

## Dr. ROY DOUGLAS

Representative for Mitcham, Surrey



Age 36. B.Sc. (London), Ph.D. (Edinburgh), A.K.C. Learnt about free trade and land value taxation mainly through talking Liberalism on a soap box. Joined the Liberal Party at 16. Has been President of King's College Liberal Associa-

tion; was Chairman, and then President of the National League of Young Liberals. Has been an officer of a number of Liberal organisations. Was candidate for Merton and Morden (1950), Bethnal Green (1951 and 1955) and Gainsborough (1959); now Prospective Liberal Candidate for Gainsborough. Had the interesting experience in 1951 of saving his deposit in a constituency where the Conservative lost his.

Married (1955) his wife being at the time honorary secretary of National League of Young Liberals. Has two young and highly active children.

His interests are extensive, and have ranged from studying several languages, through history to law and science. He has translated a Greek tragedy into blank verse. He once wrote an article suggesting that Toynbee's view of a common pattern in civilisations could be understood through the land problem. But no-one was very interested.

Trained as a scientist, he has done some research on amphibia, and has also devised a new scheme of chemical analysis. On the rare occasions when he has some time, he likes going on rather long walks in fairly vertical country.

## Radio Panel Discusses Rating Three Members Advocate Land Value Reform

THREE of the four members on the panel in the B.B.C.'s "Any Questions" programme spoke in favour of land value rating on March 10. The question was: Should local rates be levied on houses or on the earnings of the inhabitants?

Mr. P. C. Gordon Walker, M.P. (Labour, Smethwick) said: "If anyone can find a good alternative way of raising local revenue he should be honoured and statues raised to him. We have all racked our brains to find a better system than rates which was started by Queen

Elizabeth, and nobody has really found a better way. I think the rating system could itself be improved. I think we ought to rate sites rather than houses (*hear, hear*) so as to encourage people to develop the sites properly as is done in Australia and other countries. But I don't think that local income taxes and so forth really work when you look at them and work them out. They would be extremely unfair as between one place and another. It would be extremely hard to decide how much of a person's income belonged to the place he lived in and how much to the place in which he worked. I think on the whole it is impossible to find an alternative to rates and the best thing is to improve the rating system."

Mr. Arthur G. Street, farmer, author and broadcaster: "I agree. Improve the present system and levy rates on sites and, if you want to — I am a farmer — rate industry and agricultural land. (*Hear, hear and prolonged applause.*)"

Mr. Gerald Nabarro, M.P. (Conservative, Kidderminster): "I fall out with Arthur Street straight away. I wouldn't rate agricultural land. If you rated agricultural land all that would happen is that it would be taken into the survey of costs at the annual price review, the price of food would rise and that would be highly inflationary. It would lead to renewed demands for increased wages

### TEXTILES TAX — Continued

to ours. If British industry is unable to compete on such terms it must be inefficient.

The Free Trade Union endorses recent statements by the President of the Board of Trade that "the protection given British industry is high and often very high" and "protection can be too high to be healthy." It concludes: "If the Government agreed to this application and raised tariffs further it would be directly contrary to their declared policy and to the best interests of the country."