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Tells Forum Indirect Levies Contribute To Unemployment

**Director Of Henry George School Of Social Science
Offers Single-Tax Theory As Essential Remedy
For Economic Depression**

Sales tax and other indirect imposts were assailed here yesterday afternoon by Ocar H. Geiger, director, Henry George School of Social Science, New York, as dishonest levies and contributors to unemployment.

Mr. Geiger spoke before the Baltimore Open Forum meeting at the Lyric, devoting most of his address to an explanation of the late Henry George's single-tax theory and to a plea for its adoption. Mr. Geiger offered the single tax as an essential remedy for the economic depression.

Also Called Crime Cure

Had he had time enough, he said, he would have shown that the single tax also would cure "crime and disease."

His audience of 500 men and women received his hour-and-a-half address in a silence broken occasionally by applause from members of the Maryland Tax Reform Association, single-tax proponents, who filled some of the boxes.

Would Tax Land Only

Holding that land alone should be taxed, Mr. Geiger argued that taxes on personal property, incomes and commodities tend to produce or increase unemployment because they are "taxes on human effort and thrift." Using the words of an eighteenth-century physiocrat, he also described indirect taxation as being "designed to get the most feathers with the least squawking." Sales taxes and similar

imposts, he said, are resorted to by governments "to keep the consumer from knowing he's paying taxes."

Illustrating the effect of "taxes on human effort and thrift," he said that the high, slit-like windows in old Dutch and Spanish houses were the result of a tax levied on windows exceeding a certain standard width. Earlier houses in those two countries had had windows almost as wide as the houses themselves.

Gives Ownership Figures

Mr. Geiger said Federal statistics show that five per cent. of the population of the United States owns all the land in this country. "No wonder," he added, "that four per cent. of the population gets eighty per cent. of the wealth, eighty per cent. of the country's annual income and that the poorest twenty-five per cent. of the population in 1930 got less than four per cent. of the national income."

Quoting Professor Gardner Means, of Columbia University, Mr. Geiger said that if the trend toward wealth concentration shown in the last twenty years continued in seventy years all the wealth of the United States would be in the control of six corporate interests. The wealth concentration trend has been so accelerated since Professor Means made his calculations fifteen months ago that, Mr. Geiger said, the result he forecast actually would come about within fifty years, if the pace were held.