

## Letters

Sir:

The Frank Goble excerpt, **Struggle for progress**, struck a responsive chord . . . (NEWS, Sept.-Oct. 74)

Mr. Goble believes the best hope for the broad acceptance of the Georgist point of view is for those of us who share it to address the leadership, the influential community. One body of testimony which first led me in that direction is a discerning essay by Albert Jay Nock, called simply **Henry George** and written in 1939 . . .

Nock, deeply sympathetic with George and recognizing him as 'a man who is one of the first half-dozen of the world's creative geniuses in social philosophy,' suggests that the philosopher himself was guilty of the misdirection singled out by Goble. The burden of Nock's essay . . . is a careful realization of the tragic (for the human race) fact that, having seen the kernel of truth, Henry George chose to put aside the philosopher's robes, step into the streets and put his case directly to the people . . .

Mr. Goble suggests that 'our efforts should be devoted to winning converts among professionals and intellectuals and also with those with political power.' It is here that I see cause to qualify my agreement. There are none so blind to the truth as those with political power.

It seems to me, the intellectual magnitude of Henry George notwithstanding, that the work is only begun. We are not ready yet to win converts except through further exposition. The whole thing is like a jigsaw puzzle. Enough of the pieces are in so [that] some of us can make out the picture, but too much is still missing.

Mr. Goble points to the current blindness toward natural law. He is right; that is an area in the jigsaw puzzle we are filling in for ourselves. It presents us [with] a particular problem. The concept of natural law has not, however, gone into total eclipse.

. . . Robert Ardrey, particularly his book **The Social Contract**, ought to be required reading for anyone interested in George. Natural law is fundamental to the Ardrey book . . . and in fact his book amounts to a new understanding of that natural law. Ardrey is an understanding and creative spokesman for a group of anthropologists who have made major discoveries in recent years that concern us directly. He has explained the role of territory in animal—thus human—affairs, and has thereby given us a substantially improved insight into just what it is we are dealing with in our efforts to establish that the earth is our common birthright . . .

A considerably more significant part of the puzzle where too many pieces are still missing is the relationship between justice in land equity and the population explosion . . . It is popular to see forced, or centrally planned, birth control as the only answer to the exploding population, which is of course a major retreat from man's recent advances into the untrampled (sic) realm of freedom, and another excellent example of blind disregard for natural law . . .

The population explosion seems to me to be exactly what we must expect so long as society insists upon denying to the mass of people a fair share of the fruits of the earth. It is an instinctive thrashing out against servitude . . . Population will be brought under control, in my judgment, by the free exercise of individual reason only when poverty has been removed . . . It is an intuitive belief on my part . . . The link between poverty and population is one which must be established on some other ground than intuition, and is part of the work Mr. Goble suggests (to me at least) is important enough these days to keep us in off the streets.

Richard Noyes

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