

Sydney Mayers

VIEWS THE NEWS

According to a report from London, Britain is quite worried that the proposed tunnel through the English Channel will attract even greater population to its already crowded southeastern corner. As they complacently await the inevitable rise in land values, we are inclined to doubt that southeast England's landowners share their government's concern.

* * * * *

"Are recessions a thing of the past?" is the title of a New York Times article, which then states that "as the national economy continues to expand . . . government policy is credited for maintaining the present boom, which shows no signs of abating." This news is welcome and encouraging, but also a bit confusing, since we cannot resist asking a question: whatever happened to the War Against Poverty?

* * * * *

The United States has signed a trade agreement with Rumania, and is trying to build other "bridges" to Eastern Europe, in an endeavor to weaken Russia's hold on its satellites. We may cynically take a dim view of the *bona fides* of the Soviet block, but we must concede that people you do business with do tend to be friends, not foes.

* * * * *

The New York Times attributes the current economic development of Guatemala to the "rare" honesty of its present regime. Such governmental integrity is certainly commendable, but let us also note another phase of Gua-

temala's new policies which doubtless contributes to the growth of its economy, i.e.: the warm encouragement the government is giving to the nation's productive capacities.

* * * * *

The pending proposal by Nassau County, New York, to subject all vacant land to the same tax assessments as improved land has aroused bitter opposition, and has been vehemently denounced on the curious ground that it is "discriminatory against owners of unimproved land." Ludicrous as this claim is, it seems to stem logically from an illogical system of taxation, which penalizes the diligent and rewards the slothful.

* * * * *

Page 34 of a recent issue of The New York Times headlines: "U.S. Is Urged to Encourage Role for Private Capital in Latin America," and a news caption on Page 36 of the same issue reads: "Chile's Leftist Candidate Vows Legal Seizure of U.S. Concerns." To paraphrase a classic proverb, you invest your dollars and you take your chances!

* * * * *

In France, where there are 11 telephones for every 100 inhabitants, compared with 43 for each 100 in the U. S. A., the usual wait for a telephone installation is 14 months — and right now there are 2,300,000 applicants for service on the waiting list. Might it be a coincidence that France's phone service is administered by its Post Office Department, whereas ours is provided by private enterprise?