

# On Understanding Current Problems

Mrs. Mina Olson, executive secretary of the Chicago extension of the Henry George School, invited two of her students to give their views of the recently completed class in Basic Economics:

It seems to me that through the readings and discussions that I have taken part in during the course of this study, I have learned a great deal.

Basic, of course, is a whole concept of economics which had previously been a rather nebulous collection of data for me, but which has now taken some focus. Although Henry George's theories sound quite plausible, I wonder if it would at all be possible to employ them in our present structured society. As he said, "Where there is anything like an equal distribution of wealth...the more democratic the government the better it will be; but where there is gross inequality in the distribution of wealth, the more democratic the government the worse it will be; for, while rotten democracy may not in itself be worse than rotten autocracy, its effects upon national character will be worse."

I think that my scope of interest has been broadened through this course. As I read through the newspapers and current periodicals, I find myself interested in topics that I previously knew nothing about.

Some of our class discussions have been quite stimulating and I have been able to carry some of it into my own classroom teaching situation. It has also provided me with a more intense background for my teaching work.

—Sister M. Neil, O.S.F.

Actually this course has meant many things to me. First of all it has meant an opportunity to learn some of the fundamentals regarding economics. This was my prime purpose in enrolling in the course since I knew practically nothing about economics. The terms: wealth, land, labor, production, capital, wages, and rent, and how each of these affects the other while all in turn affect progress has taken on meaning for me. My understanding of these terms and effects before the course was indeed narrow.

Secondly the course has caused me to become more aware of and interested in current economic problems as well as some ways in which these problems might be allayed. In particular, causes and possible remedies for poverty have been clarified for me.

Thirdly just coming together and sharing insights on Thursdays proved to be a profitable and enjoyable experience. Even the tangents that we often moved to during our discussions were most profitable.

Lastly the course has been an incentive to me to keep abreast of current economic problems, and, if possible, in the future to study more economics.

One surprise that I received from the course was the seeming modernness of Henry George's books. Except for some of the prose style one would have thought that it was written during this half of our century. I found the last section of the text—association and progress—to be the most enjoyable and most thought provoking.

—Sister M. Aileen, O.S.F.

The Henry George Foundation in Pittsburgh, formerly on Grant Street, is still observing its 40th anniversary, but at a new address. The Henry George Foundation, the Graded Tax League, and the Henry George School are using the same headquarters, now at 404 Magee Building, 336 Fourth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15222.