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"Unless its foundations be laid in justice the social structure cannot stand." So wrote Henry George. In our age the structure is global and the solution of the problems must be sought globally.

No one has more ably pointed out the difference between the laws of production and those of distribution than has Henry George in Book IV Chapter IV of The Science of Political Economy. Current "economics" seems to be interested mainly in production. Witness the panicky sentiments whipped up over the "population explosion" and the attempts at staving off its consequences by "family planning." In some places more positive ways are sought by increased production. But where the indispensable natural factors are monopolized, it will mean only a short respite while the "progress" is being absorbed into rent and "poverty" remains as before.

As an instance of how methods of increasing production are hopefully greeted can be mentioned the award of the Nobel Peace Prize for 1970 to an eminent plant biologist for his wonderfully successful work in creating new varieties of wheat with a much higher yield. At the beginning of the 19th century, T.R. Malthus scared the world with his theory of population, for which even a true liberal like John Stuart Mill fell. Henry George refuted it and subsequent events showed its absurdity so that it was outmoded for some time. It had a come-back as "Neo-Malthusianism" for some time, and now it has turned up again as an "explosion." It is a good sedative remedy against qualms of social conscience, because it makes politicians and others believe that the social and international evils are consequences of immutable laws, whereas if you look at it as something that can be changed by human effort, mankind can be made really free to pursue happiness. No more encouraging is the awarding of the Nobel Prize in Economic Science to Prof. Paul A. Samuelson for his work - which is technical rather than based on fundamental principles.

Had there been a Peace Prize at the time of the Industrial Revolution it would no doubt have been given to James Watt. His invention enormously increased wealth production and people were with apparent good reason expecting the "golden age" - but after monopoly of natural resources had reasserted itself, we instead got the "bleak ages" in which we still are. True, the poverty is not any longer everywhere of things material but of things spiritual, and of liberty. It is against this that youth is fretting.

It seems to me that we are at a crucial point from which a really new departure could be made. In terms of technique and communication the world is really small, and the solution of its problems feasible. The strife going on is really one of ideologies. There is a common denominator from which a thread of pacification could be spun. This common ground is the recognizing of the fact that the Bounty of the World is the gift of God to all mankind and cannot be monopolized by some few who can demand tribute from the others for access to it.