

For Fifth Freedom

By Dr. Charles J. Lavery

Plato wrote: "It is useless to try by endless reform legislation to cure rascality in a state when its fundamental order is wrong." That is as true today as when Socrates passed it on to his friend, Plato. But the truth of it doesn't appear to "take" in the minds of a large number of our "higherups" in government, and business and industry.

Any state order is wrong when landlordism (which is made possible by the state) hinders people from the full enjoyment of their inalienable right to free use of

land, any kind of land; more especially urban land—city and town lots—where site values are so much greater than elsewhere, and ground rent and taxes severally contribute so enormously to the price of things.

Land monopoly, the "daddy" of all monopolies, must be abolished or constructive reform legislation can be only useless, utterly futile. Lack of access to land (raw materials) by individuals has been the chief cause of unrest and, as a consequence, war and revolutions. True, in Europe and Asia.

We, here in the United States, are going along the same road fast, too fast for comfort. That trend must be stopped.

Why doesn't Congress approach the inflation problem the right way? Why worry about methods of taxation when landlords are collecting rent, as their own, which rightfully belongs to all of us—our government? Congress should levy the needed amount of tax on income from Land Rent, prospective as well as actual, and so doing, give the consuming public a much-needed rest from higher prices, and incidentally, make some headway toward budget balancing and national currency. Now is the time for Congressmen to get in with the voters who have been supporting both landlords and government.

The Atlantic Charter is a "wash-out" so far as individuals are concerned. It stands for statism, not democracy. We have been, and still are in need of a 5th Freedom, i. e., Economic Freedom. It ought to have been first on the list inasmuch as the four freedoms are impossible without it.

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