



I have just completed writing letters to ten North Carolina senators and representatives. Seven of these received copies of the January HGN and other George literature. When the local state politicians begin to realize that the TVA story is being told nationally and internationally through the Henry George News I have an idea they are going to take another look at their image. Thank you very much for your help.

In Henderson County alone the signatures on the petitions opposed to TVA is fast approaching 4,000 signatures, and then we will aim for five, six and seven thousand ("Bureaucratic Indignity," March HGN p. 4).

ALEX J. DURIS
Hendersonville, N.C.

Commenting on "The Root of Money" by Sydney Mayers (Feb. HGN), there is no mystery to the nature and purpose of money that a little reading from books on economics will not soon clear up. The general definition of money accepted by authority is: a governmental instituted commodity used for three functions—a medium of exchange for other commodities, reserve for stored up purchasing power, and a standard of value between commodities.

When Mr. Mayers was a kid an average wage was 10 cents an hour. Today it is \$1.25, which accounts for his price differences. One of the main reasons for our current inflation is that we (labor) are getting too much over an adequate return for our efforts, with the result that prices go up, up and up to pay for this overpriced labor.

JOE LOPINTO
New York City

Mr. Mayers replies:

I do not know the basis of Mr. LoPinto's quarrel with my views, since he does not mention the one point I made in my article, simply that money is essentially whatever is commonly recognized as such. As to the "mystery" of money, it is not I who am mystified. If I were, however, I doubt I would be edified by the "books on economics" Mr. LoPinto recommends. The writers of these books are the confused ones! Further, I am shocked that a Georgist should speak of "overpriced labor" which gets "too much over an adequate return" for what it produces. The primary aim of Henry George's teachings is to demonstrate that labor is *denied* a just return for the wealth it produces, thanks to privately collected rent, taxes, and the lack of economic freedom.

Answering Mr. Wasicki's request (Feb. HGN) I did not propose distributing the wealth between wages, rent, and money interest. Neither did I say that under LVT "borrowing would not be necessary or allowed."

As long as there are people who seek to borrow money, and people willing to lend, there will be interest.

As for the returns to labor using capital in production (and what labor doesn't?) I contend that such returns are wages. Capital itself produces nothing. Labor, being the only active factor, receives the whole product. The owner of capital (whether capital goods or money) must either use it himself and get wages, or lend it and get interest; he cannot do both at the same time.

Many years ago I wrote an article in which I take issue with Henry George's interest theory. To anyone interested I shall be pleased to mail it, on condition that it be returned to me at 5599 57th Avenue N., St. Petersburg, Florida 33709.

GASTON HAXO
St. Petersburg, Fla.