

Erie's Leadership in Adopting LVT Could Attract Worldwide Attention

IN a series of detailed and informative articles published weekly in two newspapers by the Erie Land Tax Association (Pennsylvania), a number of compelling personal statements have been made by various members.

Robert D. Meyer, an engineer at General Electric, said, "we know now that poverty will never be dealt a lethal blow until LVT has been applied. It is the primary antidote . . . let us stop looking to Washington. We have the right to tax land value here and now. This alone will raise wages, lower rents, create jobs and keep opportunity alive."

Michael Gregory, a chemist with the same firm, proclaims, "Erie seems to be on dead center. With land value taxation available it could easily become a star among American cities."

George E. Dawes, a sales representative, urged, "our present real estate tax policy is as obsolete as some of the 100 year old buildings on State Street. Let us get rid of both by adopting land value taxation."

Blaine G. Momeyer, an insurance executive and president of the Erie Jaycees, said, "research by the Erie Land Tax Association proves that homeowners in Erie pay far more than their just share of the real estate tax; also that land value taxation is both just and fair for all."

Neal Hopkins, manager of Manpower, Inc. wrote, "we of the Erie

Land Tax Association insist that under full and complete LVT there would be no need for anyone to be unemployed longer than it would take to make a telephone call or go to see a man about a job. In fact this is the only weapon we have against the spectre of automation. Shorter work weeks? We don't think so!"

Bertram A. Wilson, president of ELTA and of the Wilson Research Corporation, in announcing the campaign for informing the citizenry through the newspapers, said, "land value taxation is legal, just and beneficial for all. The full weight of custom and tradition may be on the side of those who would leave things just as they are. Nevertheless we are convinced that we can make it plain to the people of Erie why a change in tax policy should be made."

W. Wylie Young, Executive Director of ELTA prepares the brief treatises published each week on some aspect of land value taxation. "Cities do not have to die at the core," he said. "This tendency is so common that it is accepted as inevitable. It is not. . . Erie cannot afford to postpone men take off. They are taking off in droves, and those who are left have to carry the tax load. It keeps getting heavier and heavier for fewer and fewer people. Wake up, Erie! This is a golden opportunity!"

Somehow, after what happened last month at the tax office, that old April Fool trick of putting a fat pocketbook on the sidewalk and yanking it away from somebody doesn't seem so hilariously funny any more.

—Burton Hillis

(From the Bluebird Letters edited by Elmer Russell Greenlee, of Muncie, Indiana)

