

James A. Murphy

ON Thursday, June 11th, a cluster of students waited expectantly in room 44 for James Murphy, their Economic Science instructor. He had never failed to appear for his class—in fact he was always early. He was one teacher the registrar could always count on.

Thursday evening—no Jim.

Next day the whole staff was saddened to hear that he had died at his desk at the State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, where he was a research associate. Those who worked with him at the Center said they were always aware that he had divided loyalties, and they thought his greater loyalty was to the Henry George School.

No one at the HGS could remember a time when there wasn't dependable, amiable Jim Murphy to call on. He took some 25 courses at the headquarters in New York beginning about 30 years ago. In 1945 he became a faculty member and taught more than 100 classes. But that was not all. As President Arnold A. Weinstein said, "he was a man of many parts, particularly valuable, universally liked and always willing. He made his contribution to the cause of mankind."

Of late he had been writing steadily on money, his favorite economics subject, and had nearly completed a book-

length manuscript. Since he spoke no less than eight languages, he was invaluable in the International Department where he was considered to be "like a school in himself." He was the only one who corrected papers in every course and every language—never refusing any request.

In 1963 he was invited to Peru to teach during the summer in a college conducted by the Marianist Fathers at Piura in the northern part of the country. The next year he returned to teach high school students in Arequipa. The three basic courses were given in Spanish and were welcomed by enthusiastic classes.

Few realized, owing to his modesty, how diverse were his attainments, ranging from concert pianist to electronics theoretician. Among his lighter interests was an attempt to teach a computer to play chess. But above all his life was dedicated to the cause of justice for all men. He never sought any recognition nor any expressions of gratitude for the time and effort he lavished on the work of the school. His labors stemmed from deep personal convictions.

Don't worry about not having called up, Jim. Your colleagues and your students, hundreds of them, remember you with love and here and there a tear.

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The community, by its presence and activity, gives rental value to land, therefore the rent of land belongs to the community and not to the landowners. Labor and capital, by their combined efforts, produce the goods of the community—known as wealth. This wealth belongs to the producers. Justice requires that the government, representing the community, collect the rent of land for community purposes and abolish the taxation of wealth.

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