



Urquhart Adams (May HGN) thinks we should not "object to the state building the roads and post offices and operating the schools." Siding with neither Adams nor Johannsen, I beg to point out a few examples showing that in a good many countries such or similar activities were and are carried out by private enterprise to the full satisfaction of the public.

Post: For hundreds of years, the Princes of Thurn and Taxis served Central Europe as postmasters. Their organization was cheap and efficient. Cables, wireless transmission, TV, telephones are often operated by private operators.

Army: Wallenstein is dead, and so is his private army. But the police can be in private hands. I once proposed a watchmen's cooperative society, and all the big insurance companies in Israel promised me to allow their clients to deduct our salaries from the premium. Unfortunately, I then believed (like Mr. Adams) that the government ought to do this job, and refrained from carrying out my plan. Somebody else did it and earned a good many bucks!

Roads: When I was sitting for the Valuers' Examination (25 years ago) they asked me whether a subdivider ought to build roads himself and pay himself for the job, or wait a couple of years for the government to build them at their expense. I proved mathematically that he should build the road; I also submitted evidence that most subdividers are actually building those roads. The examiners agreed with me.

Schools: Henry George Schools are set up and managed by public-minded

private persons, *not* by government! The proof of the pudding is in the eating.

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The May 1963 Federal Reserve Bulletin points out the broadening use of installment and revolving credit. A larger proportion of our citizens have debt liabilities. There will be rapid growth in new households headed by those under 25. Such families are likely to use credit in increasing volume.

The article concludes that "a continued upward drift in the repayment-income ratio would not necessarily restrict new consumer purchases, unless the ratio increased because of a decline in income."

The squeeze of rising land or location rent is the trigger which Henry George saw reducing incomes at some point. When incomes decline the confident use of credit leaves us vulnerable to a further spiralling squeeze on new purchases. If we solve the location rent problem by land value taxation the swing in installment credit could not cause a recession of the depression order, in my view.

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Robert Clancy concluded his "Word With You" in the May HGN with "Wonder what the next age will be like?" Nuclear annihilation is, of course, a terrible thought to contemplate, but the current misrepresentation and apathy lead me to believe it can happen. So I wonder if there will be a "next age."

Incidentally, William L. Hall, mentioned on page 11 of the May HGN and in the first article in the April issue, was formerly director of the Henry George School of New Jersey.

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