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GUEST EDITORIAL LAND RENT TAXATION KEY TO A CIVILIZED WORLD

After a century of Progress and Poverty and a half century of Henry George Schools, it is long past time that we brought out the potential of George's program, by insisting that every one of any race or religion, at any age, either sex, of any or no skill, have the opportunity at all times to exercise his faculties at his skill level, in the business of his choice, and receive the equivalent of his production.

We must believe that "one person and the right makes a majority" - or will attract a majority, if its ethics and practicality are concisely presented to the public and to the many activist organizations whose programs would be vastly facilitated, if people could walk away from unethical or personally unsafe work or residence - with only nominally priced sites and surplus jobs - without having to wait for government to take appropriate action.

Economic justice, a much less corrupt government, and a decent living - not summit meetings, treaties, alliances, loans, increased production, computers, psychoanalysts, education, charity, armaments, prisons or capital punishment - can alone minimize theft, prostitution, wife and child abuse, broken families, dissipation, terrorism, war, malnutrition, a multitude of stresses, illnesses, incapacities and premature deaths.

The wretched of India are free of English political rule, as Africa is largely free of foreign rule, but none is free of landholders, domestic or foreign; nor is any other former colony; nor is our neo-colonial empire of Latin America, Indonesia and elsewhere. Nor are our own millions of unemployed or partially employed - nor the fully employed, for that matter, paying in speculative ground rent what taxes and other living costs leave.

Only when we free the land for equal use by all can we have a civilized world, which is our only assurance of a sustainable world; facing both early nuclear destruction, and steady losses from unrecycled scarce resources, poisoned environment and food, scarce and poisoned water. We can afford both the immediate charity needs and economic opportunity for the entire world to care for itself, and should stop at nothing less.

- Howard L. L'Hommedieu
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