

**GOVERNMENT FOR
 THE PEOPLE**

By DR. HENRY GEORGE III

WE read of the immutable law in Genesis "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread." This was the curse the Almighty imposed on man when he drove him forth from the Garden. To toil for a living is the primary law of life. Nature has endowed man with the hands and the mind that he may fill his belly. But through ignorance, man has become selfish and the law by which he must work out his own salvation he has distorted to his own convenience. Too often do we see those who toil not, neither do they spin, absorbing by special privilege the fruit of the toil of others. By this denial of his brother's rights man has compelled his brother to toil in his stead, but Nature cannot be flouted, and the resulting struggle has been the downfall of every civilization—the withering of every race. From the seed of injustice has come the fruit of slavery and corruption.

We here in Wilmington are acutely aware that it is a denial of the Natural Law and the acceptance of a man made law that has intensified the misery of our minority groups. It is because we know that our Negro citizens have been woefully discriminated against that we advance as our first measure the fact that we must have First Class Citizenship regardless of race or creed.

We hold that our Negro citizens do not get the benefits of the public services which they pay for in taxation. And it is this denial of Justice for All that activates us in our desire to see that they have a hospital that is open to all, wherein their doctors and nurses shall enjoy all the rights and privileges that we of the white race now enjoy. We hold that our Negro citizens should have the opportunities of civil service appointment to any civic position on the single standard of ability.

We recognize that there may be difficult days ahead for us all, and that a Negro citizen, having met the merit system qualifications, must have the identical rights of tenure as his white brother. It has ever been that the last to be hired and the first to be fired is the Negro. We maintain on his merit let every man be judged, and that neither color, race nor creed shall stand in the scale of justice. It is to this end of enlightenment and understanding of tolerance and brotherhood between our peoples that we dedicate ourselves.

It is because we honestly believe that the city manager plan would help to improve Wilmington and would lessen the effect of politics in government that we Democrats advance it.

We hold that Delaware is shockingly backward in the care provided for our aged. We realize that a city election cannot change a State law as to what will be provided for our aged dependents, but we hold that the city of Wilmington should and must accept the responsibility for providing a decent level of self respect for our city's aged people. We hold that \$15.02 a month as an average for each of our old people in our State is a disgrace to a State possessing the wealth we enjoy.

The level of our civilization is measured not by fine boulevards and buildings, but in the care of our children, our infirm and our aged. We who boast about being from the First City in the First State must not forget we stand number 43, not first, on the list of care of our aged.

As with our aged, so with our young. We need here in Delaware a modern child labor law. Our care of our children is nearly as disgraceful as our care of our aged. We propose to work for a new State child labor law and institute in the meantime such measures as will protect our young in the enjoyment of their natural rights.

We hold that of all the public services, education is preeminent. We know that our school teachers have had a long heartbreaking struggle to get a decent living wage, and the rights they are entitled to, and that even now they are far, far below the average of progressive communities. We propose to see that our teachers, once past their probationary year, should begin at \$1,800, that they are guaranteed by the city a positive tenure of office so that they cannot be discharged with only 30 days notice save in the most blatant digressions from duty, and violation of the public trust. We hold that our teachers do not get a satisfactory or just pension and we propose to see that these corrections are made. We feel that to have good teachers we must be willing to pay good wages. Justice would have nothing less. We want the best teachers procurable for our children, and we think that every mother and father in Wilmington feels as we do.

As for our teachers, so also for our police and firemen. We hold that with the rising cost of living, our firemen's and policemen's wages should have ascended with the increased prices. We hold that what they or their families do in their leisure time is their own private business.