

## Spring 1975 Program

(All classes are 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. - 10 weeks)

February 2nd, 3rd, and 4th:

Free classes based on Henry George's *Progress and Poverty*—an opportunity to learn what George said about political economy and why more and more thoughtful people in and out of power are taking note of his insights. No tuition.

February 9th:

*Man and his land*—an historical treatment of the land question in the development of civilizations. Tuition \$10.

*Securities markets and personal finance planning*—an introduction to markets and the choices available to the saving public. Tuition \$50.

February 10th:

*Money and banking*—a novel interpretation of monetary affairs that suggests a market approach to the subject in contrast to the political one with which we live. Tuition \$10.

*Reform for our time*—attacking the urban land problem through the medium of an adult game that simulates the rise and fall of municipalities. Tuition \$10.

*Securities markets and financial analysis*—a study of corporate financial reporting as it is seen to affect stock prices. Tuition \$50.

February 11th:

*Small business management*—a survey of the problems and pitfalls faced by those who have the responsibility for small firms. Tuition \$50.

(Dates indicate when classes begin.)

## High court broadens tax authority

In the immortal words of Finley Peter Dunne's Mr. Dooley: "I dunno whether the flag follers the Constitooshun or the Constitooshun follers the flag, but I do know the Sooprem Coort follers the elecshun retoorns."

After some 104 years, the august justices decided that the Supreme Court of 1871 had it all wrong. The U.S. Constitution clearly provides that no state shall levy an import duty. That authority is clearly reserved for the Federal Government. In fact, until the Civil War, when the Lincoln Administration imposed the first income tax, and then until the Wilson Administration acted under the 16th Amendment, import duties were a principal source of federal revenue.

In this vein, the Court in 1971 ruled that foreign goods held in the possession of importers were not subject to direct levies, such as property or inventory taxes, by state and local governments. Recently, in an eight-to-one decision (newly appointed Justice John Paul Stevens did not participate) the Court reinterpreted the import-export clause of the Constitution by permitting a Georgia county to impose its ad valorem property tax on the warehouse inventory of an importer of automobile tires.

Under the 1871 ruling, local taxing authorities could impose levies on imports only after they had lost "their character as imports and become incorporated into the mass of property in the state." Now, however, the court has permitted local jurisdictions to extend their taxes on labor products to imported goods that have not become so intermingled with other property.

It is worth noting Justice Brennan's majority opinion in which he said property taxes were levies "by which a state apportiones the cost of such services as police and fire protection among the beneficiaries according to their respective wealth . . . and there is no reason why an importer should not bear his share of these costs along with his competitors handling only domestic goods."

Such is the "conventional wisdom" of our day.

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