

The case was given of the purchase of land for a new high school in Ohio. "The citizens were amazed and shaken," we read, "when a Zenia jury fixed worth of land at more than double the value of good residential property. A first offer of \$1,000 an acre was upped to \$1,350 an acre, plus \$24,500 in damages to one of the county's more productive small stock farm operations.

"When land that was worth \$750 an acre in 1958 and \$1,000 an acre in 1960 soars to over \$2,000 an acre in 1961, the rate of escalation is clearly abnormal . . . many acres soon to be needed for public uses are rocketing beyond the reach of the public purse."

An editorial, probably by the same author, discussing unemployment and automation, reminds readers that the economic system is out of kilter because of the land problem. "Easy access to America's vast unused land would prevent anybody from going hungry. The laborer each year is having a tougher time acquiring such productive land. This is the unanswered — almost the unasked — part of today's unemployment problem."

"I could send ten times the number of these clippings as shenanigans

continue apace," wrote Mrs. Leoane Anderson, director of the Denver Henry George School extension. A page clipped from the Rocky Mountain Cervis Journal reports a multi-million dollar 150-acre industrial park taking shape north of the Denver County line. The land, formerly hog farms, is "a precious commodity," with prices starting between 40 and 50 cents a square foot, or about \$20,000 an acre (this will include utilities). The hog farmers got between \$2 and \$3 thousand an acre.

"It was natural to expect the metropolitan area to expand southeastward onto agricultural land, once water became available," is a comment in another paper referring to purchase of a 338-acre tract for more than \$1 million as a new housing development on "the hottest real estate in the Denver area."

A former high school parking lot comprising a 29 acre plot of state land was sold to the successful bidder at \$401,500 — a price \$54,500 higher than the minimum established by the land board. An observer noticing that the two bidders conferred during recesses, raised the question of collusion. The commissioner said there was no rule against recesses enabling bidders to consult with financial backers.

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### CATHOLIC PEACE PRIZE AWARDED TO MONSIGNOR LIGUTTI

Monsignor Luigi G. Ligutti, whose name and fame have stood as references for us on many occasions and many class announcements; long known for his brilliant international role with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, was awarded the Catholic Peace Prize by the Catholic Association for International Peace at Washington, D.C. on October 28th. Previous winners of the annual award include Robert Murphy, former Deputy Under Secretary of State, and the late Thomas E. Murray of the Atomic Energy Commission.

The Monsignor is now stationed in Rome as permanent observer for the Vatican with the FAO. The Henry George School knew him *when* he was (as he continues to be) director of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference with headquarters in Des Moines, Iowa. He was once overheard to remark that he read The Henry George News, and left his copies behind on planes on some of his numerous journeys.

The Peace Prize couldn't go to a nicer person!