well above the usual response/acceptance rate. Amongst those who replied to our offer for 'Budgetting Policies' were: the Vic. Young Liberals Policy Committee; Dr Doug Everingham, former ALP Minister for Health; Mr Killen, Minister for Defence; Mr Hamer, the Premier and a number of other serious policymakers.