

From the same newspaper 16 years later, Mr. Sage extracts: "Mr. Miller, like other tenants, leases his land from the company on a 50-50 crop share agreement." The company is Gulf Timberland.

Is the same proportion of production paid by those who work in the cities? Mr. Sage wants to know. The land of Rockefeller Center in New York has been held by the same owner since 1814, he comments. In 1823 it was rented out for \$125 a year; in 1965 the rent for the same parcel was \$3,800,000. When the lease expires in 2069 the landowner gets the buildings. This last bit of information is from the New York Times of November 11, 1962.

In his own back yard, Mr. Sage observes, land — miles and miles of it in Arizona — is priced so highly that there are only signs "Land for Lease." It is not for sale!

The 1973 Conference

Preparations for the Conference on the Property Tax — this year's Conference to be held in Toronto, July 5-7 — continue apace, according to Mal McCarthy, head of the School of Economic Science in Ontario.

Perhaps a dozen local officials concerned with taxation and fiscal affairs will attend the meeting in addition to a number of men in the academic and professional worlds of finance and public administration, all of whom are familiar to the supporters of the School.

Accommodations (per person) have been arranged as follows:

Glendon College Rooms: \$6.50 to \$7.50 per night.

Inn on the Park: \$22 to \$36 per night.

Muir Park Hotel: \$8 to \$22 per night.

5% sales tax applies to all rooms.

The Inn on the Park is described as a very "posh" resort hotel in the heart of Metro Toronto, about a half-mile from Glendon; Muir Park is a pleasant, modern hotel within a quarter of a mile of the college.

For reservations (early ones are suggested) please

write to Mal McCarthy, School of Economic Science, 2304 Islington Ave., Rexdale, Ontario.

Real Estate Tax Scandal Forgotten

New Yorkers are so innured to political squabbles and the dirty dealing they so often dredge up that a recent scandal about real estate assessment practices caused no more than a ripple of headlines and was quickly forgotten.

It seems that the President of the City's Tax Commission, one Norman A. Levy, allegedly knocked some \$465,000 off the assessed value of property owned by characters of nefarious reputation in the City's fifth borough — Staten Island. Moreover, the realty owner was said to have been represented by a real estate broker who made a hefty \$9,000 contribution to Mayor John Lindsay's last political campaign.

The charges were contained in a voluminous report by the State Investigation Commission that had been appointed by New York's Governor Nelson Rockefeller. It was thought to be more than just coincidence that the City's tax official involved, Mr. Levy, was also a fund raiser for the mayor's political activities.

The charge of "political smear" was raised, of course. Mr. Rockefeller's antipathy for Mr. Lindsay is widely suspected. The Governor recently tried to dust off an old political has been from the opposition party, and to dragoon party chieftains into accepting him as this year's Republican candidate for the mayoralty of New York. The man in question, Robert Wagner, served three terms as mayor before the incumbent's eight years of service.

All these machinations cannot but make one wonder about the efficacy of tax reform if it is not to be accompanied by political reform that will assure equity in assessment as well as application of the levy.

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