

## The Danish Elections

Jesse A. Zeeman, of Washington, D.C., calls attention to the recent elections held in Denmark, as reported in *The Washington Post*. The news account reveals the "bad beating" suffered by the ruling Social Democrats, and the strong endorsements given by the voters to "a pair of brand-new anti-tax parties."

Although no party attained a clear parliamentary majority, the over-all effect of the elections was to show quite emphatically a general disillusionment with the old order. Obviously resenting the burdensome taxation required to subsidize the policy which has made their country one of the world's most-developed welfare states, the Danes cast their votes heavily in favor of the parties whose platforms offered them tax relief.

One of the newly emerging political groups is headed by Mogens Glistrup, a prosperous tax lawyer who wants to abolish all income taxes. (Mr. Glistrup boasts that he pays none himself, though he does not disclose how he manages this accomplishment.) Of much greater interest, however, is news of the success achieved by those described as "the followers of Henry George's theory of a single tax on real estate (*sic*)."

It is pleasant to read that "the single-taxers came up with five more seats."

To see a resurgence in Denmark of popular political support for candidates espousing Georgist principles is very gratifying. It indicates that the dissemination of the philosophy of freedom continues there, and hopefully everywhere.

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## Tied to the Land

At age 70, Bob Hope remains America's favorite stand-up comedian. When he deigns to accept a professional engagement, his fee is princely. But though he acts the zany, he is no fool, for he knows how to invest and enhance the rewards his talent brings.

"I am," Mr. Hope candidly states, "the largest single landowner among private citizens in the state of California. Most of my wealth is tied up in land." Though he asserts his property taxes are "stupendous," and that state laws reflecting the ecology movement are hampering the development of much of his land, there is no sign he is eager to untie his holdings. (He now regrets a 30-acre sale he made for \$1 million.)

Indeed, Mr. Hope is frankly willing to do business with California. "The state," he confides, "is talking about taking over my Las Virgins property — about 30 miles from here (Hollywood) and it's my largest — for a state park. It would thrill me to death because there would be no taxes on that deal."

Bob Hope is a kind, generous, and estimable gentleman, who well deserves the acclaim and riches that have come to him. Nothing said here is a personal criticism in any way. Yet one may wonder about a land tenure system that permits private ownership of essentially common property. Maybe some day when private landowning is mentioned, everyone will sing "Thanks for the Memory."

*The editors are grateful to Dr. Ernest J. Kahn, of Walpole, Massachusetts, for the above.*

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