

RUSSELL MEANS

(continued from front page)

of three miles per hour during rush hours, air pollution, the loss of 95% of our virgin forests, acid rain, toxic water supplies, and oil spills "converting your coastlines into the ecological equivalents of parking lots."

Moving on to nuclear waste pollution, and government cover-ups of unsafe practices, Russell asked, "How far can this madness be carried?" And answered: "We are very near that limit right here, right now.... Humanity will suffer precisely the same fate it has imposed upon other living beings, from the buffalo to the bull frog, in its quest to redesign the natural order according to its own whims."

The myth that "the system works" underlies Euroamerica's refusal to face facts, according to this Lokata Indian. Homicide statistics for the US, the highest on earth, and the fact that homicide is the

leading cause of death among American black men, Russell detailed, and clearly indicate that the system does not deliver the goods.

Certainly, the system doesn't work for American Indians, who are the poorest group in the US, in spite of retaining possession "on paper at least" of a land base sufficient to make them the largest per capita landholders in the US. Rates of disease and malnutrition among American Indians are the highest in the nation, and the life expectancy of the American Indian male is now 44.5 years. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has saddled Indians with a bureaucracy's worth of regulations and deliberately limit Indian income from leasing their land. "The oppression and impoverishment of Native America is no accident or natural calamity," he told us. "It is the

result of conscious intent. The gulf between the tangible wealth [natural resources] of American Indians on the one hand, and their collective experience of horrific poverty on the other, lies at the heart of the Euroamerican system." I thought of Henry George, who called up images of great wealth alongside great poverty in America, and laid blame at the doorstep of our European system of landownership.

Russell was on a roll, and did not stop to let us take a breath. He pointed out how the nuclear family was being eroded by an economic system which was now forcing both parents into the work force; and how compulsory schools are places where "No one learns to read, write or think." He debunked the attitude that ours may not be perfect, but it's still the best, most free, system around. "As things now stand, the rights guaranteed all U.S. citizens under the constitution have been or are now being insidiously demolished by proponents of 'law and order.' The 4th and 6th amendments are already gone.... The right to privacy has completely disappeared, as government surveillance... (otherwise known as burglary), monitoring of personal financial records... compulsory urine testing, and the voyeuristic bird-dogging of people's sex lives - is now endemic, unchecked and integral to a comprehensive... national filing system profiling the details of the lives of the citizenry."

Most chilling for me was Russell's expose of the US prison system. Prison rates for the US are the highest in the world, at 263 per 1000. African Americans (11% of the US population) were 44% of the prison population in 1980; they are now 50%. If official plans to double the prison system are put into effect, "80% of all young black males will be behind bars by the dawn of the next century.... More important... the state has placed an increasing emphasis upon the incorporation of mills and factories into the prison environment. Prisoners are forced to work therein for virtually no wages, while the products of their labor are sold at market rates. The profit potential is obviously enormous... If this trend continues, we can anticipate that the fruits of de facto slave labor will form an appreciable part of the U.S. economy within the next 10 years, following the pattern of "state enterprise" established by the SS in Nazi Germany during the 1930s and '40s. Another parallel may be found in the Stalinist gulag system run in the Soviet Union during the '30s, '40s, and '50s. Massive incarceration thus becomes a government boon rather than a burden..."

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FALL 1990 PROGRAM IN NEW YORK

All classes, events and seminars are open to the public free of charge. Classes begin the week of September 24, and meet for ten weeks. School holidays are Columbus Day, October 8, and Thanksgiving, November 22-23.

BASIC COURSES

Fundamental Economics (Part I of *Principles of Political Economy*): Tuesdays, Mr. George Collins, 5:30-7:30; Wednesdays, Mr. Lindy Davies, 6:00-7:00; Thursdays, Mr. Mark Sullivan, 6:30-8:30.

Progress & Poverty (in Spanish): Wednesdays, Mr. Nibaldo Aguilera, 5:30-7:30.

Understanding Economics: Wednesdays, Mr. Lindy Davies, 12:30-1:30.

Classical Analysis I: Tuesdays, Ms. Nan Braman, 6:00-8:00.

ADVANCED CLASSES

Applied Economics (Part II of *Principles of Political Economy*): Thursdays, Mr. Lindy Davies, 6:00-8:00.

Economic Science (Part III of *Principles of Political Economy*): Wednesdays, Mr. George Collins, 6:30-8:30.

Classical Analysis II: Tuesdays, Mr. Mark Sullivan, 6:30-8:30.

The Sociological Analysis of Henry George (in Spanish): Thursdays, Mr. Manuel Felix, 5:30-7:30.

History of Economic Thought: Tuesdays, Mrs. Fryda Ossias, 5:30-7:30.

Practical Writing: Wednesdays, Mr. Syd Mayers, 5:30-7:30.

FRIDAY EVENING EVENTS:

7:00 - 9:00

Land in the Movies: September 21, *Superman I*.

Fear & Factionalism in New York Politics: October 19th, Mr. Kalev Pehme, editor of *Our Town*.

U.S. National Education Goals: November 2, Mr. Roland A. Alum, Regional Representative of the US Department of Education.

Understanding Financial Instruments and Markets: November 9, Mr. Jack Driben, investment executive and securities trader.

The Income Tax and You: November 30, Frederick I. Kahn, C.P.A.

SATURDAY SEMINARS: 1:00-3:00 (advance registration required)

Media Bias: The Case of Central America: October 6, Dennis Perrin (Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting), Paul Berman (correspondent for *The Village Voice*), and a representative of the Bronx Conservative Party.

The Real Monopoly Game: October 27, (simulation game) Mr. Lindy Davies (HGS).

Business Ethics: November 17, Prof. Martin Roth, Touro College.