

Let's Be Articulate—Now!

By SYDNEY MAYERS

THERE are times when public awareness of economic and social problems is such that individuals everywhere are peculiarly susceptible to enlightenment. Such a time is the present. It is well to recall the upsurge of Georgist activity which took place in the thirties during the depression, when so many felt the uncomfortable pinch of poverty. Widespread bitterness and discontent engendered an intense search for a way out of the economic morass. Of course, thousands trod the collectivist path, but there were those who learned (many at the Henry George School) that freedom could open the door to prosperity. The important point is that the atmosphere of the particular era was conducive to a thoughtful endeavor to discover an acceptable answer to existing problems.

It seems obvious that today's events and conditions once again offer a splendid opportunity to find a large and receptive audience for an aggressive presentation of George's principles. Everyone feels the burden and inequities of ever-increasing taxation, and would be most willing to be shown how easily taxes could be abolished. The manner in which money is being debased and cheapened by inflation makes wage-earners extremely eager to learn why a dollar is worth two bits. Continuing encroachments on personal liberty create a desire to know the cause of such a practice. The paradoxical inability to make ends meet, in spite of tremendous

production and fat pay envelopes, causes confusion and wonderment that carry a fervent wish to clarify the seeming inconsistency of this phenomenon. And the frightening threat of war instills a profound hope that an assured way to peace may be found.

All of these circumstances now, in 1959, bring about the same need, the same urge for education that existed in the dark depression days of twenty-five or thirty years ago. It is literally an Open Sesame to a ready "market" for economic insight, a golden chance for those who would spread knowledge of the true principles of political economy. However, to do so requires alertness, energy and (above all) articulateness. Henry George during his lifetime had only tongue and pen with which to convey his great message, yet he broadcast it far and wide. Today the means of communication have multiplied manifold, and those who currently propose to propound the philosophy of freedom should take advantage of all available methods of communication, to reach as many eyes, ears, hearts and minds as possible.

Given the will to do the job, the means are at hand; but the will must be there. The time has come, as the Walrus said, to talk of many things; not of ships and sails and sealing wax, but of taxes and inflation and (believe it or not) poverty. It is not enough for those who know the truth to tell it to others just as wise. The voice of Georgism must be heard throughout the land—loud, clear and articulate.