

A Word With You

THE most conspicuous fact in the world today is the rivalry between the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. This is not necessarily because it is the most important thing, but because the governments of both countries never give us a moment's rest from it.

The U.S.S.R. is committed to an aggressive policy, and furthermore is making noisy and impressive efforts to rival the West technologically. As for this country, our government's foreign policy seems to revolve entirely around Russia. The only requirement for an alliance between the U.S.A. and another country appears to be a mutual stand against the Soviet Union.

The U.S.A. is supposed to be leader of the "free world," which can include dictatorships, feudal tyrannies and even Communist countries which happen to disagree with Russia. The U.S.A. is prepared to side with any mogul, howsoever he may tread upon his people, so long as he frowns on Russia—more than that, we are prepared to bribe him so he will keep frowning and smiling in the right directions..

Furthermore, the various moguls have learned their lesson well and have astutely measured in monetary terms their price for staying with the free world . . . the free world!

Our Secretary of State exasperates our allies with his eternal harping on his one theme, "what about Russia?" Never mind the earnest struggles of Europe to find a new orientation in the world, never mind the aspirations of the emergent peoples of Asia and Africa, never mind the inter-relations of all these nations—"what about Russia?"

The irony of it is that this narrow view keeps us traipsing behind Russia. When she gets in her licks in any

particular area of the world, then we get all distraught and try to catch up.

Surely the U.S.A. with its greatness, its heritage of liberty, should have something better to offer the world than this vain and childish contest. Granted that world communism is a menace, most of the world's population would gladly prefer guidance and real help on social and economic problems from America than from Russia. Instead our government bars them from trading freely with us, extends a degrading charity and treats them like pawns in a power struggle.

America *does* have something great to offer the world—the most effective antidote to communism that exists—and that is the philosophy of Henry George. This is just the sort of thing that the newly awakened peoples of the world are hungry for—basic information on how to manage their economy. In its zeal to forestall communism, our State Department would do well to rediscover this American economic philosopher and foster his teachings around the world.

Of course, America needs the Georgist philosophy as much as Afghanistan does, but we Georgists would gladly see other countries get hold of it. We could even swallow our bile when we are told that it can only apply to an agrarian economy, and reply, "Go ahead, then, and teach it to the agrarian economies of the world."

—Robert Clancy

Vol. 21, No. 5

April, 1958

The Henry George News is published monthly by the Henry George School of Social Science 50 E. 69th Street, New York 21, N. Y. Publication Committee: Lancaster M. Greene, Chairman; Otto K. Dorn, William S. O'Connor; Alice Elizabeth Davis, Editor. Entered as Second Class Matter, November 15, 1943; at the post office of New York, N. Y. under the Act of March 3, 1879. Subscriptions, \$2 a year; single copies, 20c.