

BASIC PRINCIPLES FIRST

By JOHN T. TETLEY (Director, Henry George School of New Jersey, U.S.A.)

E.P. Middleton in "The Real Enemy" (IUN No. 11) submits that we are placing the cart before the horse, and that we (meaning presumably those who advocate Henry George's solution to poverty) ought to first attack economic problems other than raising government revenue. As I understand Mr. Middleton, he does not feel as did Henry George that to correct the land tenure system would render the solution of other problems easier, but rather the solution of other problems, such as the monetary system, would enable the adoption of George's proposal with less opposition.

We in the Henry George School are in a position to bring to the attention of those who take our courses the tremendous importance of inflation and the monetary system - "socialism by default," etc. - and we should do it. However, there are other organizations which are doing these things very well, such as the Foundation for Economic Education (mentioned by Bruno Eichert in "How Do We Get Through To Them?"). I do not think the Henry George School can spend too much time and effort but had best "proclaim from the housetops" - in the words of H.T.A. McGahan - public revenue and its collection. But while Mr. McGahan feels "we should concentrate on the taxation system and its reform," I am inclined to feel we must present the basic economic principles first - then point out how taxation or raising public revenue can assist in the solution of other economic problems.

Long have I felt that, should taxation such as we propose be implemented without reducing the swollen government bureaucracy with its unlimited power to inflate the purchasing media, not only would that make our efforts futile but it would actually be harmful to the economy.