

tem must certainly stiffen the resistance of land speculators against reducing their prices. In fact they will most likely advance them to a still higher level should Congress provide, as the President has suggested, federal grants and loans to local governments and even to private developers, so that future expansion "won't be carried out ... in a sprawling, space consuming, unplanned and uneconomic way."

If neither the Congress nor the state and local governments will change in these respects, and to date they give little evidence of it, the domination of our local governments by the federal government, and the declining influence of state governments, are precisely what we shall have.

In Australasia, where the local tax system in some states and parts of states gives full incentive for building and takes away the "incentive" to retard building (through holding land speculatively out of use), there is far more building than in those states which follow the system almost universally in effect here. Why has the statistical data on this been ignored? And why have the leaders of our political opposition consistently, and it seems persistently, failed to attack administration policy where it has been (1) logically most vulnerable, (2) morally wrong, (3) injurious to those who have only their labor, and (4) inconsistent with the principles of incentive most favorable to private enterprise?

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"Land Tenure and Taxation" High School Essay Contest

Noah D. Alper, the man who, according to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, is "conducting a personal war against poverty," is president of the Public Revenue Education Council. In its annual report (available on request from Mr. Alper, 705 Olive Street, St. Louis, Mo. 63101), we read of a high school contest at Corning Painted Post West High School, of Painted Post, New York. The PREC is eager and prompt in sending its material to students and teachers in schools and colleges, and a sizeable volume is constantly in circulation. In the above case, students of the history class were writing on "Land Tenure and Taxation in World History," and wanted three of the PREC tax booklets. On learning this the Council offered prizes for the three best essays and Cheryl Scudder won the top prize of \$25. Miss V. G. Peterson, Executive Secretary of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, New York, and Dr. and Mrs. Harry G. Brown of Meadville, Penn-

sylvania were the judges and made the presentation before the high school class.

The winning essay is decidedly above the average for high school contests, and if all 37 students writing on this subject wrote as convincingly of the Henry George philosophy, it is hard to see how they could ever quite forget the principle of LVT and its effectiveness. Miss Scudder was adept in converting thoughts from a long list of sources into a cohesive and understandable sequence. She does not merely copy well-documented quotations, but connects them in a way that makes them clear and convincing. We hope this is the beginning of a long heartfelt interest in Henry George by Cheryl, who concludes that "of all the solutions to the land problem, the best and most sound still appears to be the land value taxation system," and if it "were to become the national method of taxation, our country would be rid of many problems which it now faces."