

ment is from a distinguished man of letters whose name is withheld. The effect of Dove's book on many minds has been of like character.

"I have gone once through the George and Dove books and shall again. Have written a word about the former. The Dove book too is pleurably startling. Its clarity and style impressed me; its unusual reverence. We study books about freedom. Here is one which should be made a text book about oppressors. May schools and societies put it on the curriculum, and lecturers expound and introduce it. I am amazed that it has been buried so long; like the arts and exhibits of Greece. We think justice, good and truth cannot be lost: that they are dominant, self-propellant suns. They have *not* that power. They are jewels, easily and often lost. I have not thought long enough on the economics of the two books to understand fully.

"The humanity in both of them, especially the Dove book, is majestic, lovable, unusual.

"Let me put it in another way: you have opened the door and put into our home a welcome stranger carrying an undying bouquet. That Dove could write such a book in his times, makes me respect his race the more. I hope the Foundation that spreads the George works will adopt his too. I never heard of it in the colleges where I have been. Nelson's (a great Edinburgh) Encyclopedia does *not* include him though he was an Edinburgh man."

Statement by Hugo W. Noren

BEFORE THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE
UNITED STATES SENATE, MAY 7, 1936

REPRESENTING THE PITTSBURGH BRANCH OF THE HENRY
GEORGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE.

HAVING been a Democrat for 38 years it pains me to be under necessity to condemn this proposed tax bill. The bill is inconsistent with democracy and with the canons of taxation. The canons of taxation should be familiar to statesmen, but there is no hint either in the President's message of March 3, to the Congress or in the bill itself that the authors of this bill ever heard of them.

A revenue bill should conform to the following conditions:

"That it bear as lightly as possible upon production so as least to check the increase of the general fund from which taxes must be paid and the community maintained.

"That it be easily and cheaply collected, and fall as directly as may be upon the ultimate payers—so as to take from the people as little as possible in addition to what it yields to the government.

"That it be certain—so as to give the least opportunity for tyranny or corruption on the part of officials, and the least temptation to law-breaking and evasion on the part of taxpayers.

"That it bear equally—so as to give no citizen an advantage or put any at a disadvantage, as compared with others."

The bill under discussion violates all of these canons.

I am aware that mere condemnation of this particular bill is of no consequence if we have nothing better to offer.

I approve the Minority Report's suggestion to cut expenditures to make these taxes unnecessary, but I would count my time and expenses to come here lost, had I nothing else to propose.

There is a natural economic law for government revenue. It is plainly to be seen in all places and at all times. This economic law is as much a part of the order of things as are the laws of mathematics, physics or chemistry. It is the simplest of all the natural laws so that none need be in ignorance of the Creator's intention.

This is the law: Where two or three or more persons come to dwell together, there rent rises, a fund for their common use. This fund is the rent of land, known as economic rent. It is always sufficient. It is the surplus of superior sites. Unlike taxes it confiscates no man's earnings. We can take it all this year and a like or larger amount is available next year.

The bill under discussion bears no relation to this natural law. This bill is a part of a rapid process that will destroy this Republic. It is not in any sense a revenue measure. It is a punitive law invoked against persons and corporations in proportion to their success in producing wealth for the well-being of the people.

We maintain government as our agent to do certain things for all of us, so that we may have more time for ourselves to conduct our own individual affairs. This tax bill reverses our aim; it fails to collect any part of the very revenue that natural economic law provides for government. Then it lays heavy penalties upon us for doing the things we reserved to do for ourselves. By this kind of tax laws, the government, our agent we employ to help us, engages to destroy us.

This bill is based on the indefensible assumption that the agent, our government, has a proprietary right to confiscate whatever the agent sees fit out of what individuals produce. Under the assumption of this and like tax bills the producer has no right to his own product, save what the agent graciously allows him to keep. This is pure communism.

We have witnessed the deplorable spectacle of the government's professorial advisers chasing all over Asia and Europe to gather communistic nostrums to experiment with. This tax bill is, I believe, one of the choice morsels of what they brought us. Had it not been for the Supreme Court we would now be all but swallowed up in a flood of legislation, destructive of individual freedom heretofore so highly prized.

Could a greater tragedy come to a people who can boast of Henry George as their own native son? Henry George, who as an economist has no peer in all the world and whose published works rank him so high that to find anyone comparable we must go back to Moses.

What shall you do with this tax bill? Send it back to those who brought it forth. Until you can agree on a revenue measure based on natural economic law, cut

expenditures to make these new taxes unnecessary. You can start anywhere. Abolish the WPA. If you permit that corrupting institution long enough it will put us all in the bread line with none left to produce the bread. Abolish the Department of Labor that hangs like a millstone round the workers' necks. Abolish the so-called Department of Commerce, so that commerce may revive. Abolish the Department of Agriculture and let the farmers be free to function on their own. I am told there are hundreds of bureaus that you can dispense with to our great relief.

Draw up a revenue measure. You will find a good one in Article VIII of The Articles of The Confederation. That article VIII was of native United States vintage. It bears no relation to the communist confiscatory programme embodied in the tax bill here under discussion. The Article referred to conforms to natural economic laws.

Henry George School

New York, May 15, 1936

THE goal of 3,000 students in the basic course of the Henry George School of Social Science for the current school year has now been exceeded as LAND AND FREEDOM goes to press.

The enrollment of 3,247 in 163 classes in "Progress and Poverty" since last September 1, brings the total enrollment since the founding of the School in September, 1933, to 4,663 in 239 classes.

There are now seventy-three cities on the School's world-wide campus, fifty of which have been organized for the class work since last September.

The most recent centers to announce their plans for the opening of classes are New Orleans, La.; Montreal, Canada; Jerome, Ariz.; Benld, Ill.; and Elkins Park, Pa.

The teaching staff of the School now numbers 128. Teachers' Training Classes are being conducted in many cities including Houston, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Toronto and New York. The Foundation is thus being laid for taking 10,000 students through the study of "Progress and Poverty" during the next school year.

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Dr. John Dewey, Honorary President of the Henry George School of Social Science, attended a recent meeting at headquarters as the guest of Mrs. Anna George de Mille. In a short address he said that the School was combating economic illiteracy. He said that he had recently read a book by Walter Lippman in which the author recognizes the sharp distinction between proletariat and plutocrat, and says that this division does not exist as long as there is free land. But Mr. Lippman does not advocate a change in our policy of land ownership, nor does he call for a change in the present unsocial uses of rent; instead he advocates more government-directed social service.

"Such a policy is comparable to a physician who, knowing the anopheles mosquito to be the cause of malaria, would not use preventative methods and destroy the breeding places of this pest but as a solution would increase the supply and improve the methods of distributing quinine."

Going on to cite a case with which he was personally acquainted, Dr. Dewey told of a family which moved out to Denver, and because of lack of money to pay for the transportation charges on a grand piano, traded the piano for a small sum and a strip of land in Denver, at that time a frontier town. Later, when the state capitol building was erected near the site of their holding, they became wealthy

through the enormous increase in the value of this strip of formerly worthless land.

"If we were to ask most people what they thought of this, they would reply that this family was 'lucky,'" he continued. "We who have studied Henry George know that they had merely acquired the right to appropriate wealth from the community for the right to use that land."

Dr. Dewey declared himself proud to be the honorary president of so fine an institution and that the School had his best wishes for its rapid growth and development.

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The Henry George Fellowship News of Chicago, Number 7, is received and keeps up its high standard of excellence. It contains a report of the school dinner held March 25. It prints a list of the students enrolled and also names of the supporters of the School. It reports that California has seventeen classes with a total of 422 students. The paper is lively with a snap and vim to it that bespeak the enthusiasm of youth. The movement in Chicago is in good hands.

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J. B. McGauran of Denver writes us: "The late Oscar Geiger—God bless his memory—still lives in the good work of the Henry George School. Mrs. Nancy I. Miller who is a born teacher is having remarkable success with the Extension Class she has established in Denver. All her students are women, some of them active members of the Denver Women's Club. The School method is justifying itself here as elsewhere."

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A memorial meeting in honor of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, Georgeist father of the Chinese Republic at whose request "Progress and Poverty" and "Protection or Free Trade" were translated into Chinese by Dr. M. E. Macklin, was held in New York on April 26. Dr. Sun was extolled as "one of the world's great leaders."

The Henry George School of Social Science was represented by John Lawrence Monroe, Field Director, and Lancaster M. Green, member of the Board of Trustees, who presented copies of "Progress and Poverty," translated into Chinese, to the speakers on the programme.

Dr. Henry Noble MacCracken, President of Vassar College; Dr. Tsune-Chi Yu, Chinese Consul General in New York; W. Cameron Forbes, former U. S. Ambassador to Japan; Henry Wu, William M. Chadbourne and Prof. William Kilpatrick addressed the meeting.

Dr. Sun was a profound admirer of Henry George and his programme for the rehabilitation of China was based on George's economic and social philosophy. A tax on land value was to be the means of carrying out the third principle of the revolution's programme—to secure freedom of opportunity for the people of China.

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A dinner was held at the Hotel Gordon on April 4, by the first class to graduate from the Washington, D. C. Extension Classes. Mrs. Elizabeth M. Phillips was the instructor and a resolution was passed at the dinner commending her method of instruction. Congressman Charles R. Eckert was the principal speaker.

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Arthur H. Vetterman, teacher at the New York School, addressed the Economic Class of the Edgewood Park Junior College, Greenwich, Conn. Dr. Thomas H. Billings, faculty member of the college, expressed a keen interest.

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George Bingham, one of the school faculty in New York City, gave the keynote address at the celebration of the centenary of Anthony O'Rafferty, famous Irish bard.

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Charles William Wilson, student at the Henry George School in New York, has chosen to write for his thesis at Columbia a life of