sale, inheritance or tax deed."

Bert Smith, who was at the time editor of Western Water News, published by the Irrigation Districts Association, made the same kind of report at an international conference in San Francisco five years ago.

"In the assessment techniques which were provided in the state law," he said, "we find one of the very basic concepts of the irrigation district movement. Irrigation districts assess on the basis of the cash value of the land, exclusive of the improvements. Beyond a doubt, this type of assessment resulted in the dividing of the large farms of the early days and the passing of the land from the few to the many. The large, unirrigated farm was definitely penalized in the operation of the assessment. The small farmer who worked to plant his orchard or his crops and build his buildings was encouraged—improvements were not penalized. This concept in the irrigation district act has persisted and continues today to be one of the basic factors in our district system."

The California law achieved by legitimate methods precisely what the Indians of the Cayambe Valley in Ecuador failed to achieve by direct action 40 years ago. It achieved a revolutionary transfer of land "from the few to the many."

Look at it this way. In Ecuador's Cayambe Valley revolution the troops pointed their guns at the poor and landless who trespassed on the great estates of the rich. But in California's Central Valley revolution, if the sheriff was there, his guns were aimed at the rich and powerful who tried to interfere after their uncultivated holdings were sold for taxes.

Land value taxation is one of the great institutions Professor Buchanan is looking for when he says, "it would be a great thing if we could discover what it is that would bring revolution in as a legitimate process."*

*Scott Buchanan and Joseph Lyford, "On Revolution," a pamphlet published by the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions in Santa Barabara, a creation of Ford Foundation's Fund for the Republic.

CANADIAN STUDENTS BRIEF ROYAL TAX COMMISSION

Members of The Alumni Group have formed a Taxation Committee of Toronto, representing the School of Economic Science, and have prepared an impressive brief for submission to the Royal Commission on Taxation. Pointing out that "the Canadian citizen is now at the breaking point where he pays taxes on profits and taxes on taxes on profits," the problem and solution are outlined followed by a detailed explanation of the factors of production.

The Alumni Group recommends that the government vacate the sphere of business which can best be carried out privately in a free and competitive market, and remove all special privileges and subsidies. It further recommends free trade with other nations and between individuals within the country, and advocates that "the government must appropriate to itself, in the form of taxes, those values created by society as a whole, and control, by means of taxes, those natural monopolies that are properly the only business of government."

J. W. Ramsay is chairman of the committee which includes Peter Van Meggelen, John Cameron and William T. Phillips.