

# A Word With You

THIS one is entitled "Words I Never Wrote." It consists of half-formed ideas for this column which were never fully worked out. Here are some of them:

There is a law of entropy in human affairs — that second law of thermodynamics which states that heat, beginning at a high level, spreads out until it is all dissipated. Things which begin at a high level of inspiration move through various phases until they peter out through deadly routine. The vision of religion becomes ritual, the high dedication of political pioneering becomes bureaucracy, the philosophy of Epicurus becomes eating and drinking. But there is another law — that of renewal. Somewhere in the universe, new centers of heat and energy are started. And inspiration becomes rekindled among humans.

Man seeks to satisfy his desires with the least exertion. Like most facts of life, this can become good or bad. It is good when the tendency expresses itself in new ways and means of producing more for less work. It is bad when it leads to man exploiting his fellow man in order to make it rosy for himself—enslaving, robbing, cheating, and otherwise taking more than giving. As we look around, it is a nice question as to which of the two meth-

ods has dominated in the world.

One should not compromise one's principles. But *what* principles? And *what are* principles? We asked a friend once if he would take an assignment in a debate with a socialist on a certain topic. Our friend angrily insisted that he was not going to compromise his principles by appearing on the same platform with a socialist. Such a view enables one to do nothing and feel virtuous about it. But if we carry it far enough, then every day we live in a world not built according to our ideals is a compromise with principles.

I suppose I ought to be a good anti-American and sympathize with those people all over the world who demonstrate against America. But I can't help feeling they could be doing better things. They've been moping in apathy for so long, scarcely doing anything to shake off age-old shackles, and now the only thing that rouses their enthusiasm is throwing rocks at the American Embassy. Possibly this is a step on the way up. An analogy: when airplanes first tried to fly faster than sound they met with the sound barrier, a bubbling of the air; once past it, flight could be sped up. Perhaps a nation on the way up has to bubble over with anti-Americanism; once past that phase, we'll be good friends again.

— Robert Clancy

Vol. 28, No. 7

July, 1965

The Henry George News, published monthly by the Henry George School of Social Science, 50 E. 69th Street, New York, N.Y. 10021, supports the following principle:

The community, by its presence and activity, gives rental value to land, therefore the rent of land belongs to the community and not to the landowners. Labor and capital, by their combined efforts, produce the goods of the community—known as wealth. This wealth belongs to the producers. Justice requires that the government, representing the community, collect the rent of land for community purposes and abolish the taxation of wealth.

Publication committee: William S. O'Connor, Arnold A. Weinstein and Lancaster M. Greene, chairman. Editor: Alice Elizabeth Davis. Subscriptions \$1 a year; single copies 10c. Second class postage paid at New York, N.Y.

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