breaking ground

Dot mobi 'landrush'

Leading British internet domain registrar UKreg is inviting customers to preorder their new dot mobi domain. The invitation describes the opportunity as a "landrush", and urges users to "stake their claim"

Internet top level domains like .com, .co.uk, or the new .mobi for mobile internet services, set the boundaries for owning unique domains on the net.

A fairer way

(cont. from p.1) understand the nature of the change and the benefits involved." This point is a straightforward recognition of the principle task ahead for reformers today, all around the world.

Secondly - also against - the Committee believed that the public was eager for tax reform, and wanted it now. The public would not look kindly on delay, or on being treated as guinea pigs, it argued. The Committee noted that "commentators who advocate the introduction of a land value tax have suggested that it should be introduced initially in pilot form". No evidence was presented to the Committee in support of that approach, either by the Foundation or by other witnesses. However the Committee's report does reference its source: a research paper from the Lincoln Foundation - A Blueprint for Smart Tax in Britain by Tony Vickers, one-time CEO of the Henry George Foundation. The Committee was sceptical of the plan. It doubted whether the public would "accept a situation where reform to local taxation was delayed in order to allow details of a replacement scheme to be tested by pilot schemes". This point is at the very least a challenge to UK strategists for reform.

The Committee's third point in its summary is a positive one. "We considered at length the many positive features of a land value tax" the report states. Many of those features it concludes "are consistent with our recommended local property tax [LPT] particularly its progressive nature." However, evidentially, in the judgement of the committee, these positive features were outweighed by the points against.

"Having considered both rateable value and land value as the basis for taxation" the Committee concludes, "we concur with Layfield [UK Committee of Inquiry, 1976)] who recommended that any local property tax should be based on capital values."

Ricardo's Law by Fred Harrison

Ed Dodson reflects



Fred Harrison is championing an aggressive campaign. His new book Ricardo's Law takes no prisoners as he examines the actions, motivations and indecisions of nearly everyone who has held power or is in power today. For reformers this strategy is, of course, a gamble. On the other hand, even political scientists acknowledge that the way public policies are changed in social democracies is best described as "disjointed incrementalism."

I have no idea whether Harrison's attack on conventional wisdom and a thousand years of entrenched

privilege will register. But, I do share his sense of urgency. I live in a country that must raise \$500 billion annually just to service the Federal government debt, and where the Republicans (assisted by some Democrats) have orchestrated what is likely history's largest shift in tax burden onto producers. Greed, ostentatious display of personal wealth, and conspicuous consumption are put forward as fundamental rights. If I could figure out how to get a public audience to listen, I would be joining Harrison to damn this sham of a democracy. Mostly, I behave myself and wait for the inevitable implosion that is sure to come. L&L

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