

The Galbraith Plan

Economist John Kenneth Galbraith has recently proposed a massive assault on poverty by bringing a high level of education to distressed areas. (Naturally, it's the federal government that must finance this project.) Galbraith reasons that "there is no place in the world where well-educated people are really poor."

We might also note that well-dressed people are not poor, either, so why not a federal program to bring Paris fashions to poverty-stricken areas? We've already tried a similar stunt in the field of housing. With federal funds, good-looking houses have been built for low-income people, with

the result that their poverty is more effectively hidden behind a new brick facade.

Ralph S. Huntington of San Francisco, who called Mr. Galbraith's plan to our attention, writes: "Is there no poverty in his own Cambridge or Boston? People are educated in New York City, but is there no poverty there?"

Henry George discussed the proposal to raise the educational level as a means of combatting poverty, and proved it was an "insufficient remedy." It's high time some of our contemporary economists also learned some fundamentals of economics.

OUR PRICELESS HERITAGE

In a book on *The Quiet Crisis*, Stewart L. Udall, the Secretary of the Interior, warns of the pollution, noise and blight in America where open space is shrinking, beauty is vanishing and ugliness is increasing. "Men must grasp completely the relationship between human stewardship and the fullness of the American earth," he wrote. "Our economic standard of living rises, but our environmental standard of living — our access to nature and respect for it — deteriorates. The crisis may be quiet, but it is urgent."

The National Wildlife Federation recently made an appeal directed towards conservation of wild life and natural beauty, by stating that ours is a "priceless heritage loaned to us to use, enjoy and pass on, unspoiled, to all generations to come."

The Henry George philosophy makes clear the reasons for this deterioration by showing that the most profitable locations are those in the population centers which support the production and distribution of wealth. If these were taxed at their true land value the charm and structure of our cities would be preserved, and much of the sprawling urbanization of the countryside with its careless destruction of natural beauty could be avoided.

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