

THE SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD by Abraham Ellis, Arlington House, New Rochelle, N.Y., 1971 200 pages, \$7.95.

Reviewed by Dorothy Sara

In his first chapter Abraham Ellis states, "The Social Security System has clearly not proven to be a panacea for the dilemma of poverty in the midst of plenty nor has it alleviated the fears of economic security." This sets the tone of the book, which does not exclusively confine itself to an exposition of our social security system enacted in 1935. It gives the historical background of the development of welfare statism (including social security systems) in foreign countries as well as similar conditions in this country.

The author discusses the effects of inflation and how it robs the recipient of social security funds from getting an equitable return for the tax he pays into the social security system. Tables are given, showing how the individual would fare much better if he paid that amount of money into insurance or other savings plan that was voluntary and not imposed by governmental bureaucracy.

The book explains how in a real economic crisis the government could have trouble in meeting its social security obligations to the millions of old people whose very existence depends on the monthly checks. Also it points up the unfairness to prudent young people who could get much higher returns in their old age if they chose to invest the money which they are compelled to pay in taxes for social security. Of course, the blow is softened by the tax collector calling it a "contribution to social security" and the word "tax" is not used.

Mr. Ellis tells how the minimum wage law adversely affects production and is the cause of unemployment—to the detriment of the individual's and the country's economy. The minimum wage law, says the author, is a means of locking out inexperienced young people from the labor market where they might be developing their work skills and earning a living. He explains the Medicare program and how it works along with the social security system. The book emphasizes the politics behind the myriad of "social services" and the way in which the public is being fed unrealistic facts through the propaganda machine of not only the social security system but from the office of the Health, Education, and Welfare program as well.

Abraham Ellis has done a creditable job of research and fluent writing. His book can bring to the layman and student, as well as to the professional economist, an understanding of the fraud of social security, which theme the author used as a vehicle for exposing the many

facets of welfare legislation that stand in the way of individual liberty in a free economy.

The political motivation behind the architects and administrators of the social security system is told by the author in this paragraph: "The Social Security System has now become the personal plaything of whoever happens to be in the White House at any given time and is the device by which those on the outside looking in, seek to oust the current incumbent. If there were ever a case of direct pandering for votes, this is it."

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San Francisco — Soon

Across the mall from Fisherman's Wharf, at the Holiday Inn, the Georgists will gather from July 7th to 11th for the annual conference. Reservations should be made through the Holiday Inn at 1300 Columbus Street, San Francisco, Cal. 94133. Rates are \$23, single or \$28, double. There will be harbor or Bay Area tours, "Get Acquainted" gatherings, a wine tasting party and an excellent program.

Seminar workshop sessions were held in San Anselmo and San Rafael in May, co-sponsored by the Social Action Committee of Temple Rodef Scholom in San Rafael and the HGS of Northern California. The film "One Way to Better Cities" produced by the Schalkenbach Foundation, was shown at each meeting. The discussions explored goals in the field of housing and the effects of various taxes on these goals.

New Jersey HGS headquarters suffered the familiar fate of being in a building that is to be razed. The new location at 50 Washington Terrace, East Orange, New Jersey 07017, in the Deferred Benefits Building, is near to bus lines and the Erie Lackawanna railroad station. There are ample parking facilities and visitors are invited, but as Washington Terrace is a short curving street it might be well to telephone for further directions, (212) 672-0313, before starting out.

New York's Spanish students gathered at 50 East 69th Street for a graduation celebration on May 21st and received certificates from their instructors: Sra. Rosa H. de Ulloa, Sr. Manuel Beltré and Sr. Lionel M. Gonzalez, Professora Zoila Maria Castro was mistress of ceremonies, and representatives from Progreso y Miseria, Economía Aplicada and Pedagogía spoke. Arnold A. Weinstein, HGS President gave a closing "Saludo." A musical program of distinction followed.

At the NYHGS 115 students were graduated from Fundamental Economics courses based on Progress and Poverty. A six-weeks course in foreign trade, based on Protection or Free Trade, is now in progress.

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Stanley Rubenstein, director of the HGS Long Island Extension, was interviewed recently in the extensive feature regarding land value taxation, by the financial editor of Newsday, Mr. Rubenstein, as moderator, has again completed a radio series for WVHC, the Hofstra College station. The participants included economics professors from the State University of Stony Brook, also Jerome Medowar, Gerald Schleicher, Professor Jack Schwartzman, all residents of Long Island, and Arnold A. Weinstein, president of the HGS in New York.