

The Henry George School in the News

ST. LOUIS director, Noah D. Alper, was a panel member on a KMOX TV public affairs program, "Close Up," in November, when Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois was the guest. In the discussion Mr. Alper spoke of the tendency to increase non-property taxes such as sales, gasoline, income, excises, etc., and questioned whether this was not destroying initiative, contending that if we stop government from doing so much to harm the people it will not have to be made to do so much to help them.

Senator Douglas responded with a reference to Henry George's advocacy of the land value theory, saying he thought there was much to commend it but that in practice you could probably only take the increase in land values and should not confiscate existing land values, also that the increase would not be adequate for local government, and in any case this was a matter for local adjustment. He suggested the increase might be taken to meet some of the expenses of government and correspondingly to reduce the taxes on housing.

Mr. Alper, referring to Dove's book *The Theory of Human Progression*, said we have three taxes now that are direct; the land value, inheritance and income taxes. Isn't it possible, he asked, that we should abolish the hidden taxes which are relics of kings and dictators, and simplify our tax structure so we can comprehend it?

The Senator concurred but indicated that he would continue taxes on tobacco and liquor as a restraining influence, and because such taxes are an easy way to raise revenue. He favored an income tax as the chief method of financing the federal government.

DETROIT director Robert D. Benton will not be taking those long bus trips to Delaware, Ohio where he and his family have maintained a charming home. They now live in Birmingham, Michigan, and we wish to all the Bentons much joy and not too much nostalgia for Ohio.

At the fall term completion meeting in December, Benjamin F. Smith, an engineer with the Michigan Fleet Equipment Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan, spoke on a plan of "Assessing for Progress." He has been speaking widely on this important topic before civic groups and social agencies. At these exercises the new graduates are guests, though others make a donation of 95 cents. Refreshments are included, also free parking and dancing in the Gold Room after the meeting.

SYRACUSE reports that half of those enrolled completed the basic course and that more and more people are taking a serious interest in Fundamental Economics. An Advisory Board, newly established, will meet in January to make future plans—graduates will be invited to this meeting too. Classes will have secretaries to assist the teachers in keeping records at the winter term which begins this month and includes a class in Applied Economics.

NEW YORK opens its winter term the week of January 7th. Applied Economics will be given three times during the week, and Science of Political Science once. A Spanish class in Applied Economics will be offered for the first time. Graduates of the basic classes may enroll for Logic, Current Events, The Corporation Under Private Enterprise, Money and Credit, Great Books or Elementary Russian.