

Book. *The taxation and rating of land values and the exemption of buildings and improvements shall apply to all land irrespective of the use to which any land happens to be put, so that the community shall enjoy its just revenue and all land-users shall reap, unburdened, the benefit of their labour and enterprise.*

### Unoriginal Conservatism

Mr. Angus Maude, M.P. for Ealing South, is chief editor of a booklet entitled *One Nation*, published by nine Conservative M.P.s elected in February, putting forward their unofficial views on social problems. Mr. Ian Macleod, the Chairman of the group, told a Press conference on October 5: "This is a Tory approach to social problems; it is not following after any other party." The authors declare, "We accept as the supreme objective of our social financial policy the maintenance of our social services," and the proposals include increases in family allowances and insurance and assistance payments, restoration of the school dental service, higher salaries for doctors, establishment of a population policy, co-ordination of maternity services, etc. The novelty of these proposals is not apparent. One looks in vain for any suggestion of a radical alternative to the recent policies of all parties. Only in their intention to abolish the housing licensing system, drastically revise rent restriction, and restore a real market for land do these Conservative M.P.s show real divergence from Socialist views, and it is noticeable that these divergences concern, directly or indirectly, the interest of landlords which, through all its permutations, has remained the anchor of Conservative policy. It is in such free-lance declarations that one might hope to discern signs of intellectual awakening; but this shows nothing original or profound. Disraeli, in his novel *Sybil, or the Two Nations*, showed far greater comprehension of the essential division in our society between the rich who own the land and the poor who are landless. He did not advocate any distinct policy of reform, but he showed clearly enough that the responsibility lay with those who uphold the landed interest. Modern Conservatives could more usefully build on foundations laid by Disraeli in his earlier original phase than on the paternalism common to all parties.

### Lesson for U.N.

The defeat of the Communists in Korea may, for a time, discourage the Communist leaders but they will certainly not stand still—that would be fatal to them. The United Nations must, before they leave Korea, see that a just social system prevails, otherwise those brave men who fought and died will have been betrayed. Free elections are not enough, the people must stand on equal terms with reference to the bounty of nature. There must be a recognition of human rights. The right to life is the first fundamental and that must carry with it that all Koreans have an equal right to the land on which alone life can be sustained. It is either this, or Communism will creep back again.

The Communists, to consolidate their power, gave land to the peasants of North Korea. They did the same in Germany and they promise it everywhere. The Bolshevik revolution was the result of a landless peasantry. The trouble in the Philippines, Malay, Indo-China and the collapse of China was mainly a land problem. A piece of land and a decent government are the two things that the Asiatic peasant understands.

There is no need to share land out, that is too primitive—men simply want the use of land. Take for the community the value that attaches to land by the growth of the community, leave sacredly to the individual all that belongs to the individual. This is the hope of mankind and the answer to Communism. If the United Nations have not by now learned this fundamental lesson their labour and sacrifice will be in vain.—H. R. LEE, in the *Portsmouth Evening News*, October 9.

### Spotlight on Profit Controls

A repercussion of the impression that a government by means of positive controls can somehow reduce real prices and thus arrest the rise in the cost of living was expressed by Mr. J. W. Gibson, trade union representative on the Newcastle Food Control Committee, when seconding a protest against the Ministry of Food "causing malpractices" by allowing traders only inadequate margins of profit. According to the *Daily Telegraph*, October 6, he said, "There is not a member of this committee who at some time or other has not knowingly or unknowingly contravened regulations. It is impossible for a man to have certain convictions and live up to them while Government departments are compelling people by force of circumstances to act contrary to their principles."

### Financing the Festival

The *Daily Telegraph*, October 5, reporting preparations for the Festival of Britain, said "Amusement caterers have agreed to pay a rent of £5 per foot of frontage for their booths for every million people attending. The rents pre-suppose an attendance of at least five million. Minimum rent for an attraction with a 20 ft. frontage will thus be £500 for the season. If the attendance is ten million between May and October, the rent will rise to £1,000.

Exactly! Rent arises in exact accordance with the presence and activity of the people as a whole. Note that the land value did not arise because the Festival was built, but because the Festival owns a site in the centre of a city of some eight million inhabitants. If the Festival had been double as sumptuous, but situated in a desert without communications, the site owners might whistle for their rents.

### Rising Prices

On October 6 the prices of galvanised household articles were increased by approximately six per cent. On October 17, prices of many articles of clothing increased by some ten per cent. Boots and shoes have risen by as much as five shillings a pair. There are rumours of increases in the price of cars. To what extent these increases are due to natural increases in the price of raw materials, currency manipulations, changes in subsidies, fostering combinations of producers, or taxation in its multifarious forms, no one could say with even approximate accuracy. To live under incalculable taxation is to live in a fool's purgatory. Complaints about the rising cost of living might usefully take the form, as a first step, of demanding the abolition of all taxes affecting commodities unless the exact cost to the purchaser can be clearly shown. Then discussion about living costs could proceed in a clearer atmosphere.

**Land and Freedom.** By Frederick Verinder. A comprehensive treatise on the principle and policy of Land Value Taxation. 3s. 6d.