



George's Fiscal Policy Endorsed by Dr. Moore

JOHAN B. MOORE, Professor of Economics at Lindenwood College, St. Charles, Missouri, addressed the graduates of the St. Louis extension on May 14 on "The Public Debt and Problems of Taxation." He expressed full sympathy with the basic fiscal policy of public revenue proposed by Henry George.

"The danger in the public debt," Dr. Moore said, "lies not in its absolute amount, but in our ability to pay. In 1945, when the debt was 278 billion dollars, our national income was 182.6 billion dollars. In 1952 the debt was 268 billion dollars, but the national income had risen to 290.4 billion dollars . . . Experts estimate that the public debt is dangerous when it becomes two and one-half times the national income. It is now less than the national income. The country could only be bankrupt when it could not pay the interest on its bonds. At the present time, this makes up only about 6 billion dollars of the federal budget.

Another important matter emphasized by Professor Moore is the difference between private and public debt. "If Mr. Smith owes Mr. Jones \$100, then Mr. Smith is to that extent worse off; but if the government owes \$100 it is also true that people within the same economy are owed \$100. The people owe the money to themselves through their agent—the government. For every dollar of debt, there is a dollar of credit. Politically, most people see only one side of the picture and that is the debt. Economically, they are more likely to count their bonds as assets, and forget their taxes on the liability side of the picture."

Dr. Moore discussed three ways of financing war; borrowing, printing money and taxation; with emphasis on the latter as "clearly the best of the three."

He closed by laying an earnest charge upon the students to take seriously the lessons they had learned from *Progress and Poverty*.

The speaker took his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Economics at the University of Missouri and taught there in 1938-39 as an assistant to Harry Gunnison Brown.

Class speakers at the graduation were Eric H. Kaepfel and Roy Stroud. The instructors were: Mrs. Ross H. Schachner, Lt. Clay E. Wilcox, Leo Meyers, C. C. Case, Henry Johnson, William Mahon, William Vahey, Gietner Hibel and Noah D. Alper.

Music, fun, songs, skits and magic featured the second anniversary dinner and variety show of the Henry George Woman's Club on May 23 at the Y.M.H.A. This fast growing, interesting and alert group publishes The St. Louis Georgist, a chatty, four-page mimeographed bulletin, which Noah Alper recently referred to as the only competitor of The Henry George News.