



American Georgeists Enter Politics

The JUSTICE PARTY

JUSTICE THE OBJECT, TAXATION THE MEANS



THE Justice Party launched recently in New York seeks to foster a just and free economy consistent with the principles set out in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the U.S.A. Membership is open to all but voting rights are restricted to those who have completed at least one course in basic economics either by attendance at the Henry George School or by correspondence. To be an executive member one must have completed three of the School's economics courses, and only those who have taught economics or have made at least three speeches may hold office in the party. Only members who have taught three times or given two or more lectures may stand as party candidates for public office. These requirements eliminate from executive participation any who lack the proper understanding of desirable economic reform. An excellent "platform" has been drawn up as follows:—

WITH JUSTICE AS OUR OBJECT, we propose the following basic reform:

Shift our present confiscatory Tax burden off the products of labour and capital and instead obtain government revenue through the collection of the full economic ground rent.

THIS BASIC REFORM WILL AUTOMATICALLY:

Eliminate slums. The profits will be taken out of slum ownership. Untaxing buildings and improvements will encourage the improving of old, and the erection of new

buildings; while concomitantly, collecting the full economic ground rent, *i.e.* the rental value of the site, will discourage the slum-lord from holding valuable sites out of use and/or maintaining slum buildings on his property.

Reduce Crime. Admittedly, 90 per cent of juvenile delinquency and crime originate from a slum environment. The elimination of slums will bring about an immediate and substantial reduction of the crime rate.

Encourage Production. The payment of the full economic ground rent to the community will make the common practice of holding valuable land idle for speculation unprofitable. Consequently, productive sites will be put to full use. Since capital and improvements *will not be taxed*, profits will lie in producing to the fullest capacity that the site will permit.

Ensure Full Employment. Full production will create an ever-increasing demand for labour and capital. This will result in a full employment situation and even a labour shortage.

Discourage racial and religious discrimination. Discrimination hurts most in the economic realm—the areas of employment and housing. Since this basic reform will improve people's living conditions and vastly increase employment opportunities, entrepreneurs will be encouraged to deal with people without thought to their racial or religious origins.

With a higher living standard for all classes and with the fear of an economic "rainy day" removed, the factors

that nurture and support racial and religious discrimination will wither and man's finer traits will prevail.

Ensure Full Educational Opportunities For All. The prevailing higher wages and the removal of *all taxes* from income will virtually eliminate the economic limitations that prevent many from advancing themselves to institutions of higher learning.

Increase Government Efficiency and Reduce Waste. With greater employment opportunities available in private industry, the government will offer incentives and create better working conditions in order to attract labour. Also, the increased revenue the government will derive from collecting the full economic ground rent will enable it to pay higher wages and modernise its operations. As a result, duplication and inefficiency will be eliminated.

IN CONCLUSION this basic reform will provide an effective answer to Communism. It is the economic and scientific battlegrounds on which the Communist *bloc* is concentrating its efforts in its endeavours to defeat the West. The World will judge whose system is the better by comparing the achievements of each in these realms.

Russia's primary aim is to produce, produce, and out-produce America. Obviously, our most effective answer is in turn to out-produce Russia. We cannot compete and

hope to win while our productive capacities are hampered by a host of burdensome and restrictive taxes, and while speculators keep valuable industrial and productive sites out of use.

Our basic reform is the only solution that will free our tremendous productive forces and at the same time keep us a free nation. The removal of *all taxes* off labour and industry will stimulate production to unprecedented heights. Our resulting higher standard of living, the elimination of slums, the reduction of crime, etc., will speak for itself.

The collection of the full economic ground rent will create an enormous increase in government revenue, thus providing the necessary funds to enable us to win the space-race.

The only way Russia could then compete with us would be to abandon her present Communist system and follow our example by instituting a free enterprise economy. Her failure to do so will leave her lagging so far behind us in the "higher living standard" and "scientific achievement" race that we of the Western World will "bury Communism".

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