



I read with interest and appreciation the letter of J. J. Pot of Slikkerveer, Holland commenting on "Many Taxes—Two Sources" in (Nov.) HGN. I consider the exclusive use of rent-of-land to support government to be the ideal. In this I do not compromise. Furthermore I think this can be achieved when costs go down, production goes up and rent-of-land increases, as I believe it will. Aside from this, Mr. Pot and I have, at the moment, different viewpoints.

Where we collect some rent-of-land, either as part of the general real estate tax or as specific location value taxes, we do not support all government or take all the rent-of-land. I accommodate myself to the facts as they are and I seek a beginning and an increase in the use of this source we should use—and I realize it is not a tax. I see an advantage in using today's terminology and will strive for full education in spite of this. Further, in by-passing the idea of "single tax," I find we break down resistance, especially among economists — many of whom will approve higher taxes on land values. But on the basis of limited application we can seek an understanding of the basic facts of economic science regarding two sources of revenue and the effects of using one or the other or both, directly or indirectly. Mr. Pot's viewpoint is that of a scholar and differs from mine; since I seek to educate for application under today's conditions. I want the nose of the camel in the tent; may-be more of the camel (land value taxation) will get in in time—then perhaps all.

NOAH D. ALPER  
St. Louis, Mo.

Replying to Mr. J. J. Pot's letter (Nov. HGN), free-enterprise-minded Georgists should not object to direct payment for direct services — fire and police protection proportionate to the value of personal property and improvements—or for the use of streets, roads and highways measured in a practical way by gasoline consumption as a close approximation, or for street lighting and sewer service.

Land value taxation is a social problem. People-created land rent should be collected publicly for two reasons: 1) to eliminate land and resource speculation which causes industrial crisis; and 2) to distribute the amount collected in equal shares to all citizens (shares to minors to be used for their education).

Otherwise Georgists will have to be able to convincingly answer in one sentence this question asked in any taxpayers' meeting, "you (Georgists) mean to say that the man with the \$5,000 house pays the same tax as the man with the \$50,000 house, both houses on equal-sized lots side by side?"

However, all I have to say is I don't want any spend-happy public officials to squander *my* share.

With a suggested limitation of one per cent of market value on the property tax (excluding land), each property owner will pay a small amount according to the value of tangible property. And each owner of land will pay the economic value of his land. Fair?

ERICK S. HANSCH  
Portland, Oregon

My wife and I are visiting our daughter and her family here in Ethiopia. The sun shines every day, the climate is excellent, and it is 1500 miles above sea level. After the Italian occupation (1941) America and other countries tried to help, but there is as yet no orderly registration here of the population or of land ownership. Agri-

culture is the chief occupation but more and more heavy industry is coming in. On the large holdings there is an attempt to effect land reform for a better level of production.

As far as I can see we Georgists don't have any point of contact here, but the country is worth our attention. Its economy is growing fast and prices of land will go up of course. I am told a landowner can order a surveyor off his land—so while there is a tax on the land, nobody knows how much land anyone else owns.

King Haile Selassie is a great man who knows how to keep a balance between the common people and the landlords. The common people are getting more educated, but it is difficult for them to see what is ahead. The Amharen, or leading people, are all kings in their own right. All tourists and visitors to the country are the guests of the kings!

My son-in-law pays 16 percent of his income in taxes—that of course is a hindrance to business coming in from outside. Land is never sold to foreign occupiers, but is rented for long periods. English is the second language, so as I see it we can try to spread information on land value taxation to Ethiopians.

S. SEVENSTER  
Wonje Sugar Estate  
Ethiopia

From his concluding statement I infer that Gaston Haxo (Dec. HGN p. 15) would divide the GNP into three portions labelled wages, rent and money interest, but with the advent of LVT, borrowing would not be necessary or allowed. Will he please confirm?

VICTOR WASICKI  
St. Louis, Missouri

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## Interpretation of Rights

Dr. Robert V. Andelson, Assistant Professor of philosophy at Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, has received a \$5,700 grant to complete a book entitled *Imputed Rights: An Essay in Christian Social Theory*. It is an effort to construct a Christian philosophy of law growing out of his concern over various interpretations of human rights.

"I was disturbed about some attacks on the ideas regarding human rights coming both from Marxist quarters and from pragmatists," says Dr. Andelson. "I was disturbed because the idea of positive law had gained accept-

ance, even among members of the Supreme Court—the idea that law is an expression of power and nothing else." In his interpretation, rights are grounded on responsibility and provide freedom to perform obligations.

The author holds two degrees from the University of Southern California. He has been a member of the Auburn University faculty since June 1964. While at his former position in Northwestern State College of Louisiana he was instrumental in organizing a tax reform association. From 1959 to 1962 he was director of the HGS in San Diego.

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It happened in a Great Books course. Nina J. Jensen inadvertently dropped some Henry George literature on a library magazine shelf. Someone picked it up and enrolled in a correspondence course to study *Progress and Poverty*. Miss Jensen, surprised and encouraged by this, began passing her copy of HGN around, even sending one to a state senator. Recently she gave information on the local radio station at Hastings, Nebraska, for listeners wishing to take the course by mail from the Henry George School.