

## Radical But Not New

"Taxation as a Tool of Urban Planning" was the title of an article by Wesley L. Orr, Professor of Engineering at the University of California, Los Angeles. It appeared in a Boelter Anniversary Volume published by McGraw-Hill in 1964, *Heat Transfer, Thermodynamics and Education*.

Bruce Michels of Los Angeles called this to our attention. On the subject of slums Professor Orr said he proposes a "neighborhood tax, the rate of taxation being based on the cost of governmental services to that community averaged over a period of two or three years."

He believes the present system penalizes thrift, self respect and ambition. He would levy a tax against each building lot, whether improved or not, "at a rate that would annualize the capital costs of the utilities which are available to that lot." He says his proposal, while radical, is not new since "in a different

form and for different purposes, a somewhat similar suggestion originated in California nearly a hundred years ago by Henry George."

"Slum districts," said the author, "are often mentally associated with old buildings but this association is not necessarily true, some neighborhoods have aged with dignity and charm and are not slums; while some relatively new housing projects have already degenerated into slums. Slums are popularly thought of as localities in which the residents earn low incomes but this, too, is not necessarily so; many low income communities are well kept and respectable. The underlying characteristics of a slum are human in nature and include nuisance creation; disregard for maintenance; high incidence of sickness, disease, and accidents; lack of sanitation; many fires; low level of achievement ambition; moral degradation; and high incidence of juvenile and adult delinquency."

## Something For Everyone — A Triple Treat

Florida is very big this year and doing an unprecedented vacation business. But those who live there like it better after the tourists go home — like July 3 to 7. That's when the annual conference of the HGS will be held at the lovely Barcelona Hotel in Miami Beach. Decide now, reserve later — when we send you the forms.

This will probably be the perfect year for a European conference because all the big spenders will stay away and we, the modest Georgists, won't be embarrassed, in fact there are indications that we may benefit by impending tax measures.

Among countries that will be represented at the conference in Wales, in addition to British and European nations, will be Kenya, Hong Kong and the U.S.

Ilse Harder of the headquarters staff has some news for you. Prior to the not-to-be-missed conference at Caswell Bay, September 3-14 in Wales (reservations through International Union, 177 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London S. W. 1 England), she has planned a three-day meeting of German speaking friends. The place will be Hotel Johannes Kessler, Teufener Strasse 4, St. Gallen, Switzerland. The rate per day of 29 Swiss francs includes three meals, taxes and tips. Arrival time is September 3, departure for Wales is September 7. Write to Miss Harder, 50 East 69th Street, New York, N. Y. 10021, for more detailed information.