

---

## "To the Editor"

The income tax, more than any other, has changed the status and stature of the Federal government to such an extent that it has become the master and the people enslaved beggars. We have merely to note that getting "grants" has become a skilled job these days, at all levels of government below the Federal, and among numberless institutions.

One of your readers, who holds "very little resentment for the income tax," fails to analyze the two parts of the tax he hates, the "property tax." I join him in abhorring part of the property tax, the part on all except the value of land. Were he to segregate this latter part (the value of land), he would find that property taxation on location value does fine things, when properly instituted.

1-A true tax on the value of land cannot be shifted, being borne by the owner. 2-Tax land value and the price goes down; tax cigarets and the price goes up. 3-Low interest rates mean high land prices; high interest rates mean low land prices. (This is the capitalization process at work.) 4-Location value is created mostly by population increase and by the community, and the tax thereon is the most just tax one can devise.

The property tax as presently constituted promotes urban sprawl by mitigating against improvement and in favor of neglect.

*The above (slightly edited) is a letter from Wilbur E. Pereira, written to and published by The Los Angeles Times.*

---