

The final law of ecology is that man, too, is part of our ecology and a unique part. For man has reasoning ability which gives him freedom of choice. He is not *required* to do things, as are the other inhabitants of this planet. His ability to adapt himself or his environment is the reason why he has survived and multiplied to cover the earth until now, there is no place unexplored except the deepest oceanic trenches, and they too are yielding to man's advance.

The good things of life we can afford only when the basics have been economically produced—so our first ecological step is to find how most efficiently we can act.

Perhaps a necessary prelude to removing ecological threats is to remove the ecologists. At least that would force us to use our best means of ecological defense—common sense.

A portion of an address before the First Unitarian Society of Sacramento.

Chaos of Fallacies

THE ERROR of treating land as personal property has destroyed the peace of the world and brought on violence, poverty and the suppression of liberty. The application of land value taxation would be an important first step in establishing individual freedom and opportunity.

The farm situation is typical of the loss of initiative. The expressed aim of the government was to help the family farmer, to limit production, and to sustain prices. But while production was cut off in the best farm land, we paid for huge dams and irrigation projects to create agricultural lands out of deserts, thus increasing our taxes and enriching large landowners. The net result has been to make the rich richer and the poor poorer.

In our country where we supposedly oppose communism, we still accept its premise that capital exploits labor, so we have built up a powerful labor monopoly which can exploit the rest of us by constantly raising wages and prices, making it necessary for the government either to accept increasing unemployment or to inflate our money supply. This, too, is perpetual coercion—not liberty.

We are lost in a chaos of fallacies that pass as facts. This insanity is contagious and it has permeated our schools and churches. The apathetic approach in the classroom seems to be to discuss all shades of opinion with great tolerance and arrive at no conclusions. The accumulated knowledge of the past and the lessons of history get short shrift.

What we need most is to recover our traditional philosophy of freedom with honor.

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