



Having had an interest in the Georgist philosophy for sixty years I assume a paternal attitude toward the literary produce of the current activists in the field. Editorial comment is of particular interest as it reflects an established leadership. It has been my belief for many years that the only group that has the capacity to qualify as true economists are the Georgists, and that others, commonly posing as such, are either philosophers or business analysts. Therefore on encountering authoritative opinion on economic rent, I am stimulated to note how closely the writer adheres to the criteria of being an economist or a philosopher, or both.

On page 14 of the May HGN is a series of comments on a bookmark. I like the comment on "profit," to me a romantic term.

I might question the definition of the term "capital" as being redundant. It could be stated simply that "capital is wealth" since it is of the nature of all wealth and has the common characteristic of being consumable. That being the case, when you discuss the "uses" of any wealth, you leave the field of economics and make a sally into the field of philosophy. The use of capital in production is really consumption and serves no productive function, hence it is responsive to the moral laws of philosophy rather than to the a-moral laws of economics.

The definition of "political economy" is George's and is probably correct. It ends with distribution. Should "exchange" occur it is presumed that distribution has been completed and wealth has entered into a phase of redistribution, subject to the moral laws of philosophy. This, I believe, is an understanding of the highest impor-

tance if the solutions we hope for will be attained. Most writers dealing with economic questions confine their discussions to the phenomena associated with the acquisition of the wealth of others and leave the strictly economic aspect much obscured.

"Economic interest" is a contradiction of terms, nor is the "lending . . . of capital" economic in nature except in its small area as a phase in production, as adding to the value of a product by increasing its availability.

WILLIAM J. HARRINGTON, M.D.  
Appleton, Wisconsin

The fruits of land are collected by individuals, but it is *not* their income. They have to transfer it to the treasury, for they have to pay "the market value of the site-privilege," as one author puts it. Hence "privilege income," as proposed by Archie V. Gerárd (March HGN p. 12) is not the right term.

Government rents this privilege to the highest bidder, irrespective of the use he makes of it. I may offer the highest bid for a parcel just across the street, so that from the window of my living room I can keep a nice outlook over the meadows and the setting sun. I'm prepared to pay for this privilege. To think of produce or income from this lot in terms of money is nonsense.

Also "tax" is the wrong term. We should not burden persons or personal income, and since we advocate abolishing *all* taxes we should not spoil our case by speaking of a "single one." For a tax is a burden, but a rent for a privilege is not a burden, rather an offer at free will.

J. J. POT  
Slikkerveer, Holland

There are speculations about the capacity of the human race to seek a new environment on the moon. The facts however are in direct opposition.

The real value of the recent space flight is that it points out how beautiful and unique is planet earth, as viewed from an inhospitable moon. It gives us a sense of the value of the hospitable planet we have, and the desirability of keeping it in trust and liveable for future human beings.

We should be careful not to end life here by nuclear explosive poisoning, for survival of the species man, depends on our stewardship of our environment. The moon mission must not serve as an excuse for failure to solve location and other problems on what Buckminster Fuller calls "space-ship earth."

LANCASTER M. GREENE  
New York

I feel that the answer to suburban speculative holdings is quite simple. The owners must be willing to sell the land at the assessed valuation. As an example, land in many places in California is assessed at 25 percent of the assessed value. However, the assessed value may be only a fraction of the true value. A further example is land with a market value of \$200,000 with an assessed value of \$50,000, or in reality \$12,500. The owner should be willing to sell for \$50,000 or have taxes raised 400 percent to the true value of \$200,000.

WILLARD E. CRAWFORD  
Vallejo, Calif.

Why approach the "land theory" from the supernatural standpoint rather than from a natural standpoint—land, or matter, has been here for billions of years. Our planet could be a burned-out planet such as the moon, only that we have oxygen. Without oxygen can we have life or even "mind" without life? Man evolved, and through wars, laws, restrictions, protection and monopoly he started

his land grabs, and the man that never got in on the grabs or lost it through trickery, cunning, etc., is the poverty fellow (the Indians for example).

Timber, oil and minerals of all sorts were attractions for the land grabber (maybe land grants helped too).

Try and change the land grabber or speculator and he will ask you what kind of tricks are you pulling on him, or he will twist things around to make you look guilty instead of himself. If he holds land off the market he cries to the skies if he is taxed equally with the person that has a building on the land, yet in an indirect way the man with the building subsidizes the vacant landowner by excess tax.

It's a "natural" instinct for the land grabber not to let go of a good thing.

JOHN J. HICKS  
Elmhurst, New York

I have been studying the story underlying the problems of the Afro-Americans in Politics, and social activity in America. There is an article on "The First Generation, the Birth of Black America," in the June 1969 issue of Ebony Magazine by Lerone Bennett, Jr., also a book entitled *The Scholar and the Scalpel* by Donald Preston, that I recommend as supplemental in establishing in the American school system the Afro-American history asked for by many high school and college students. The book is the biography of the late Dr. Ulysses Grant Dailey, and it may be obtained by contacting Mrs. Eleanor Curtis Dailey, 1235 W. 112 Street, and floor, Chicago, Ill. 60643.

I am working with my black club to organize as many families in the block as possible, as students of Henry George School.

ROMEO NAVE  
Chicago, Ill.