

Whither Goest Thou?

It has been stated statistics and the Bible may be used to prove anything. Man lives in a world ruled by nature and natural law.

It seems to be generally thought that mankind has progressed from a very primitive to a high material existence. In doing so, he has used and is using natural resources, surely at times wastefully, and even destructively. In instances, no doubt, this has been to his own detriment and may be harmful to future generations. It is certain he has not been as prudent as he might have been.

While man has accomplished great things in many respects, his progress has been woefully inadequate in many ways. Extreme luxury has been achieved for many, while many other persons barely exist, many in conditions unfit for human habitation. Cities reflect exquisite splendor amid sordid squalor.

Recently, the President of the United States called attention to what has been termed "energy crises" and made proposals of what the Federal Government ought consider doing about it. Whether or not there actually exists a crisis, it may well be now is the time for a signal to give consideration to "Whither Goest Thou?".

Providing food, clothing, shelter and many other things for man's existence and enjoyment, preceded "government". Government cannot produce these things. It can and does hinder the production of them. A limited amount of government is probably necessary in this imperfect world.

Finkelstein Appointed Director

Mr. Philip Finkelstein, presently the Director of the Center for Local Tax Research, was appointed the Director of the Henry George School of Social Science at a meeting of the Board of Trustees on May 12th.

Mr. Finkelstein has served in the Mayor's Office of Administration of New York City as Deputy Administrator, and was a Professor of Political Science at Brooklyn College.

He will not only continue to carry on the research work of the School but will be responsible for its academic activities.

In addition to his duties at the School, he will also be conducting classes in the Graduate School of Social Work at Adelphi University.

It may be highly desirable at this time when we know government has not and cannot solve the problem of "good living conditions" for all people, to consider something which thus far has been tried only on a very limited scale. No doubt, to some extent legislation, taxation, law enforcement, controls, monetary manipulation and all the other palliatives which have been tried, and failed, will be tried again. Again they will not succeed.

Is it not the sensible thing to try something which offers a possibility for improvement in the economy --- which accords with natural law --- a change in our land tenure system?

Yes, a halt ought to be called. There is the possibility of adjustment of our economy which would not only go far toward the solution of the so called "energy crises", but would serve to bring our economic system more into harmony with natural law. This would narrow the gap between extravagance and want. It would not solve all of the many problems which exist, but it holds promise of greatly relieving many of them. It should be given the opportunity to prove it will "work".

John T. Tetley

Incentive Tax League Organizes in New Jersey

An informal organization, the Incentive Tax League of New Jersey, is being organized. The objective of this group is to bring about the elimination of all taxation on improvements to real estate in New Jersey.

While there is nothing in the New Jersey State Constitution which would prevent this objective from being achieved, it does require enabling legislation so that the individual communities may remove the taxes on improvements.

Dr. Herman Lazaar, Arthur Hoffer, Mrs. Schnarr and John T. Tetley constitute the initial members of the Organizational Committee. Additional persons will be added to the Committee, and it is expected if all goes well, the League will have its first meeting in mid-September.

The Organizational Committee requests the names of persons wishing to affiliate with the League. Communications should be sent to the Incentive Tax League of New Jersey, P.O. Box 637, Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095.