

Let's Abolish Taxes

Reviewed by SYDNEY MAYERS

At the completion of each course based on George's *Progress and Poverty*, the same question is inevitably raised by Henry George School students: "What can be done about it?" They refer to the great truths they have learned, which they are understandably eager to see applied. Unfortunately the answer is usually rather evasive: a complacent smile, a shrug of the shoulder, and a vague assertion that continued education should one day result in extensive acceptance of Georgist principles.

However, in St. Louis, Missouri, an energetic group devoted to Henry George's philosophy, apparently dissatisfied with a policy of patient waiting, have decided to "do something about it" *now*. Led by Noah D. Alper as president, they have formed the Public Revenue Education Council, to carry on a hard-hitting campaign under the motto, "Let's Abolish Taxes and Use Natural Public Revenue." This slogan is the theme of an effective series of advertisements which have been running in St. Louis newspapers, and is also the title of a splendid pamphlet PREC has just published and is widely distributing.

Quantitatively, *Let's Abolish Taxes* is a booklet of sixteen pages; but qualitatively it tells a story that could not be better told in a book many times its size. Starting with the pre-

mise that "Government, like an individual or a business, has a natural source of income and can be self-supporting," it logically discusses basic economic factors, scientific sources of public revenue, land values, land speculation, true private property, and the fundamental justice of the public collection of economic rent for community purposes. Its well-packed columns contain an abundance of factual material, clarified by cleverly-designed graphic illustrations. Although no mention is made of Henry George or his works, the spirit of George pervades every page. In fact, *Let's Abolish Taxes* is a fine example of the manner in which George can be "modernized" without changing or corrupting his essential message. What George needs is not present-day *interpretation*, which too often amends and distorts, but rather present-day *application*, which the PREC publication accomplishes quite efficiently. For this reason, it has an appeal that should be of great value in the cause of a free economy.

The Public Revenue Education Council (705 Olive Street, St. Louis, Missouri) is to be applauded for its alert activity, and deserves much credit for preparing and distributing this excellent treatise. It will certainly do a great deal of good, and PREC should have the sincere support of all who believe in the philosophy of freedom.



Leonard Lyons in the New York Post reports these politico-economic definitions offered by a NATO official:—"Capitalism is when you have two cows, sell one and buy a bull. Socialism is when you have two cows and are ordered to give one to your poor neighbor. Under fascism, the government

takes both cows and orders you to buy their milk. Under communism, the government takes your two cows and liquidates you. Under directed economy, the government takes your two cows, butchers one of them, hires two political appointees to milk the other, then throws away the milk."