

# the Henry George News

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## Justice and Youth

by JOSEPHINE HANSEN

IN A recent TV interview the Chief Rabbi of Temple Emanuel explained the meaning of the days of contemplation preceding Yom Kippur. During these days he said the faithful were to evaluate their past lives and resolve on a better mode of conduct, in accordance with the ancient philosophy which states that "the unexamined life is not worth living."

Isn't that what young people are saying, now that words like democracy, good society, freedom and justice fill the news media and political speeches? High sounding phrases and under-par performance are hypocrisy. Youth insists that we do not abide by our ideals, so they sit on the sidelines or angrily confront us with hostile reaction to our status-conscious mores.

Justice to the young does not mean merely justice under a law which too often is framed to guard ancient privileges. Their search for justice embodies association in equality and the brotherhood of man. They won't compromise, and they're not satisfied with our claims. They toss aside our suggestions that the amelioration of injustice will slowly be accomplished. Theirs is the ethical decision; justice first, then material living. They are on the march but their way is through the tangled

growth of centuries of pragmatic laws, veering right and left to serve every interest of power politics. They know there is a road to justice, but they do not know it is barred by the dense undergrowth of past legislation. They don't know how to clear the way.

Yet for this past century the followers of Henry George have been teaching how to reach this elemental justice. We know it can only be achieved by economic understanding—by a careful separation of what belongs to Caesar (government) and what belongs to the individual (the producer). We offer an ethical approach to man and his world. Why haven't we been chosen as the pathfinders along the way to justice?

I think it is because we have emphasized the fiscal reform—a tool called "single tax" — which George knew would unlock the door to his *real* goal, association in equality. Since we are known as crusaders against one privilege only, youth hasn't heard or understood our message. If Henry George was against all privileges we should teach his whole philosophy. He gathered endless followers. We could too.

*(From an address at the  
New Jersey HGS)*