



Most communities and nations continue to use taxation as a weapon to crush the middle classes and to put men out of business . . . It seems that the ideas of Karl Marx have come to be more readily accepted everywhere than those of such great Americans as Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Henry George, etc. Why? Marx in the Communist Manifesto advocated the graduated income tax as an important step towards achieving the goals of socialism. Just take a glance at the popularity of such a tax among our political leaders on all levels of government.

It is time for all of us to re-examine the teachings of Henry George who, in his classic on economics, *Progress and Poverty*, reveals his respect for the dignity of the individual and the sacred rights of person and property.

VERLIN GORDON
St. Johns, Ohio

Stephen R. Cord made some excellent points about the immediacy of results desired by the college activists (Feb. HGN), and the large number of causes which plague our current social scene. He suggests that George was wrong, to put it mildly, about the "privately appropriated land rent being the root of all evil."

I am a newcomer to the ranks of Georgists, and the bloom is not yet off the rose, so perhaps I can speak with more personal conviction after my "conversion experience." In addition, while teaching several basic classes, I have always included the idea that current situations are not easy to correlate with Mr. George's solution since we have devised an infinite number of small modifications

in our social system in order to offset the problems generated by that basic problem.

Instead of building a nice straight economic house we have an awesome monster which cantilevers out all over the place. Somehow it stands, but it looks messy. We may not have the economic depressions that George foresaw, or some of the other symptoms, but we have traded our economic losses for the emotional ones of unhappiness, group militancy, class hatred, loss of personal freedoms and a slowly tightening police state. Maybe these are what Mr. Cord refers to as "assorted forms of irrationality and veniality."

Along with the militants, Professor Cord and other writers, it seems clear that Georgists cannot afford to abandon the need for short term "symptomatic" relief. We certainly must keep the patient alive and its life support system functional, but we must also root out that central cancer which continues to send out its stream of cells to re-infect the body. This is the message which must be brought home to our youth and to others as well. Perhaps the best vehicle for this truth is the message of freedom. Certainly our youth identify with this. We must send forth the message that it is the lack of true freedom in our "free" system that makes our problem. Young people think they are "liberal" because they do not understand the term, and the greybeards only reinforce the misunderstanding by making great noises about inconsequential things like hair, beads and skirts while ignoring the real values. Youth may be overzealous, but age has not done much to solve the problems either.

CLAY BERLING
Berkeley, Calif.

Perhaps I am impertinent in taking issue with Steven Cord's remarks in the February HGN. Although I sec-