

# Rendezvous With Destiny

EIGHT decades of living and thinking should make an earnest man a pro. So when Fred W. Workman of Pacific Grove, California, a retired and retiring Georgist, sat down on his 80th birthday to share his thinking, he could unhesitatingly say: "I spend most of my time studying and do not want to appear conceited but feel I can give some valuable advice."

Good health is a primary interest because "without good health, life is not worth living," and "we must recognize that the body is as sacred as the spirit or soul." Much ill health could be eliminated by right thinking and a more wholesome diet. He believes it to be a virtue and a moral responsibility to follow clean living habits and to preserve health of mind and body, especially excluding alcohol and tobacco, both of which he says contribute to physical and mental weakness and accidents.

Because he sees the health benefits of better fruits and vegetables and higher grades of other foods, he would make an effort to shift great numbers of the unemployed from the city relief rolls to useful and healthful work on the farm. To preserve the free enterprise system and help the helpless, we will need to establish man's natural heritage in his share of the land, with the Henry George plan of taking the rent of land in lieu of present general taxation.

"This plan would reduce the selling price of land and open all unused land to the under-privileged people for use. They would have to be financed by society until they could be self-supporting. This is a dilemma that society must face. If it is not accepted society will probably be forced out of free enterprise into some sort of socialism which can only work under

a dictatorship. A free enterprise that is not smart enough to cure its own ills will disintegrate or be destroyed.

"We have noted taxation as taking 37 per cent of production. The best estimate available of the total rent of land is 25 per cent of production. The total collection of the rent of land in taxes is an estimated 12 per cent, leaving a balance of 13 per cent untaxed. This 13 per cent added to the 37 per cent of taxation makes a total amount of 50 per cent of production subtracted from the earned income of our productive citizens. This is a terrific load for the productive part of our economy to carry. Notice that the federal government and most state governments do not directly tax land at all. This 13 per cent of untaxed rent of land (which is a social creation) represents the unearned increment in land which is enriching a favored few for no services rendered.

Quoting Thomas Jefferson, he notes, "Wherever there are in any country uncultivated lands and unemployed poor it is clear that the laws of property have been so far extended as to violate their natural rights."

But imperfections in government will always exist, such as the improper taxation of land, which he calls by Harry Gunnison Brown's term, "the skeleton in the closet of capitalism." But the U. S. still has the most productive economy, and with freedom the imperfections can be corrected. Should we be forced into a communist one-world program however, the Constitution, our charter of freedom, would be abrogated.

All property values as now held would disappear and some unworthy hierarchy would take the place of the present property holders. People who



resisted, judging by past performances, would be liquidated without mercy, as there is no sign of change since 20 million were killed in Russia and as many more in China.

As Americans we believe in freedom, not in socialism as it was described by George Bernard Shaw: "We Socialists have nothing to do with liberty. Our message is one of discipline, service and ruthless refusal to recognize natural rights." Each new generation should learn that socialism and communism are doctrines

based on powerful state control, without freedom for the individual.

So having turned the pages of his history books, Mr. Workman sees the tradition for which our forefathers fought as a glorious one which "has a rendezvous with destiny." He sees good in all religions but has "absolute faith in none." He believes man can make earth a paradise if he will learn to love himself enough to take care of his health of mind and body and to love his neighbor as himself, thus to be a good all-around human being.



#### NO HOUSING SHORTAGE IN FINLAND — WHY?

Why is there a fierce housing shortage in Sweden, which had no war and no bombing, and none in Finland which had to cope with an influx of 450 refugees? This was covered in the Los Angeles Times by a London observer and sent to HGN by Mrs. Robert White of Santa Ana. The answer, very simply, is that "Finns allow private enterprise and public works equal opportunities." In Sweden "all housing is rigorously supervised and controlled by the state." More than half of all new buildings are put up and owned by public authorities and must be let through "public housing agencies." Rents are strictly controlled. New flats are frequently negotiated privately. Rents are within the law, but exorbitant "key money" is asked. Out of this has arisen the so-called "housing shark," an accepted figure of Swedish society for at least a decade.

"Is 'War on Poverty' Label Misleading?" asked Samuel Lubell in a Boston Sunday Herald column (Jan. 3). "Nowhere in this whole effort does one find a real definition of the problem of poverty — or, more accurately, of the many problems which contribute to poverty," he writes. No analysis has yet been made of the cause of poverty — of how many persons are made or kept poor by what conditions. Unless these basic causes are identified and measures adopted to attack these causes, how is poverty to be ended?"

Richard T. Hall of Boston who sent this clipping, suggests that Georgists should begin a scientific study of the relation between land speculation and the problem of poverty.

Mr. Robert Clancy,  
33-53 82nd St.,  
Jackson Heights, L.I., N.Y.