



"He'd Revise Taxes to Fight the Slums," was a large headline in the Chicago Daily News introducing a long letter by Marvin S. Saillard of Aurora. "If all the land in Chicago were assessed and taxed according to its market value, it would be economically unfeasible for anyone to keep slum property," wrote Mr. Saillard in his letter to the editor which was prominently featured.

"In New York and other cities a considerable class of the newly rich is growing bigger and richer," wrote Raymond Moley in his syndicated newspaper column. "These are the speculators who are the modern counterparts of the great rich landed families of yore.

"Through lack of imagination and intelligence in the laws governing land taxes and the administrative process of assessments, it has come to be more profitable to hold land out of use than to build . . . While this country is rich enough to help almost everybody, it cannot in conscience provide for those who amass wealth without production and who live through legalized exploitation of those who do produce."

Harlan Trott reported in the September 27th Christian Science Monitor, an address by James P. Gallagher, associate editor of House & Home, before members of the California Savings and Loan League, pointing out that land costs have more than tripled since World War II. Examples cited were, in San Francisco, \$580,000 paid for a tract offered for \$15,000 in 1948, and the Santa Ana air base which brought

\$19,000 an acre a short time ago; the government paid as little as \$350 an acre for the land in 1942.

Mr. Gallagher was concerned that, because the cost of land has outstripped technological savings made by the industry, it is the land speculator who reaps the benefit in his land prices of all schools, roads, shopping centers, libraries and other public improvements, while the public must stop buying new houses on land that has increased in price faster than has their ability to pay for it.

The speaker urged the league to enlist the aid of public officials and the housing industry to "seriously consider whether tax laws are encouraging land speculation and price inflation" and if so how they could be changed.

Land, which is one-third of our total national wealth, he said, carried less than 5 per cent of the total tax load. He praised the recent study by Mary Rawson, an independent Canadian consultant, entitled "Property Taxation and Urban Development," pointing out three important advantages which would take place if taxes were shifted from buildings to land—with a tax on the potential use of the land, based on its location, instead of its actual use. "Nobody in the home building industry who is concerned with new ideas in the use of residential land," he said, "should be without Miss Rawson's report. [This is available from the Urban Land Institute, 1200 18th St., N.W., Washington, D.C., at \$4. See also page 9.]

The Dayton Daily News echoes the warning in editorials written, we believe, by a member of the board of directors of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, whose article in HGN last month attracted wide attention.

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.

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!