

SCOUNDRELS AT WORK ON LAND AND TAX PROBLEMS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, continued

DISREPUTABLE FUGIMORO FIGHTS OFF CHALLENGERS IN PERU.

Peruvian president, Alberto Fujimoro, has been forced into a runoff in a second round election showdown. Evidently somebody was so negligent in miscounting of the votes that Fujimoro failed to win an outright majority. His supporters looked to

Tammeny Hall for guidance as to how to win an election. Fujimoro originally won the Peruvian Presidency by promising to eliminate all sales taxes. When elected, three guesses as to what he caused to be enacted—a hefty sales tax, of course. Peru's assessments in Peru's feeble land tax are so miniscule as to astound even World Bank officials. ●●●●●●●●●●

However, we will be more optimistic about the possibility of Fujimoro being defeated if it were not a fact that his challenger, Alejandro Toledo, were not described as a U.S. trained economist. That usually means the country will be in for a heavy dose of pork barrel public works, together with demagogic government interference with the economy. ●●●●●●●●

ZIMBABWE RULER MUGABWE RELIES ON RACIAL HATRED TO SUPPORT HIS FORCIBLE LAND REFORM

It has been widely publicized that Zimbabwe President Mugabwe has encouraged black farmers to rob, burn, and loot in order to drive out white landowners so that 25 million acres of large commercial farms could be appropriated by persons of the right color. He generously formerly offered to pay the whites for their farms if only Great Britain would compensate the Zimbabwe government for all payments made. Since Great Britain, was not enthusiastic about this idea, Mugabwe has incited his followers to use the bullet and the torch to seize all available white property.

However, the white settlers must bear some blame for the current chaos in Zimbabwe. They previously supported Mugabwe when the opposition was led by an advocate of Henry George's land reform proposals. Mugabwe refused to allow that opposition leader to attend the Henry George convention in Vancouver, but allowed this wife to come to Vancouver, only on condition that she not discuss politics or economics. Her husband remained behind in Zimbabwe as a hostage. ●●●●●●

RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT TO TAKE UP LAND OWNERSHIP PROBLEM

Vague reports have come from Moscow about the new government led by Yeltsin stooge will take up the question of privatizing of land in Russia. What is left after the current batch of land-grabber have been satisfied. In that office rents in prime Moscow areas often exceed those paid in London or New York, it is very unlikely that there will be any radical changes made.

If Yeltsin's supporters were sincere about solving the land question, they would seize upon the suggestions made by British and American Single Tax advocates. Or they could consider the plans proposed by the Kerensky government in 1917. The Chief Land Committee proposed to the general assembly this decree:

The land reform should be based on the idea that all agricultural land must be transferred to the use of the toiling agrarian population. Victor Chernow, the minister of agriculture, states in his autobiography, that the chief aim of the land reform "was not equalitarian justice, with its leveling down to the lowest standard. ●●●●●●●●

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The entire reform was planned to raise productive forces of the new, purely peasant, basis. . . The reform was not to make the former owner a helpless client of an omnipotent, paternal state. They proclaimed the equal right of all toilers to the soil; both he who wished to settle on the land and he who already settled on it were to be given a strictly defined totality of rights, and could set going a system of law to invoke them

Chernow added that the unoccupied land of a given locality was to be divided into lots of definite size, corresponding to its income and calculated according to average local conditions. Differences in the value of land would be balanced, 'not by crude partition, but by heavier taxation of the land based on the average net return.' Chernow concluded, a return from an allotment raised above the average by more diligent cultivation, by greater intensity of method, by the introduction of improvements, etc., was to be left untouched by taxation.

The above sounds like the Kerensky government was well aware of the ideas of Tolstoi and of Henry George.

Unfortunately, such a plan was not acceptable, either to the powerful landowners or to the Communists, both of whom successfully sabotaged these ideas.

It is also an uphill battle to get influential Russians to adopt equitable land and tax principles. This is particularly true when agents of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the Lincoln Foundation have led them to believe that low interest loans and grants can obviate the need for any true system of free enterprise and economic justice. ●●●●●●●●