

1954-1971

FSTC: Cornelius A. Gaston: T-Z

Fairhope

10517-a

177

JOHN T. TETLEY

DIRECTOR
HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL
OF NEW JERSEY

1114 BROAD STREET
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Mr. L. R. Rockwell
Fairhope, Ala.
or Mr. Gadsen;

This will
introduce, my nephew,
Robert Stevens, who is
interested in the set-up
and operation of Fairhope.

Anything you can tell
him or do for him will
be greatly appreciated.

With kind regards and
best wishes, I am

Cordially

John G. Petty
Director, Henry George
School of New Jersey



MOTOR COURT - RESTAURANT - LOUNGE

on the Beach of the Gulf of Mexico

Halfway Between Gulfport and Biloxi, Mississippi

Mail: Gulfport, Mississippi

Court Phone: Gulfport 9182

Restaurant Phone: Gulfport 9301

LOOK FOR FIVE FLAGS

Aug. 22, 1964

Trustee Elof M. Tuveson
P. O. Box 44
Fairhope, Ala.

Dear Elof:

Bruce Evans, Jr. has submitted his resignation as cashier-bookkeeper and office assistant to be effective Monday, August 31.

He has held this position since the middle of 1954 and there has been no audit since the one that was made by Marion Bluthardt for that year and he has suggested that there should be an audit now that his service is being terminated.

The constitution, Article V, Sec. 8 vests in the trustees the responsibility "to audit all accounts and review all reports of officers and employees."

I am informed that Mrs. Totten will not return to Fairhope until some time in September.

Fraternally yours,

C. A. Gaston, Secretary

Aug. 26, 1964

Trustee Lillian B. Totten
P. O. Box 81
City

Dear Lillian:

Bruce Evans, Jr. has submitted his resignation as cashier-bookkeeper and office assistant to be effective Monday, August 31.

He has held this position since the middle of 1954 and there has been no audit since the one that was made by Marian Bluthardt for that year and he has suggested that there should be an audit now that his services are being terminated.

The constitution, Article V, Sec. 8 vests in the trustees the responsibility "to audit all accounts and review all reports of officers and employees."

A like notice was mailed to Trustees Tuveson and Schneider last Saturday while you were away. I have not heard whether or not they have met.

Since then I have reviewed the records concerning audits since 1940 which I have just completed and am enclosing a copy. A copy will also be mailed to the others. I hope you will find it helpful.

Faternally yours,

C. A. Gaston, Secretary

Aug. 22, 1964

Trustee Robert M. Schneider
Route 1, Box 190 A

Dear Robert:

Bruce Evans, Jr. has submitted his resignation as cashier-bookkeeper and office assistant to be effective Monday, August 31.

He has held this position since the middle of 1954 and there has been no audit since the one that was made by Marion Bluthardt for that year and he has suggested that there should be an audit now that his service is being terminated.

The constitution, Article V, Sec. 8 vests in the trustees the responsibility "to audit all accounts and review all reports of officers and employees."

I am informed that Mrs. Totten will not return to Fairhope until some time in September.

Faternally yours,

C.A. Gaston, Secretary

AUDITING RECORDS

July 18, 1940--The secretary read a trustee's report embracing an audit of the treasurer's cash book for the first half of 1940 and report on an examination of the transactions for 1939. The report was made by the examining trustee, J. Francis Lemon, in accordance with action of the trustees, revealed no errors of any consequence.

It was moved and carried that the report with its recommendation for a continuation of the audit procedure, be adopted and the report placed on file.

NOTE: Mr Lemon was elected to the office of trustee at the 1940 election of officers. His remarks and recommendations as submitted with the report are as follows:

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

The statements herewith presented, cover the first six months of 1940, and centers around an analysis of the cash book receipts, together with an extended examination and reconciliation of the bank statements with our cash book and other records. In connection with the central task, the receipt impressions, as well as the warrant stubs, have been checked against the cash book, not only for the six months under question, but also for the whole year of 1939.

As your trustee, I must disclaim the responsibilities of a trained professional (and highly paid) auditor. I shall attest only to the correctness of the figures herewith presented, as coming from our books and the bank statements. Beyond this, I shall only state my opinion that everything in connection with my task here convinces me of the honesty of our treasurer and his work. Even his small mistakes and their subsequent treatment confirms this view.

Mistakes happen in the best of business houses. I roughly estimate that the errors, I have discovered, would sum up to less than one-half of one percent of all transactions, measured in their money totals. Practically all of these errors are matters of technique in entering and posting items, involving no financial loss to any one. Only two errors, as last suggested, came to my attention,--one involving a loss of 99¢ to an employee, due to a transposition of figures in copying; another, an apparent loss of 69¢ to the corporation. I mention these only to emphasize their triviality.

The expenditures, excepting tax payments, are covered by warrants,--the few failures, mentioned in my previous report, being eliminated by closer attention, a revised system of handling petty cash expense, as well as by the checks and reminders of the present auditing.

The work done has consumed more time than is apparent on the face of these reports, although in the future the work should go smoother, at least, once that methods and procedure are established for our somewhat unusual business and the records required for it.

The bill presented herewith, is on the basis of three dollars monthly (the salary of a councillor) for the last six months. My future efforts, if agreeable to those concerned, will be gauged to that compensation. No startling revelations need ever be expected, but work of this type is prescribed by good business practice, as well as by our constitution. Its very purpose is to insure against any such revelations ever becoming necessary in the course of unguarded years.

J. Francis Lemon

Feb. 6, 1941--Trustee J. Francis Lemon's audit report of the corporation's books for the year 1940 was presented, accepted and ordered placed on file.

NOTE: Presumably this report covered the last half of 1940 and the record

shows that Mr. Lemon was paid \$18.00 for this report as he was for the report submitted in July, 1940.

July 18, 1941, Cash Book entry shows Mr. Lemon paid \$18.00 for half year audit.

Feb. 5, 1942--J. Francis Lemon's bill of \$18.00 for his semi-annual audit of books was allowed.

July 18, 1942--Cash Book entry shows Mr. Lemon paid \$18.00 for half year audit.

Jan. 20, 1944--It was moved and carried to pay Trustee J. Francis Lemon \$36.00 for his audit services in 1943 and to pay him \$3.00 monthly for his continued service.

Cash Book records show Mr. Lemon to have received \$3.00 monthly payments for all twelve of the 1944 months, before leaving Fairhope for California.

No record was found of any audits having been made for the years 1945 and 1946.

The secretary's report for 1947 reports with reference to a 1947 audit as follows:

The financial statement herewith submitted is certified by the Mobile auditing firm of Smith, Dukes & Buckalew. Your trustees decided that the amount of business now transacted by your corporation and the growing complexity of its relationship through its lessees, with business and governmental agencies, warranted an examination by certified public accountants. The auditor's submission of the statement was accompanied by the following:

"In accordance with your request we have made an examination of the books of the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation, Fairhope, Alabama, for the year ending December 31, 1947, and now present our report thereon.

"Cancelled checks and warrants were compared with the entries in the cash disbursement record and carbon copies of the receipts were traced to entries in the cash receipt record. The footings of the cash book were proved and the postings to the Lessees' Ledger was verified.

"The amount on deposit in the Bank of Fairhope on December 31, 1947 was verified by direct correspondence with the bank and by reference to the statement on file in the office. We counted the cash on hand during the course of our examination.

"The securities owned by the corporation as of December 31, 1947, consisting of U. S. Treasury Bonds, Series "G", in the amount of \$6,000.00, are kept in the safe deposit box at the Bank of Fairhope and were examined by us."

Feb. 5, 1948--The bill of Smith, Dukes & Buckalew amounted to \$336.12.

Jan., 1951--Secretary's report: Reported was an audit by Marian Bluthardt for the years 1948, 1949 and 1950 for which she was paid \$201.25.

Feb. 7, 1952*-Marian Bluthardt's bill of \$100.00 for the 1951 audit was allowed.

Feb. 5, 1953--Marian Bluthardt's bill of \$125.00 for the 1952 audit was allowed.

Feb. 4, 1954--Marian Bluthardt's bill of \$125.00 for the 1953 audit was allowed.

Mar. 3, 1955--Marian Bluthardt's bill of \$200.00 for audit of the 1954 records was allowed.

Memos regarding the 1947 audit--P. S. to letter to Smith Dukes & Buckalew's S. H. Brock; March 5, 1947: Our Trustees have asked me to make enquiry concerning your making an audit of our books.

March 9, 1947--Brock's reply: I shall be glad to discuss the audit of your books at a later date, and I appreciate your enquiry.

Dec. 1, 1947--Letter from Mr. Brock: After returning to Mobile, I talked with Mr. Buckalew regarding the proposed audit of your books for the calendar year 1947.

We will have a man available for this work within a few days, and he can check the work through November 30th before the close of the year, returning some time in January early enough to bring the audit to completion in time for your annual meeting.

I would appreciate your confirming this engagement by return mail.

Dec. 5, 1947--My reply: Your letter arrived on a day that I was in Bay Minette on business so I did not get to see it until Wednesday. Since our constitution charges the trustees with the auditing obligation I did not have the authority to make an engagement.

I have had opportunity to discuss the matter with one of the three trustees and with our executive council. They advised that I refer the matter to the trustees with a request that an audit be made with the council's expression of approval of the selection of your firm.

I am enclosing a copy of the constitution and call your attention to Article V, Section 8, page 5. You will note the members of the council, including the treasurer and the secretary constitute the officers whose accounts are to be examined by the trustees. I am sure you will appreciate this situation makes it awkward for me to do more than suggest what the trustees might do in the matter of selection of an auditor.

As I stated I have seen one of the trustees, J. O. Stimpson, a fellow Town councilman, as you know, and he advises me he will try to confer with the others tomorrow, Saturday. The other~~x~~ trustees are M. A. Bowen and A. H. Mershon.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and will advise you as soon as I have something further to report. I wonder if it might be practical for you to give some estimate of the probable cost in the event no irregularities develop. I find the cash book shows a record of some 1544 receipt entries and the check book the drawing of 266 checks for the 1947 year and 97 deposit entries to date.

NOTE: In the margin of the foregoing letter I find penciled \$20.00 and \$35.00 plus transportation expense, evidently referring to a per diem charge.

As previously reported the obligation of the trustees to audit or have an audit of the books has been neglected since the close of the business in 1954.

September 10, 1970

Robert M. Schneider
Bart H. Jennings, Jr.
Olive W. Gaston
Trustees, Fairhope Single Tax Corporation
Fairhope, Alabama

Dear Trustees:

Particularly in view of recent events and since it is provided for in our constitution it is imperative that an audit of our corporation books be made as soon as can be arranged.

This has not been done for 1968 or 1969 although the constitution requires that it be done annually and charges the trustees with this responsibility.

The failure to do this places an unfair and unnecessary responsibility on the treasurer, the cashier and on anyone else employed to work on the accounts.

Trusting this will be accomplished in the very near future, I remain,

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Ruth E. Rockwell
Cashier

CC: Executive Council
Fairhope Single Tax Corporation

THAMES, JACKSON, HARRIS COMPANY, INC.

INSURANCE
BONDS

REALTORS - INSURORS

60 ST. FRANCIS STREET 433-3961 P. O. BOX 1927

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF INSURANCE AGENTS

MOBILE, ALABAMA 36601

May 27, 1971

Fairhope Single Tax Corp.
336 Fairhope Avenue
Fairhope, Alabama 36532

Gentlemen:

Some clients of ours own practically the whole block on the south side of Laurel Street between Pomelo and First or Liberty Avenue. The writer notices that apparently you are in the act of paving Laurel Street from the Bay Front Road eastwardly one or two blocks. Laurel Street does not seem to be open between the two streets mentioned above in front of our clients property. We are wondering if you have any immediate plans on opening this street in front of this property and paving same. Also, we would like to know if water, city sewerage and natural gas is available for these lots. Would you please let us know if the street were to be paved whether or not there would be an assessment against the property owners.

We would certainly appreciate an early reply to these questions. If this information is out of your jurisdiction, we will appreciate your turning it over to the proper parties who could furnish this information.

The property in question is assessed as lots--1 - 2 - 3 and 4, 7 - 8 - 9 - 10 and 11 and 12 in a resubdivision of Blocks 25 and 25 A of Magnolia Beach in the name of Lillian C. Hamilton and Euphemia McHugh.

Thanking you in advance for your attention, we beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

THAMES, JACKSON, HARRIS COMPANY, INC.


Gus B. Thames

GBT/fl

cc; Mrs. Lillian C. Hamilton
Mrs. John A. Burton

6/1/71

Got word from City Engineer Ak more that
only 1 block mobile to Saturna was to be
paved. Phoned information to Mr. Thames'
secretary.

G B



GEORGE T. TIDEMAN, D.N.

Mr. Luther F. Gaston
Fairhope Ala.

April 30 - 1961

My dear Mr. Gaston

Tomorrow (Monday) it will be just two weeks since our return home from our Southland tour. We missed the late spring snow storm only by detouring west from the Indiana border at the latitude of Kankakee to I-66 and counted ourselves quite fortunate. Had we travelled north another 50 miles that Sunday night from Pere Marquette where we motelled we would have been hemmed in by stranded Tractors and autos and perhaps been housed in some armory as were 3000 people in one place around there.

Under separate cover of our returning

the Gulf States Book you so
kindly gave us for me and sure
you have use for it whereas we are
now through needing it. I shall feel
the publisher's address should another
occasion for its use occur, I see that it
would be very helpful.

The (ms. which is enclosed is the
one I mentioned to you which has traveled
to the ~~Interpar~~ B. Digest - House & Home
Gleaner Monthly. This Fairhope Currier
which (April 6) I have has an interesting
letter by Joseph Babson on the Cold War.
He postulates that our present economic
activity is sustained by it and further
that some interests are fearful of termination
of the "cold war"! If you think my article
would interest your readers, may I offer it?
I not just unfold & return it. Our best wishes
to your family and staff.

Truly yours
Mabel & George S. Bideman

The kind purpose of this letter was to thank you for your

1741 Edwin Blvd.,
Winter Park, Florida.
32789

Jan. 20th., 1971.

To the Council and Membership
of the Single Tax Corporation
Fairhope, Alabama.

Dear Friends:

The possibility of oil wells in Mobile Bay must certainly have been chilling news to you present residents on its shores as to those who once were. Quoting the last sentence on the front page of the Fairhope Courier of Jan. 14th., Mr. Davis' statement: "The decision as to whether a permit will be issued will be based on an evaluation of the impact of the proposed work on the public interest." Off shore oil wells with their accompanying hazards as we have all seen only too vividly, are clearly not in the "public interest", of the Mobile Bay area.

Our philosophy as Single Taxers must surely envision all humanity as well as ourselves as tenants of the earth; trustees for those who step into our shoes, to leave to them the joys of the earth as well as its sustenance.

I trust that we join in every effort put forth by the Eastern Shore communities to prevent this desecration.

With all good wishes, sincerely yours,

Lillian B. Totten
Lillian B. Totten.

copy

January 20, 1971

Mr. R. W. Davis District Engineer
Corps Of Engineers P.O. Box 2288
Mobile, Alabama

Dear Mr. Davis:

I lived over half of my life in Fairhope, Alabama. Coming from the northern prairies to the Mobile Bay area was for me, my children and their children an enchantment which we will always cherish. This magic has drawn countless people to become permanent residents or returning visitors.

Inevitable, if a seismic survey reveals oil below Mobile Bay, it will be drilled for promptly. Better that it remain for the present in its original tank than awash on the shores. Future minds may devise better means for protection against faulty machinery and human judgement failures. Mobile Bay can wait, considering the present staggering waste of oil through faulty transportation. This is an area that commands attention.

I am sure I have added no new ideas for consideration by the Corps Of Engineers. I only hope to reinforce the human angle which often has little weight with commercial interests.

Sincerely yours,

Lillian B. Totten
1741 Edwin Blvd.,
Winter Park, Florida 32789



TROY STATE UNIVERSITY

TROY, ALABAMA 36081
FOUNDED 1887

October 24, 1968

Dr. C. A. Gaston, Secretary
Fairhope Single Tax Corporation
340 Fairhope Avenue
Fairhope, Alabama

Dear Dr. Gaston:

Dr. Cervera and I are still attempting to write a paper on the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation. At your suggestion, I wrote George Beggs but he has not answered my letter.

We have been trying to get a list of the names and addresses of the people living in Fairhope; however, we have not been successful. Would you happen to have such a list? If so, we would like to use it.

Also, we would like to have a map of Fairhope. Would you please ask the appropriate person to send us a map.

Yours very truly,

G. T. Stewart, Professor
Business Administration

GTS/ja

November 6, 1968

G. T. Stewart, Professor
Business Administration
Troy State University
Troy, Alabama 36081

Dear Mr. Stewart:

We are sending you one of our maps of the City of Fairhope which should be helpful to you.

The only list of Fairhope residents that we have is a list of our own resident lessees. We understand the Chamber of Commerce has given you information about the last City directory. Although it is not entirely complete or up to date it is the best information we know about of this type and we hope you will be able to locate one.

Very truly yours,

C. A. Gaston, Secretary

CAG:rer

TROY STATE UNIVERSITY
Single Tax Questionnaire

Please respond by placing an X beside the appropriate answer.

1. Do you rent property from Fairhope Single Tax Corporation? Yes No
2. Do you believe in the principles upon which Fairhope Single Tax Corporation is founded? Yes No
3. Do you believe that the city of Fairhope has benefited from Fairhope Single Tax Corporation? Yes No
4. Do you believe that persons occupying Fairhope Single Tax Corporation land benefit? Yes No
5. Do you believe that all taxes except taxes on land value should be abolished? Yes No
6. Do you believe that the taxes collected from a tax on land value would be sufficient to support government? Yes No
7. If you had a choice, would you prefer to rent or buy land? Rent Buy
8. Do you believe that it is easier to rent or purchase property? Rent Purchase.
9. Are you familiar with the ideas expressed by Henry George? Yes No
10. Comments and Recommendations

In order to give you an ample opportunity to express your views, we would like for you to use the space below for comments you may wish to make for or against the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation.

TROY STATE UNIVERSITY
Single Tax Questionnaire

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10. Comments and Recommendations

In order to give you an ample opportunity to express your views, we would like for you to use the space below for comments you may wish to make for or against the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation.

June 7, 1954

Mr. E. S. Tunstall, Tax Assessor
Bay Minette, Alabama

Dear Mr. Tunstall:

As I reported to you by phone a few days ago two of our lessees, Ernest W. Gabel and Corbin L. Williams reported to us receipt of notices of increase in the assessed value of their properties.

Our records show that in 1951 Mr. Gabel was assessing on his home leasehold, E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ a 5 rm. tile house and 18x24 tile bldg. at \$600. Added for 1952 was a 16x20 tile dairy barn and the assessed value was increased to \$700. Added in 1952 was a 20x20 tile barn and the assessed value for 1953 was increased to \$900. Since talking with you Mr. Johnson and I have been out to look at the property and we believe we should have allowed an increase of \$300 instead of \$100 when the dairy barn was added. We suggest therefore that the assessed value be increased to \$1100 for 1954. You will note on the assessment sheet that the description is wrong and should be corrected as shown above and that the tile dairy barn and tile barn should be shown to be located on the same land as the 5 rm house and 18x24 tile bldg. The only building on W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ is the 2 Rm. Frame and stucco tenant house.

We presume the increase notice sent Corbin L. Williams is for the dairy barn located on S $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 11-6-2 assessed to him jointly with H. J. and I. H. Battey, F.S.T. C. land. We have also inspected this property and find the ~~with~~ dairy barn is a frame lean-to attached to one of the barns and that the buildings on this leasehold are are mainly in a very dilapidated condition. We can see no justification for any increase but would consent to an increase from the present \$700 to \$800.

I am sorry not to be able to come up and see you personally about these matters but Mr. Chapin has been out of the office due to illness since May 14 and it is hard for me to get away. Please let me know if you need further information, and thank you. Congratulations on the fine vote of confidence the voters gave you May 4. I'm glad they showed such good judgment.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

July 22, 1959

Mr. E. S. Tunstall
Bay Minette, Alabama

Dear Mr. Tunstall:

I am very sorry that I cannot wholly agree with your position with reference to State Tax Commissioner Harry Hayden's proposal to equalize the assessed valuations of property. I do think however that you make some very good points. Particularly is this true in valuing for taxation purposes, improved farm land and residence buildings.

As you know, my position is that such values, produced by the investment of one's own labor and capital, should not be used as a basis for taxation. I agree with you that it is very difficult to arrive at a fair and equitable value and that local conditions such as falling markets for farm produce and a reduced market for house rentals resulting from such things as the closing of Barin Field are deserving of special consideration.

At the present time the natural and orderly growth of our County is seriously threatened by the rapidly increasing prices asked for unimproved vacant land. An increase in the assessed value of such land and the resultant increase in the ad valorem tax would encourage present owners to sell at lower prices. Lower land prices would encourage the building of more homes and the development of more land for agricultural and industrial purposes.

At the present time our local economy is suffering most from these high land prices on unimproved land. There is a continuing demand for homes in this area, both for retired couples and for the families of workers employed in industry, business and the professions. The cost of these homes is becoming prohibitive as a result of the high prices asked by the owners of the vacant unimproved land needed on which to build them.

As you state, "the assessment of property taxes is not an easy task." For this reason I think there is considerable merit in securing the services of trained personnel. I would hope, however that they would be influenced by your wise observations concerning the valuation of buildings and improved farm land.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

TO THE PEOPLE OF BALDWIN COUNTY:

In recent weeks, I have had many enquiries as to my position upon the plan of Mr. Harry Hayden, State Tax Commissioner, to "equalize" tax assessments in the State of Alabama to 30% of the "true value" of the property assessed in the various counties. I am using this letter as a means of setting forth my position in this matter, which is of vital importance to all the people of Baldwin County, as well as just the property owners.

Briefly, the plan as presented by Mr. Hayden is to increase the amount of money produced by ad valorem taxes on real estate in the State of Alabama so that an additional \$40,000,000.00 per year in tax money may be raised. In order to accomplish this goal, the State Department of Revenue will send into the various counties of the State, a team of so-called "career tax experts" whose job it will be to set a value of what these "experts" feel is 30% of the true value of the property. This authority is given the State by Section 131 of Title 51 of the 1940 Code of Alabama which directs the State Department of Revenue to "equalize, value and assess, or cause to be equalized, valued and assessed, any property subject to taxation."

My position in this matter is that Baldwin County has, at the present time, a most competent Board of Equalization, and the County has had good Boards in the past. They have been doing their job as required by law, consistent with the economic conditions of Baldwin County. The local board recognizes the fact that economic conditions, local tax requirements and other factors play an important role in the assessment of ad valorem taxes. I believe that the local Board should continue to make such assessments without interference from State authorities. Interference at this time by State authorities will seriously curtail the growth of the County.

The assessment of property taxes is not an easy task. In the first place, no one likes to pay excessive taxes, whether they be in the form of income, sales, ad valorem or otherwise. Each person in Baldwin County, according to his personal interests, has an idea how needed tax money can be raised, and nine times out of ten, it appears that his proposals involve the other man paying most of it. Notwithstanding this feeling, the County Board of Equalization has aided in maintaining Baldwin County's excellent financial position.

It is my belief that the attempted assessment of ad valorem taxes by the State Department of Revenue on a fair and equitable basis will be impossible. a lack of knowledge of local economic conditions is a handicap which cannot be overcome. As an example, I might point out that our farm income in this county has a direct bearing on the market value of the land in the county. It should be clear that generally speaking, cultivated land as such has no particular value except to another farmer. Accordingly, if other farmers are suffering financial hardships, then the market value of farm land is going to drop. In this County potato farmers have lost money for several years. Our local Board can and does recognize such hardships and makes the necessary adjustments.

Another complaint which is being made by the State Department of Revenue is that people are buying homes that have mortgages which are insured by the Federal Housing Administration or made by the Veterans Administration, and

that the home owners are assessing the property at a much lower figure than value placed upon the property by appraisers for such agencies. I feel, however, that the appraisals placed upon the property by such appraisers cannot be an accurate guide for tax assessment. The purchase price for these homes invariably includes a terrific premium for the mortgage money involved. A more accurate picture of the value of the property is obtained if we rely upon the rental value of the home as a gauge for market value rather than such appraisal. More often, a home purchased for \$10,000.00 if placed on the market for rental would bring no more than \$60.00 to \$70.00 a month, and based on this rental, the market value of the house would be from \$6,000 to \$7,000. This is particularly true in Foley because of the loss of Barin Field. Here again we find that this involves a local problem which can best be recognized and handled on a local basis.

I have always believed in tax equalization on a local level. Each property owner, whether home owner, farmer, timber grower, or industry, should bear its fair share of the taxes. I do not believe in showing favoritism to any particular group of land owners. But, I feel strongly that it is to the best interest of Baldwin County that we carry out our own program of tax equalization on a local basis without interference of any kind from the State authorities.

I will do everything within my power to assist the people of Baldwin County in resisting tax raises by the State Department of Revenue and will do everything that is legally within my power to keep assessments at their present values.

Sincerely yours,

E. S. Tunstall

Tax Assessor, Baldwin County, Ala.

COMPLIMENTS OF *Walter O. Poser*

Dear Joe:

*Enclosed my stand on
the tax equalization. If meets
with your approval and you
think I've done a good job
Comment on it.*

*Your friend
Ed Dumball*

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Oct. 6, 1962

Mr. E. S. Tunstall
Tax Assessor
Bay Minette, Ala.

Dear Ed:

Checking on your reported decrease in the volume of assessed values in the F.S.T. Book this year, I find the figures do not show a proper condition for comparison.

The 1961 book showed improvement (building) values amounting to \$1,201,020 and the 1962 book shows \$1,202,420, an increase of only \$1,400.

However a further check will show that property assessed to Eula B. Beasley on her 1961 assessment sheet #2 at \$8,000 for improvements and \$1,540 for personal property is assessed in the 1962 Corp. Book to Beasley Nursing Home, Inc. at \$9,000 for improvements and \$1780 for personal property. The \$1,000 improvement assessment of Mrs. M. Dyson for 1961 is in the 1962 Corp. Book assessed to M. Dyson Building Co., Inc. The James D. Callaway improvement assessment of \$1,100 will be found in the 1962 Corp. Book assessed to Home Investment Corp. The 1961 Fairhope Holding Trust improvement value of \$8,340 is also in the 1962 Corp. Book assessed to White Dairy Co., of Fairhope. The 1961 J. R. Hebbard \$800 improvement assessment for 1962 is in the Supplement assessed to Grand Lodge of Alabama AF & AM. The Delchamps Realty assessment of \$70,000 in regular Beat 10 should have been in the F.S.T. Book for 1962.

Giving consideration to the foregoing it will be noted there was a real increase in building values on Colony land amounting to \$91,640, 7.63 per cent.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

c/c to R. C. Macon

FAIRHOPE ALABAMA.
JANUARY 3rd, 1959

Fairhope Single Tax Corporation
340 Fairhope Avenue,
Fairhope Alabama.


Attention Dr. C.A. Gaston

Dear Dr. Gaston:

This will confirm our conversation of recent date in which I requested a side walk and curbing on Church Street, North Side of Fairhope Avenue, on the West side of the Street. I believe that our City of Fairhope has grown sufficiently to warrant such improvements.

I hope that the Single Tax Council will investigate this matter and find that the need is imperative.

Cordially,


JOSEPH S. VINCI

"BREEZE-BLOWN"

By Abe D. Waldauer

Read at Meeting of The Egyptians
Memphis, Tennessee
December 17, 1942

"BREEZE-BLOWN"

By Abe D. Waldauer

(Read at Meeting, December 17, 1942)

Peoples and nations long forgotten probably raised their armies by the draft. The earliest record of selective service I have found, however, is in the Bible, the book of Numbers:*

"And the Lord spoke unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tabernacle of the congregation, on the first day of the second month in the second year after their going out of the land of Egypt, saying:

"Take ye the sum of all of the congregation of the children of Israel, after their families, by their descent from their fathers, by numbering the names, every male according to their polls;

"From twenty years old and upward, all that are able to go forth to war in Israel; these shall ye number, according to their armies, thou and Aaron."

If you will re-read the first chapters of book of Numbers, you may be surprised to find that there is nothing new about the Draft system. For in this book is indisputable evidence that the Selective Service System flourished and was put into practice more than thirty centuries before the present Global War embraced in its sweep the manpower of the five continents.

I doubt if those of us connected with Draft Board

*The book of Numbers, Chap. 1, Verses 1-4

No. 5, Memphis, Tennessee, realized that our entire Selective Service System found its prototype in the command of the Lord to Moses.

Interesting as would be a comparison of the two selective service systems, such is not the purpose of this paper. There has been much discussion and criticism of the draft. An unfortunate spirit has developed that being inducted into Service involves a reflection on the inductee; all too many have volunteered, without regard to when the Government could best use their services; and whether they could render better service in a necessary civilian capacity. The entire Army, Navy and Marine Corps should be raised by selective service. If we have a man-power problem in America today, a part of the problem is due to the fact that the three arms of the Service have engaged in a race with each other to recruit enlisted and officer personnel, with unfortunate results both to the Selective Service and the War Effort.

I leave for the historian and the student an analysis of the selective service system as it is being operated in the present war. Rather, I should prefer, in this paper, to pass in review, in a haphazard, and rather disconnected way—somewhat in the way as they appear before the Draft Board—some of the men who have come before us. If the proper study of mankind is man, no better laboratory can be afforded for this study than the Draft Board. Names are fictitious.

Until Pearl Harbor, there was much resentment against the Selective Service System. Economically, the nation was on the upturn. The impetus of a great

lend-lease programme and the determination of the President and the Congress to make America the arsenal of democracy, launched us upon a period of prosperity. Many young men, who did not have a real chance at lucrative employment since the debacle of 1929, found opportunity for the first time. They were not to be blamed that they resented being taken away from this opportunity. When, after a period of depression, the order of induction came, separating them from lush and profitable employment, like the Britishers of old, they

“grudged a year of Service

To the Lordliest life on earth.”

Perhaps that explains the attitude of “Sam Smathers.” He was a young man—in his early twenties. His father had built up a manufacturing business, giving employment to more than a hundred people. Hear him address the Board:

“I think it is fine for men to be selected for the Army; but the Draft Law should take those who can best be spared. I think I am a fairly good citizen. I give jobs to more than one hundred men. I am necessary to this business. Why shouldn’t the Draft Board take those who have little property? They can be spared, without upsetting ordinary commercial enterprises. Their leaving for the Army would make little difference. I hope you understand the idea I have in mind.”

The Appeals Agent said:

“You believe that those who have the least will make less sacrifice if they go to the Army? Should

lack of property be a qualification for military service?"

"Yes," said Smathers, "you state the thought better than I did.

"But," said the Appeals Agent, "I believe in the Jacksonian theory."

"And what is that," asked Smathers.

Followed a recital of how, when Andrew Jackson was preparing to fight the Battle of New Orleans, a cotton planter sought the General and complained that some of his soldiers had taken the planter's cotton to make breastworks.

The General asked him if he could identify his cotton, and the planter asserted that every bale taken was marked with his brand. He took the General to the place in the breastworks where the bales of cotton had been placed.

"There, General," he said, "There is my cotton."

"Well," said the General, taking a gun from one of his soldiers, and placing it in the arms of the planter, "since that cotton is your property, get behind it and defend it!"

And, following the Jacksonian policy, the Board duly inducted Smathers into the Army. His Army experience has broadened him greatly. He has learned the true democracy of military life. He will appreciate, when he comes out, that character is worth far more than property.

* * * * *

One serving on the Draft Board meets a cross-section of the area covered by the Board. These are

all types and kinds of people. Not all registrants are seeking to evade military service. Many volunteered at the first suggestion of need. Others followed the theory that they were available for call, and would come when the Board sent for them. From the standpoint of effective use of manpower in time of War, that is perhaps the most intelligent policy.

Many people have legitimate grounds to criticize the questionnaires. Some cannot understand them. Others feel that the questionnaires do not give enough space to enable the registrants to present fully the case to the Draft Board. For example, one man came before Board No. 5 with a bit of protest:

"There's only five lines," he said, "for a man to list his children. What are you going to do when a fellow has more children than five?"

Inquiry developed that this registrant, though only twenty-seven years of age, had fifteen children. And none of them were plural births. Here was a problem not only for the Draft Board to figure out, but also was a source of pride to the registrant, because of his fecundity.

But the explanation was simple. He had married at the age of seventeen, and then babies began to come along with monotonous regularity. By the time he was twenty-four, he had seven children. His wife died; and thereafter he married a second wife,—a widow with a collection of children from her first marriage. To this union, others were added, until the number swelled to fifteen. It was obviously inconsiderate of the Government to seek to confine his recital of names,

dates of birth, and other statistical data regarding children to five meager lines when at least fifteen were required. The Board apologized for the lack of foresight on the part of Selective Service; and allowed the registrant to insert in the questionnaire another sheet, whereon to list the additional children.

* * * * *

One difficulty about administering the draft law is that regulations are constantly changing. There were drastic changes shortly after America's entrance into the War. This was to be expected, because prior to actual warfare, the objective of selective service was to build up men who could receive a year's military training, and thereafter be subject to call from the reserve. We sought to build a reserve pool of military manpower—hence the highest physical standards were maintained. But after the outbreak of the War, men formerly rejected for physical reasons were acceptable for military service. And these changes may work hardships.

Take the case of a local grocer, whom I will call Brown. When he received his call, he asked for three months within which to sell his grocery store. The Board allowed it. He succeeded in selling the store within three weeks. Thereupon, he volunteered for immediate induction. At that time, he reported to the Board that he was engaged to be married; but was postponing his marriage until after he had completed his year of training.

So Brown went to Camp,—and was rejected for physical reasons. He had injured a leg in a football

game in high school; and the medical authorities at the induction center regarded this as a blemish which made him unavailable for general military service.

Then Brown came home again. He bought back his grocery store; and he married his girl. Then came Pearl Harbor.

When the physical requirements were lowered, the Board re-classified Brown. The Appeals Agent could not see the justice of it; and the case was appealed. The Appeals Board affirmed the decision of the lower board; and the case was then appealed to the President. On the presidential appeal, the lower boards were affirmed.

Thus, through no fault of his own, but because of changes in physical standards, Brown found himself not only in the army, to which he did not object, but also married while in the army, to which he did object. Thus a trick of history compelled him to sell his business twice. Perhaps the Appeals Agent was wrong about it. In these days of total war, the rights of the individual are not superior to the welfare of the nation. What may appear to be individual injustices must be tolerated for the general good.

* * * * *

An interesting case is that of Stapleton. His questionnaire reflected that it was a border-line case—one of those in which the Board, had it deferred him, would have found support therefor in the questionnaire; and had it inducted him, that position could likewise have been supported. So the Board called him in for a personal interview.

"Gentlemen of the Board," said Stapleton, "I appreciate your courtesy. But I am not asking any special favors, and I'm waiving everything. If the Board thinks it is my time to go, I'm ready to go."

"Well," asked the Chairman, "if that is the way you feel about it, why didn't you volunteer long ago. This war has been on several months."

"Because," answered Stapleton, "the Army won't take me. I'm exactly one hundred and two pounds overweight."

So the Board classified him in 1-A, and subsequently he was sent to the induction center. A few days later, he called the Chairman, to get some information about the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act, and was referred to the Appeals Agent.

It developed that he had been buying an automobile on the installment plan, and he wanted to protect his equity while he was in the service. There was no difficulty in making the necessary arrangements. And after they had been made, the Appeals Agent asked:

"How did you get in the Army? Weren't you 102 pounds overweight?"

"Well, Sir," said Stapleton, "it was this way:

"We rides all night to Chattanooga. Then, when we get out, they put us in busses, and take us to the induction center. They lines us up, and the sergeant counts off a number of us and marches us into one of the barracks. When he gets us in front of the barracks, he says, 'now gentlemen, you are in provisional

company B, and don't forget your designation.' After he gets us in the barracks, he says, 'Hey, you, all of you, get off all of your damned clothes, and be damned fast about it.'

"And he then lines us up, all of us strip naked. He says, 'fall in,' and shows us how to do that. He says, 'open ranks, march,' and shows us how to do that. And then he says: 'Now, men, the Captain will be here with the medical officer.' So the Captain comes in, and the medical officer too. They examine us pretty fast. Almost anybody can pass the examination these days. Then the medical officer takes me. When he brings me to the scales to weigh me, I says, 'Here's where I throw you. I'm exactly one hundred and two pounds overweight.' So he has me get on the scales, and looks me over, and he says, 'So you are, exactly one hundred and two pounds overweight.' Then he scribbles something on a pad, tears off a sheet, and says, 'Take that to the medical sergeant down at the end of the barracks.' So I goes to the sergeant, and he takes the paper, looks at it, turns around, and sticks another sheet of paper in the typewriter; he writes something, and then hands it to me.'

"What does this mean," I asks him.

"Big boy," he says, "That means you can give your soul to God and yourself to Uncle Sam—'cause you are a soldier!"

"But," I say, "What are you going to do with this one hundred and two pounds I'm overweight?"

"That's what," says the sergeant, "that is a waiver.

The Government has waived it.'

"Yes, Sir," continued Stapleton, "they waived it. They took my one hundred and two pounds and waived it—waved it right in my face!"

Armies of democracy are fearfully and wonderfully made!

* * * * *

Aesthetic registrants are difficult to deal with. Those who follow art for art's sake are convinced that not even the impact of war should interfere with the pursuit of art.

Algernon King is a student of voice. He proclaimed that the Board should defer him because a year's service would interfere with the development of his voice as a singer. When the Board declined to grant deferment, he appealed. The summary of his case on appeal may be interesting, and I quote:

"The claim for deferment on the ground of interference with the registrant's development as a singer has been prayerfully and carefully considered by this Board. While the Board has no desire to interfere with the majestic onward march of art, we recall with humility that 'art is long and time is fleeting.'

"Conceding, for the purpose of this analysis, that art may be a necessity in civilization, as the registrant claims, we are none the less persuaded that perhaps the Army may require art also, since, as is insisted by the registrant, 'man does not live by bread alone.' With this conclusion we agree.

"We do not minimize the value of song. History is eloquent respecting the worth of singers. An an-

cient Greek wrote songs that inspired a nation to victory. The hosannas of Miriam on the shores of the Red Sea memorialized the drowning of Pharaoh and his army. Undeniably the nation has been edified by hearing, 'Yes Sir, She's My Baby,' from forty-seven radio stations at one and the same time. The old adage has it that he who writes a good song is as great as he who takes a city.

"From all of which we are impelled to the conclusion that the army needs an artist of pre-eminent musical skill and ability. We conclude, therefore, that the classification of this registrant in Class 1-A is proper; that he should go to the Army; and that it will then devolve upon his commanding officer to see that he does not sing after taps is blown."

* * * * *

Early in the game, we met the conscientious objector. Clinton, a Seventh Day Adventist, advised the Board that he did not believe in war; that he would not engage in combatant military service. He also asserted that he would not drill on Saturday.

Inquiry developed that Clinton had been a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church for more than five years—long before there was any suggestion of a draft.

"The Lord gave us the Commandment, 'Thou Shalt Not Kill.' That means what it says. War is wrong; and I will not add to the blood-guilt of the nation."

Then the argument began. Clinton was told that the Board had no prejudice against a conscientious

objector. It sometimes takes more courage to assert a claim of conscientious objection to war in time of war than to go to the military service, he was told.

Then began the theological argument. Clinton's attention was directed to the Draft Board in the Bible—in the book of Numbers.

"Yes," he replied, "I know that is in the Bible; but notice how it begins: 'The Lord spoke unto Moses.' If the Lord told me to go into the Army now, I would go. But I haven't heard from the Lord. I've heard only from Congress, and from this Board—but not from God."

Then Clinton was cited to the incident where the Lord commanded the Sun to stand still, in order that Joshua might slay more of his enemies.

Once more, deftly and respectfully, he pointed out that this was the command of the Lord, which he asserted he was prepared to obey.

Of course, the Board was powerless to bring him a personal message from God.

"What would you do," Clinton was asked, "if a burglar with homicidal intent broke into your house and attempted to murder your mother?"

"Nothing," he replied. "I am a non-resistant."

"Absolutely nothing?" he was asked.

"Well, I might call the police."

"Suppose a policeman came, and murdered the burglar. Who would be morally responsible?"

"The policeman," Clinton replied. "He knew the hazards of his job, and the possibility of having to kill somebody when he becomes a policeman."

"But if you had been content to let the burglar murder and pillage, then he would not have been called. Therefore, isn't the responsibility partly yours?"

"The Commandment says, 'Thou Shalt Not Kill!'"

"Would you do indirectly what you would not do directly?" Clinton was asked.

"No Sir," he replied.

"Well, are not you doing exactly that by filing this claim of conscientious objection?"

"How so?" he asked.

"Well, this Board must send a certain quota to the army this month. If you are granted your claim, another man must go in your place. Suppose he goes, and is killed. Is not his death due to your claim of conscientious objections to war? Are you not, therefore, killing the man who steps into your place, merely by filing this claim?"

"But he believes in killing, while I don't," Clinton replied.

"It is not a question of his beliefs or yours. The question is: What is the effect of your claim for exemption? Isn't it possible to kill an American by filing this claim, just as definitely as you might be called upon to kill a German by shooting him? There are various and varied ways of killing." To this, Clinton nodded agreement, and asked time to think it over, and to discuss it with his minister. Two days later, he again appeared before the Board.

"I have not discussed it with the minister, because I wanted to think it through myself. Is there no place

in the Army where I might go, that offers a chance to help the soldiers? I am not afraid. I will be glad to go to the front. But I don't want to kill—I would rather be killed."

Then it was suggested that if Clinton would volunteer for the medical corps, the Board would ask the Army to assign him there. This pleased Clinton. He said that it was proper to heal the sick and do the Lord's work, even on the Sabbath. He would rescue the wounded, but he would not kill.

Thus Clinton went into the Army Medical Corps. The induction center probably saw that he was placed in that branch of the Service. It has been many months since he appeared before the Board.

The Board conducted its own investigation of Clinton. It found that he was absolutely sincere in his religious convictions. He did not work on Saturday. He practiced tithing. He received two checks for his work, one for nine-tenths and the other for one-tenth, which he turned over directly to his Church.

I cannot help wondering where he is today. Has he reached one of the various fronts in this far-flung war? If so, I believe he is upholding, in the medical corps, the highest traditions of American arms. I am morally certain that no wounded American within the sound of his ears, will cry, above the din of battle, "Help, stretcher-bearer," in vain.

* * * * *

Negroes, as a class, do not claim deferments or exemptions. In fact, I cannot now recall a single ap-

peal by a Negro registrant in our Board—unless the appeal was taken by the Appeals Agent. They are submissive, and they are willing to leave everything to the Board. Theirs is a curiously fatalistic attitude.

"I don't want to go, white folks," but if the Army wants me here I is," one of them said.

And this seems to be characteristic of the attitude of some of the race. I do not share the view of those who are skeptical of the Negro as a soldier. I have seen him tried in the last war. I have seen our artillery advance over roads which he built under fire. I have seen him in action. I have seen the American Negro leave his dead upon the battlefield, side by side with our white dead.

I cannot escape a sense of pity for the uneducated Negro registrant. For him, in most instances, the implications of world power politics are meaningless. Economically, in the South, he is lowest in the scale. Yet he goes forth, by fiat of Government, to fight side by side with others, many of whom have a much larger stake in the nation than he. With the poet, I pity these Negroes,—

"Not that they starve, but starve so dreamlessly,
Not that they sow, but that they seldom reap.
Not that they serve, but have no Gods to serve.
Not that they die—but that they die like sheep."

But this submissive attitude is not typical of all. There are those of the race who are alive, alert and keenly intelligent. They recognize that in spite of the disadvantages under which they suffer now, in spite

of petty oppressions and vexations, they enjoy a larger measure of opportunity in this democracy than anywhere else on earth. They know not Africa nor any other country. They are Americans. And because of their intelligence they welcome the opportunity to service. From the Revolutionary War to the present, the American Negro has done his part on the field of battle. In the last World War, some of his units fought with superb courage. If given the opportunity in this war, I venture the prediction the American Negro will not be found wanting.

* * * * *

There are over sixteen thousand files in the office of Board No. 5. But it is difficult to regard them merely as files. There is committed to the hands of Board 5 some sixteen thousand lives. The Board, in time of war, may be ordering many of these men to their death. It is a fearsome and fearful power which the Board exercises.

* * * * *

Once more, Congress changes the law. It lowers the draft age, and all of those between eighteen and twenty can be inducted. "It is a young man's War."

Some wail that our youth should not be sent forth to die. But those in pew and pulpit, in school and college, who in years past have blindly preached an unreasoning pacifism, must bear a large share of the responsibility for what we shall see. Sentimental mothers, who opposed the R.O.T.C. because they did not wish their sons to drill in the drizzle; ministers, teach-

ers and moulders of public opinion who refused to face reality, have partially contributed to inviting this war. They cannot escape their responsibility now. Inevitably, they must answer this mass of youngsters, swinging to slaughter—when that battle is over.

And theirs is a moral responsibility which I should dislike to have on my conscience.

* * * * *

Now the shadows lengthen. Gone are the single men. Gone, also, are those having collateral dependents.

For a temporary respite, comes the drafting of adolescents between eighteen and twenty years of age. But it is temporary only.

And thereafter, every man taken will involve separating a family; a husband from a wife; a father from his children.

This is the Induction of Tragedy.

There is no escape. War is inexorable.

ABE D. WALDAUER
WILLIAM C. BATEMAN
ED M. LOWRANCE

LAW OFFICE
WALDAUER, BATEMAN & LOWRANCE
COMMERCE TITLE BUILDING
MEMPHIS 3, TENNESSEE

February 5, 1958.

Dr. C. A. Gaston
Fairhope Single Tax Corporation
340 Fairhope Avenue
Fairhope, Alabama.

Dear Connie:

When I got back, I was snowed under with an accumulation of stuff - and still am.

I really intended writing to thank you for all of your courtesies - and to tell you and Margaret how much we enjoyed being with you.

I am working on the corporation - but want to do it slowly and then organize it. I will send a suggested draft of the documents to you for submission to Mr. Dyson when completed.

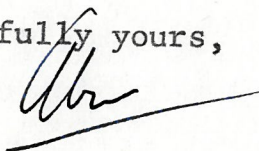
I am taking the liberty of referring your letter to Mr. Lowrance in this firm. He practices tax law almost exclusively - and I regard him as the best tax lawyer in Memphis. After he has had an opportunity to study your questions, I am sure that he will have some interesting ideas on it.

Personally, though I am not a tax lawyer, I have always been of the opinion that if our case were properly presented at Washington, we would be held exempt from income taxes.

When do the tax sales take place in Fairhope and in Baldwin County? Please send me the advertisements of these sales when they appear in the Fairhope Curious. You might put a red check by any of these properties that you might want to bid in for taxes. If the Colony does not buy them, I will - with a view of conveying them either to the corporation on the proposed set up, or to the Colony.

With kind personal regards,

Faithfully yours,



ADW/mzp.

Feb. 1, 1958

Dear Abe:

Spider was in Montgomery recently calling on an old friend of ours, Frank Howard Perry, a retired employee of the enforcement division of the Federal Income Tax Department. He told Spider to tell me he was sure that the colony should not be liable for Federal Income Tax.

He seemed to think that a sufficiently competent tax attorney could sustain a protest in a federal court. Years ago the colony did try for an exempt ruling but was unsuccessful. However the matter was never taken before a court.

Recalling that you were going to look into the matter of income tax exemption with respect to your proposed fund I thought it might be well to see if there were a possibility of getting the colony corporation exempted.

We feel we have had far too much cold weather this year and presume you have been getting your share of it. Groundhog predictions are for six months more winter weather. Hope you profited from your vacation and that you and Dot are both well.

Sincerely,

1. Create a non-stock, non-profit educational corporation, which will be given authority by its charter to educate people on the aims and purposes of the Single tax; to issue pamphlets, conduct schools, operate enclaves of economic rent, or in any other manner further the educational aspects of the philosophy of Henry George. The corporation may not engage in politics.

2. Secure, from the Bureau of Internal Revenue, a ruling that the corporation is exempt from Federal income tax, and that contributions made to the corporation are deductible for income tax purposes.

3. The charter will vest in the corporation the right to buy land for the purpose of operating enclaves; of making donations of land to enclaves already in existence; and of incurring indebtedness without limitation; and of issuing notes, debentures, or other evidences of debentures; including, but without limitation, the right to mortgage lands, and to sell notes or bonds to finance any of the undertakings.

4. Persons, firms or corporations giving money to the corporation shall have the right to designate how the money given by them shall be spent: whether for printing and issuing pamphlets, books, etc., or for investment in land, etc.,

5. As money is accumulated in the land fund, land should be purchased. The following methods might be given consideration:

(a) purchase of tax-delinquent land in a county where an enclave is located.

(b) purchase land adjacent to, or near enough to an enclave, so that a fund will be available to expand the area of an existing enclave, where the land purchased will be reasonably needed to expand the enclave's area.

(c) Give this land to the enclave, when it is ready to receive it. the deed of gift to be upon such conditions as may be agreed to between the educational corporation and the enclave. To illustrate, one of the conditions of the gift might be the inclusion in the leases of a provision that the enclave will set aside ten per cent, or any money agreed upon, - to expand the area of the enclave. At any event, provide for a reverter, so that if the enclave goes out of business, the land will revert to the educational corporation, subject to any lease or leases which the enclave may have placed upon it.

LAW OFFICE
ABE D. WALDAUER
COMMERCE TITLE BUILDING
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

ASSOCIATES:
JAMES H. COOPER
RICHARD H. KREMER

August 17, 1960.

Dr. C. A. Gaston
Fairhope Single Tax Corp.
Fairhope, Alabama.

Dear Connie:

For some time, I have been talking
about the developments in Israel.

I am enclosing a photocopy of letter
from the Jewish National Fund which you will find
self explanatory.

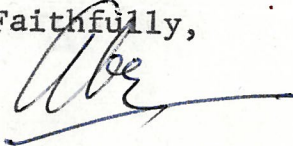
I am also enclosing copy of a letter I
have written Herbert Freeden.

It ought to be a matter of great encourage-
ment to us Single Taxers, and to Enclavians, that
Israel is the first nation to make 90% of its land
holdings operative under the enclavial system.

I am wondering if you cannot take the
time to write a good article for the Courier on this
development?

With kind personal regards,

Faithfully,



ADW/mzp.
enc.

PS1 - Best to Margaret -

PS.2. Had a phone call from
Miss Gordin - She reports that
you gave me a good character! Thanks!!

PS3 - Am in the Seventh Heaven of delight.
Many Alice's children are visiting us.

ASSOCIATES:
JAMES H. COOPER
RICHARD H. KREMER

LAW OFFICE
ABE D. WALDAUER
COMMERCE TITLE BUILDING
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

August 17, 1960.

Mr. Herbert Freeden
Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael
P.O. Box 283
Jerusalem, ISRAEL

Dear Mr. Freeden:

I find your letter of July 31st most interesting and challenging.

I would appreciate it if you would send me copy of the law to which this letter refers, if it is printed in English.

I will be greatly interested in knowing how the law operates.

I happen to be a subscriber to the philosophy of Henry George. What you have done is to go in for land nationalization.

I would like to see the State impose a tax on the rental value of land, exclusive of improvements in or on land. In this way, the building of improvements would be greatly facilitated - and unused lands could be forced into the best and most adequate use.

But it would seem from your letter, that Israel has the most advanced land policy of any nation in the world.

I would appreciate your further advices as to how the law will work.

With kind personal regards,

Faithfully yours,

Abe D. Waldauer

ADW/mzp.

C
O
P
Y

קרן קימת לישראל KEREN KAYEMETH LEISRAEL

(JEWISH NATIONAL FUND)

TELEGRAMS: KEREN, JERUSALEM : טלגרמות : 283 . ת.ד. . 4663 . טלפון . ירושלים .
HEAD OFFICE, JERUSALEM - TEL. 4663 - P.O. Box 283 - CODES: BENTLEY & R. MOSSE

Information Letter to Keyworkers

July 31, 1960

Av 7, 5720

Dear Colleague,

The final passing of the land laws by the Knesseth was hailed by the Israel press as an event of great ideological and practical significance - indeed, the new legislation makes the agrarian regime in Israel one of the most advanced in the world. We of the Keren Kayemeth can be proud of this development which constitutes a great moral victory of the idea and accomplishments of the Fund.

Let me single out quite briefly four salient points:


1. The basic JNF principle, namely that the land may not be sold for ever, but only given in leasehold, was so far applicable only to the holdings of the Fund. Now this tenet - based on the biblical injunction "... and the land shall not be sold forever..." - has been extended to practically all public lands in Israel, that is to 90% of the State's territory; in other words: the idea of the Keren Kayemeth has "conquered" the State. What visionaries like Rabbi Zvi Kalisher, Moses Hess and Professor Hermann Schapira once dreamt, is being implemented on a national scale. Truly, the land laws are a vindication of the Fund's ideology and a tribute to its work through two generations.
2. According to the new legislation, land management in Israel will be unified in one authority, the Land Administration Authority, to be set up under the Minister for Agriculture. This Authority will administer the lands of the State and of the JNF, without neither party losing its ownership title to its respective holdings. The Authority will have a Council of 13, seven members to be appointed by the Government and six by the JNF. Any overlapping in land administration which has occurred in the past has thus come to an end and the unification of land policy will have a salutary effect on the national estate.
3. As a result of the Covenant between the State and the Zionist Organisation - Keren Kayemeth, the Fund's status is being enhanced and its work put on a new footing. The JNF has now been made the sole agency in Israel responsible for land development in all its forms, phases and facets. What this means in a country of which four fifth of the lands are still desolate, can easily be gauged by those who have seen the mountain wastes of Judea and the Galil,

or have travelled through the endless sands of the Negev. Land development entails reclamation, afforestation and agricultural drainage. Therefore, parallel to the land administration body, a Land Development Authority is being set up which will function within the framework of the Keren Kayemeth; its Council of 13 will have seven members representing the JNF and six the Government. Let me add that the Fund remains as before an autonomous institution of the Zionist Movement.

4. One more point: Both parties, the State and the Zionist Movement-Keren Kayemeth, are equal partners to the agreement that has been reached on land matters. It may well be that this coordination and cooperation will serve as an example and some day be extended also to other fields of activity. Not for the first time would the JNF have paved the way for new concepts and conceptions.

I hope that you will find these observations useful.

Sincerely yours,



Herbert Freedman

Oct. 29, 1960

Dear Abe:

Thanks for the information about Israel's new land policy. I finally got around to writing a report appearing on Page 9 of the October 27 issue of the Courier I am sending you under separate cover.

We had a grand visit from Paul, Mary and children the last two weeks of August. We are all very happy that Paul has completed and had accepted his dissertation and the degree is to be formally awarded at the University of North Carolina next spring.

Our great principle is coming in for much favorable publicity now with the extensive coverage in the August issue of House & Home, Raymond Moley's 'Mother of Monopoly' editorial in the September 12 Newsweek and "The Time Has Come To Reconsider The Tax Theories Of Henry George" by Raymond Moley in the July 27 issue of the Los Angeles Times. More and more our economic and social problems are being associated with land speculation.

Hope all is well with you and Dot and that it will not be very long before you get down our way.

Sincerely,

ASSOCIATES:
JAMES H. COOPER
RICHARD H. KREMER

LAW OFFICE
ABE D. WALDAUER
COMMERCE TITLE BUILDING
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Jackson 4-5156

October 31, 1960.

Dr. C. A. Gaston
Fairhope Single Tax Corporation
340 Fairhope Avenue
Fairhope, Alabama.

Dear Connie:

It was good to get your letter of October 29th and the article in the Fairhope Courier.

However, you give me far too much credit. My part in the matter was negligible.

The policies adopted by the Jewish National Fund were established by that agency long before I became active with the Fund.

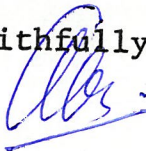
Tell Dr. Paul Gaston I am delighted that he got his doctorate - and I hope that you will receive an annual visit from your grandchildren - as well as your children.

I do not know what we will do this Christmas. Of course, Memphis State basketball team plays in the Sugar Bowl - and I hope to be able to get down to see that game.

I have been getting along in fine shape - but Dot has been ill with colds and a few other things for the last few days. However, she is running into shape in good fashion.

With best to all there,

Faithfully,



ADW/mzp.

LAW OFFICE
ABE D. WALDAUER

ASSOCIATE:
JAMES H. COOPER

SUITE 3001
100 NORTH MAIN BUILDING
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38103

May 16, 1968.

Dr. C. A. Gaston
Fairhope,
Alabama 36532.

Dear Connie:

I have read the 1967 report of the Fairhope
Single Tax Corporation.

Do you think it would be a good idea to make
an effort to amend the Charter, so as to put a little more
emphasis on the educational aspects of what we are trying
to do with the Colony demonstration?

If necessary, we could publish a little literature
for general distribution.

I realize that the Federal government is des-
perately in need of revenue at this time; but this fact
should not preclude us from attempting to get our Colony
declared a tax exempt institution, from the standpoint of
Federal income tax.

I remember our verbal discussion on this sub-
ject quite a few years ago, and your position then was, as
I recall it, that the Federal income tax bite was not too
great, since your money spent in building streets for the
town, the cost of operation of the library, etc. were all
deductible.

You will, I am sure, recall my statement that
if we were tax exempt, we might set up annual contributions
to be made by those who were willing to make the same. Then
they could get a tax exemption on their personal income taxes.

I have seen this thing work very effectively in
connection with the purchase of land in Israel. The Jewish
National Fund was given such an exemption by the Federal
government, and this enabled a large number of members to
make annual contributions for the purchase of more land in
Israel.

In that connection, I hope you got the same kick out of Israel's victorious six-day war, as I did.

We have acquired all of the land south of the original boundaries of Israel, going all the way down to the southern end of the Gulf of Elath. Israel is beginning to build new colonies on this land. They have also regained the Gaza Strip.

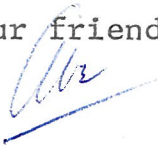
I cannot escape the feeling that we would do well to emulate the example of Israel.

We need more land in order to extend the area of the Colony. Are we still purchasing tax defaulted lands adjacent to Colony boundaries?

As soon as I can get away, which will probably be a year from now, I hope to come down and talk these problems out with you. So you may take this letter as a warning, and flee from the wrath to come.

With all good wishes,

Your friend,



ADW/mzp.

June 10, 1970

Mr. Abe D. Waldauer
Suite 3001
100 North Main Building
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Dear Abe:

I am quite ashamed of my neglect in replying to your letters of December 5, 1969 and April 3, 1970. First, the December letter. The Fairhope Courier Tabloid supplement you received was mailed to all Colony members. It was designed and compiled by the Colony Education Committee and published by The Courier at Colony Expense.

You may have noted in my 1969 report some dissatisfaction on my part, in the progress being made by the Colony in its application of the fundamental principles it was its purpose to apply in Fairhope on Colony land. There is considerable evidence that the measure of the ground rent we have been levying is, in many cases, far below a realistic levy of the actual value.

The deleterious results of this failure are becoming more and more apparent as Fairhope grows and prospers. Areas where the land is owned by the Colony do not, as in earlier days, give evidence that such land is being put to its highest and best use in comparison with areas in the community where the land is privately owned. We not only have blocks that need resubdivision into lot sizes that more nearly meet present needs but we have unleased land that is unavailable for leasing due to a lack of access roads and essential utilities. In addition we also have leased and occupied land that quite apparently is not being put to its highest and most productive use.

I have present hope that we have under way a method of appraisal of realistic rental values that will, I hope, go far toward removal of the deficiencies of which I complain, all of which need financial means. Only after we are demonstrating a higher degree of efficiency in the use of the land we now have, should we ask for more. I hope my report on this year's activities will show us to be on the way to the achievement of a more apparently effective demonstration of community advantages in our application of single tax proposals for the securing of public revenue.

I do appreciate your continuing interest in Fairhope and in me. I am much interested in all news from Israel and do hope that some

means will develop that will enable her to enjoy a peaceful existence.

The Fairhope Courier is owned by Eastern Shore Publishers, Inc. Ford Cook is Editor and Publisher. There is no marked evidence that present owners or the editor have any very great interest in or understanding of single tax principles. It is up to the Colony to inspire interest by making the areas where the land is owned by the Colony the most attractive in physical appearance. This can result, I feel sure, if we develop a high degree of efficiency in appraising and levying realistic rent charges.

With best wishes for your continuing physical improvement and assurance of my affection for you and Dorothy, I am

Sincerely,

is owned by the Colony compared favorably with other areas.
improvement by the Colony to the extent that in areas where the land
presently presents impressions of one more effective application of the
only, a application of the Colony. It is up to us to create
improvement of single tax principles or the results of the Col-
ony present owners of equity have and will have interest in or
inc. Ford Cook Editor and Publisher. There is no marked evidence
ence. The Fairhope Courier is owned by Eastern Shore Publishers,
means will develop that will enable her to enjoy a peaceful exist-

means will develop that will enable her to enjoy a peaceful existence. The Fairhope Courier is owned by Eastern Shore Publishers, Inc., Ford Cook Editor and Publisher. There is no marked evidence that present owners of editor have any very great interest in or understanding of single tax principles or the results of the Colony's application of those principles. It is up to us to change their present impressions by our more effective application of the fundamental principles to the extent that in areas where the land is owned by the Colony contrasts favorably with other areas.

STUDY

absence of any suggestion for a new and better I am
with best wishes for your continuing progress and se-

abundance and health and happiness.

Best, I feel sure, to me and to the people of the Colony in
the Colony the most effective in progress. This can
be made more effective by making the same more the way is owned by
or understanding of single tax principles. It is up to the Colony
that present owners of the editor make any very great interest in
Ford Cook is Editor and Publisher. There is no marked evidence
The Fairhope Courier is owned by Eastern Shore Publishers, Inc.

ence.

means will develop that will enable her to enjoy a peaceful exist-

LAW OFFICE
ABE D. WALDAUER
SUITE 3001
100 NORTH MAIN BUILDING
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38103

A. C. 901-526-5156

December 5, 1969

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dr. C. A. Gaston
102 North Summit
Fairhope, Alabama

My Dear Doctor:

I was delighted to received the Single Tax Section
of the Courier dated November 13, 1969.

I am assuming that you are responsible for having
sent it to me.

Will you please let me know if there is any land
available to purchase at or near the present boundaries of
Fairhope, and how much this land would cost, if purchased.

I am sorry that I have not been able to get down in
a long time and visit Fairhope.

With thanks and kind personal regards, I am

Cordially and sincerely,



ADW/bp

LAW OFFICE
ABE D. WALDAUER
SUITE 3001
100 NORTH MAIN BUILDING
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38103

A. C. 901-526-5156

April 3, 1970

Dr. C. A. Gaston
Treasurer & Superintendent of Finance
Fairhope Single Tax Corporation
Fairhope, Alabama 36532

Dear Dr. Gaston:

I think your 1969 Report is a very interesting one, and shows some progress.

I wish, however, that you could find some means of increasing your land area of the colony. Have you made a study as to how many lease holders derive income from sources outside of the State of Alabama?

There has been an interesting development in the State of Israel. Many people who derive income from the United States and even a few other countries, and have that income mailed at regular intervals to them in Israel, have been exempted from all taxes which has theretofore been assessed against them.

I wish I could get away and visit Fairhope. However, I think I have enough to do. We are now in the midst of a campaign to raise more money for the State of Israel. As you know, the State is seeking to purchase all of the land which they do not own, within national boundaries. Though I do not have an exact report, I venture to suggest that they have a larger attendance in the meetings of their holding weekly at the Henry George Schools of Israel.

I suppose you learned, also, that all land is being rented on long-term leases.

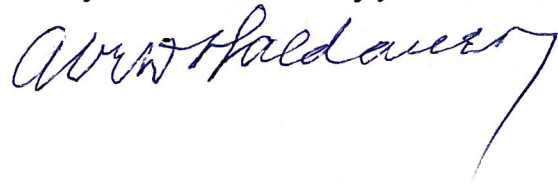
It would have been impossible for Israel to receive as many immigrants as have come there, had it not been for the close kinship between the Henry George Theory and those things which they have put into practice.

Dr. C. A. Gaston
April 3, 1970
Page 2

Please write me what's going on there. Who is publishing the Fairhope Courier? Please give me the name of the present editor and what is his address?

With thanks and kind personal regards, I am

Cordially and sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Arvid Halderson", with a long, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the name.

ADW/js

Nov. 2, 1955

Mr. W. T. Walley
Fairhope, Ala.

Dear Lessee:

We note that you ^{owe} all of the rent for last year and for this year. You now owe us inclusive of interest on your delinquent account to the 10th of this month, \$249.64. We must insist that you make immediate steps to reduce this indebtedness.

We wish to call to your attention the fact that paragraph (6) of the lease contract authorizes us, whenever the rent or any part of it is due and unpaid for six months "to sell at public sale the improvements on any leasehold, for satisfaction of the amount due, after first giving ten days notice by publication in some paper published at Fairhope, Alabama, the cost of such publication and the making of such sale to be paid with the rent out of the proceeds of such sale."

You will note that we have already allowed far more than the six months to which you are entitled under the lease contract.

Paid to 11/10 14.08

Very truly yours,

Secretary

Copy to:
Bank of Fairhope, Mortgagee

Paid in full Nov 7

4-11-'56

Mr. Baston,
Fairhope Single Tax Corp.,
Fairhope, Ala.

Dear Mr. Baston:

You were kind enough to draw up the attached endorsement for the lease on 254 George St., presently in the names of:

Laura Van Dore

E. Marie Wear

As explained my wife and I took over the investment in the house in 1953. Since my mother-in-law can no longer live there at her age and in her physical condition, it is necessary to have her transfer her interest in the lease.

Mr. Rowe expects to sell the house for us on a contract which will require probably seven years to pay off.

My wife and I now hold all investments in common. Therefore I would like to have the lease transferred to the two of us instead
(over)

of just to my wife.

Would you kindly correct the suggested endorsement in order to effect the transfer to the two of us?

Yours truly,
J. P. Wear, Jr.

Apr. 14, 1956

Mr. John P. Wear Jr.
657 Brooke Road
Wayne, Penna.

Dear Mr. Wear:

I am in receipt of your letter of 4/11/56 and suggest the following endorsement to accomplish the purpose of transferring title to the property here to you and Mrs. Wear:

"The within named E. Marie Wear and her husband, John P. Wear Jr. having purchased from the within named Laura B. Van Dore all of her right, title and interest in and to the improvements situated on the within described together with her interest in and to the within lease, we, Laura B. Van Dore and E. Marie Wear, do hereby surrender to Fairhope Single Tax Corporation all of our right, title and interest in and to the within lease, the consideration therefor being its approval of the herewith submitted application of John P. Wear Jr. and E. Marie Wear for a joint-tenant lease to the within described."

After having executed the above endorsement on the back of the lease it and the enclosed applications signed by you and Mrs. Wear should be returned to us together with \$5.00 and a new lease will be issued in your names. Trusting that this will meet with the approval of all I am,

Very truly yours,

Secretary

P. S. Our next council meeting will be April 19 and the following one May 3.

WESTERN GEOPHYSICAL COMPANY

PO Bx 86

Milton Florida 32570

4 November 70

Executive Council

FAIRHOPE SINGLE TAX CORP.

340 Fairhope Avenue

Fairhope Alabama

WESTERN GEOPHYSICAL COMPANY is planning a geophysical survey of Baldwin County, Alabama and respectfully request your permission to do exploration work on your lands in T6S R2E Sections 14, 15 & 16, the line to follow the half line east to west, south side of right-of-way of Highway 48.

WESTERN GEOPHYSICAL COMPANY agrees to protect you from any and all claims or damages, including timber, pastures, roads, wells, etc. that might occur by virtue of this permission if granted.

We agree to secure the permission of the lessee of this land, if any, and all other necessary or interested parties.

Your favorable consideration of this request and an early reply will be greatly appreciated.

If this permission is granted you may sign the extra copy of this letter which is enclosed, or if you prefer, mail us a letter of your own.

Reported at Council meeting 11-5-70. Council said it did not want to be involved in any way that might give the lessee to have any cause for claim against the holding corporation. Information from Ruth E. Rockwell, Acting Sec. G. A. G.

Very truly yours,

Permission granted

this _____ day of

_____ 19 _____

by _____

W. A. McKee

W A McKee
Permit Agent

WESTERN GEOPHYSICAL COMPANY

PO Box 86

Milton Florida 32570

4 November 70

Executive Council

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Your favorable consideration of this request and an early reply will be greatly appreciated.

If this permission is granted you may sign the extra copy of this letter which is enclosed, or if you prefer, mail us a letter of your own.

Very truly yours,

W. A. McKee

W A McKee
Permit Agent

Permission granted

this _____ day of

_____ 19 _____

by _____

TOWNSHIP PLAT

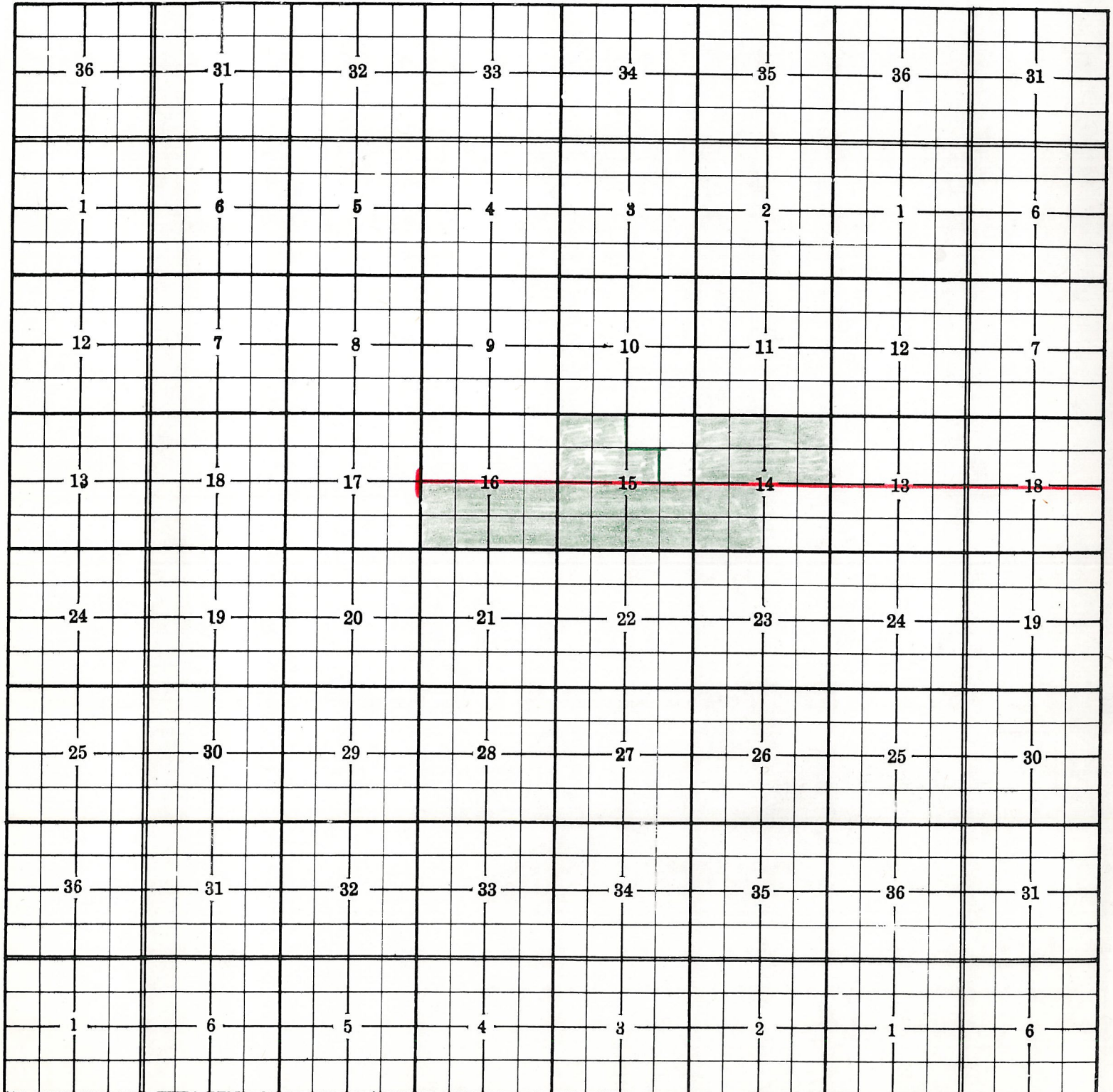


WESTERN GEOPHYSICAL COMPANY

P. O. BOX 86

MILTON, FLORIDA 32570

Township 6 S Range 2 E County BALDWIN Co. ALA.



The Payment of Taxes Becomes
Due Oct. 1; Delinquent Jan. 1

TAX COLLECTOR

When Requesting Information
Give Description of Property

BALDWIN COUNTY

M. H. WILKINS, Tax Collector

BAY MINETTE, ALA.

"We Are At Your Service"
DIAL 2581

March 9th., 1957

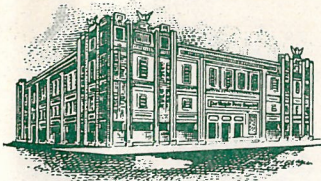
Receipt no.	Name	Amount plus	Fees
<i>NO</i> 28	H. J. & L. H. Battey & C. Williams		24.20
✓ 113 <i>Yes</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Louis Carnley	<i>.17 + .08 = .27</i>	14.40 <i>15.17</i>
✓ 165 <i>Yes</i>	Mrs. Lillian M. Dent & M. W. Dent - 9602	<i>.38 + .13 = .51</i>	26.55 <i>27.56</i>
258 <i>Yes</i>	Estelle & Mary Gibson		40.10
✓ 306 <i>Yes</i>	W. F. Hawie 9120	<i>3.83 + .13 = 3.96</i>	206.64 <i>211.10</i>
325 <i>Yes</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Earl R. Hilyer		46.41
✓ 533 <i>Yes</i>	E. B. Overton & Wife	<i>7.67 + .96 + .17 + .13 = 8.80</i>	458.64 <i>467.94</i>
<i>NO</i> 579	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Radiola		17.63
718	E. M. Tilton		48.96

The 1957 assessment for the Newport Industries is

\$ 314,760

June -

<i>14.40</i>	<i>26.55</i>	<i>206.64</i>	<i>458.64</i>
<i>.27</i>	<i>.51</i>	<i>3.96</i>	<i>8.80</i>
<i>.50</i>	<i>.50</i>	<i>.50</i>	<i>.50</i>
<i>15.17</i>	<i>27.56</i>	<i>211.10</i>	<i>467.94</i>



The Mobile Press Register

MORNING

EVENING

SUNDAY

Area Code 205—433-1551

P. O. Box 2488

MOBILE, ALABAMA 36601

RALPH B. CHANDLER, Publisher
W. J. HEARIN, General Manager
LUIS M. WILLIAMS, Business Manager
JOHN W. WINTER, Adv. Director
JAMES B. IRVIN, Retail Adv. Mgr.
P. D. BEVILLE, JR., Nat'l Adv. Mgr.
BURT SCHWARZ, Classified Adv. Mgr.

August 18, 1969

•Fairhope Single Tax Corp.
336 Fairhope Ave.
Fairhope, Alabama 36532

Dear Sir:

We are pleased to advise you that The Mobile Press Register has increased its staff to better serve Baldwin County.

Our State News Department has for many years used our Mobile office as a base for news coverage of the communities in Baldwin County. Merchants in Baldwin County using our advertising columns have been serviced by advertising personnel from the Mobile office. Our circulation representatives live in Baldwin County and are using our facilities in Bay Minette and Fairhope as bases for operations.

These services will continue and now will be supplemented by the full-time activity of Mr. Duane Cowart, at Bay Minette, who will devote his efforts exclusively to the gathering of news stories, pictures, and features about Baldwin County.

I live at Spanish Fort, have been employed in the advertising department of the Mobile office for the past three years and will devote my full time to the service of our advertisers in Baldwin County. We will soon occupy new offices in Bay Minette. Mr. Cowart will move his family to Bay Minette.

On September 11th, we will commence publication of The Baldwin County Press Register, which will be distributed with The Mobile Press and The Mobile Register to our regular subscribers in Baldwin County each Thursday. It will contain news and features exclusively about Baldwin County. Merchants in Baldwin County can then elect to advertise either in the full circulation of The Mobile Press Register as they are presently doing, or use the Thursday Baldwin County edition at a greatly reduced ad rate. Retail advertising in the Baldwin County edition will be exclusively for merchants of Baldwin County.

The Mobile Press Register is a charter member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations of Chicago. Our paid circulation is certified by them each year. For the year 1968, the auditors reported 9,118 paid subscribers in Baldwin County, and as of July 24, 1969, this total had reached 9,904. We anticipate this figure to exceed 11,000 in September.

If you have news items you want published, you can call us, toll free, effective August 28th, from anywhere in Baldwin County on 1-800-672-3070. The call will come to our Mobile switchboard and then be placed in the Baldwin County Press Register news department.

I plan, in the very near future, to call on you and further discuss our new Baldwin County services.

Cordially,

Jerry Whitman

Jerry Whitman, Account Executive
THE MOBILE PRESS REGISTER

w/c

Ed Walker Construction Company, Inc.

BOX 365 — VALDEZ, ALASKA

99686

PHONE 835-3371

September 9, 1967

The Mayor
Fairhope
Alabama

Dear Sir:

I note in Encyclopedia Americana that your town embraces the "Single Tax" and is considered to be an "enclave" of this type of municipal taxation.

Here in Valdez, a town that was moved to a new location and completely re-built following the 1964 Alaskan Earthquake, we are about to adopt a system of taxation. I would like to consider the Single Standard as a solution. From all that I can learn, this is the only equitable manner in which the tax burden should be distributed. Our town is about one fourth the size of yours so, if the Single Standard works for you, it should work well for us and still allow ample room for expansion. We do not have any large property owners within the improved area of our town, hence I can foresee no great problems. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Could you please send me a copy of your City Tax Code and any other data that might be helpful, including a short letter from you stating your candid opinions. Please bill me for any charges.

Sincerely yours,

Frances P. Walker

Frances P. Walker (Mrs.)
Housing Chairman, City of Valdez

Oct. 24, 1967

Mrs. Frances P. Walker
Housing Chairman
City of Valdez
Box 365, Valdez, Alaska 99686

Dear Mrs. Walker:

Your letter concerning the local application of the Single Tax was handed to me by our mayor to whom you addressed your letter. The local application of the Single Tax principle of securing public revenue through a land value tax is applied, not by the City governing body but by our Fairhope Single Tax Corporation and is effective only on about one-fifth of the land within the municipal boundaries of the City of Fairhope. However our corporation does own and apply the principle to several thousand acres of rural land outside of the City.

As you will note on the enclosed folder, "Single Tax Principles That Inspired Fairhope's Founders" our's is a private corporation whose members were responsible for the founding of the Fairhope community. The City governing body is restricted by the Alabama State constitution and statutes in the sources from which it can draw its revenue for public purposes. Its levy on land value must be at the same rate and on the same assessed value as other real and personal property that may be a subject of ad valorem taxation.

Your's being a new town I would presume all of the lots have been valued and that such values reflect the varying advantages of their respective locations. If this is the case it would appear your's problem might be quite simple. Once an annual budget has been set up and agreed to the levy on each land owner would be based on a percentage of the dollar value of their respective land holdings without any consideration of the use made of the land.

As a result of growth and development there may well come to be changes in the values of the varying locations, in which case re-evaluations will be indicated. Such changes will be reflected in the prices at which properties are sold. There is the problem of determining how much of the sale price represents land value and how much the value of the owner's improvements.

So long as relative values remained unchanged budget changes could be supplied by increases in the initial levy. It is assumed that budgetary increases in the value of the public services of which the land owners are the primary beneficiaries, such as improved

roads and increases in fire and police protection, park and playground facilities, etc. increase the value of the land.

Occupants of the land in Fairhope owned by our corporation have no investment in the land. It is leased to them on 99 year leases, subject to their agreement to pay our corporation the annual rental value of their respective leaseholds. We consider all normal and natural increases in land value are a result of community growth and activity and should be collected by the community government and expended to improve, enlarge and expand community services.

Here in Alabama the various governmental units, the state counties and municipalities, such as Fairhope, tap multiple sources to secure essential public revenues. Land, buildings and many items of personal property are subjected to ad valorem tax levies. All goods and some services are subject to a 4% state sales tax. Motor vehicles are subject to an annual registration charge as well as an ad valorem tax. Also the essentials to their operation, fuels and lubricants are taxed quite heavily. The buildings and taxable personal property of our lessees are taxed on these items to the same extent as are their neighbors who own and pay taxes on the land.

From the rent fund collected from those who lease our land we pay the state, county and municipal taxes levied on the land and we reimburse our lessees the amounts they have been required to pay on the value of their buildings and taxable personal property held up on their leaseholds.

I have mailed a copy of your letter to "The Mayor" to Dr. Arthur P. Becker, 574 A Bolton Hall, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211. Dr. Becker is a professor of economics at the University and is chairman of a Committee on Taxation, Resources and Economic Development. The Committee and particularly Dr. Becker, have been giving a great deal of their attention to land value taxation.

I do hope the observations in the foregoing will be of some help and it might be well for you to ask for help from the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, 50 East 69th St. New York, N. Y. 10021 and/or Henry George School of Social Science, same address. We will be pleased to hear further from you and want to assure of our best wishes for for a successful accomplishment.

Sincerely yours,

C. A. Gaston, Secretary

Oct. 24, 1967

Mrs. Frances P. Walker
Housing Chairman
City of Valdez
Box 365, Valdez, Alaska 99686

Dear Mrs. Walker:

Your letter concerning the local application of the Single Tax was handed to me by our mayor to whom you addressed your letter. The local application of the Single Tax principle of securing public revenue through a land value tax is applied, not by the City governing body but by our Fairhope Single Tax Corporation and is effective only on about one-fifth of the land within the municipal boundaries of the City of Fairhope. However our corporation does own and apply the principle to several thousand acres of rural land outside of the City.

As you will note on the enclosed folder, "Single Tax Principles That Inspired Fairhope's Founders" our's is a private corporation whose members were responsible for the founding of the Fairhope community. The City governing body is restricted by the Alabama State constitution and statutes in the sources from which it can draw its revenue for public purposes. Its levy on land value must be at the same rate and on the same assessed value as other real and personal property that may be a subject of ad valorem taxation.

Your's being a new town I would presume all of the lots have been valued and that such values reflect the varying advantages of their respective locations. If this is the case it would appear your's problem might be quite simple. Once an annual budget has been set up and agreed to the levy on each land owner would be based on a percentage of the dollar value of their respective land holdings without any consideration of the use made of the land.

As a result of growth and development there may well come to be changes in the values of the varying locations, in which case re-evaluations will be indicated. Such changes will be reflected in the prices at which properties are sold. There is the problem of determining how much of the sale price represents land value and how much the value of the owner's improvements.

So long as relative values remained unchanged budget changes could be supplied by increases in the initial levy. It is assumed that budgetary increases in the value of the public services of which the land owners are the primary beneficiaries, such as improved

roads and increases in fire and police protection, park and playground facilities, etc; increase the value of the land.

Occupants of the land in Fairhope owned by our corporation have no investment in the land. It is leased to them on 99 year leases, subject to their agreement to pay our corporation the annual rental value of their respective leaseholds. We consider all normal and natural increases in land value are a result of community growth and activity and should be collected by the community government and expended to improve, enlarge and expand community services.

Here in Alabama the various governmental units, the state counties and municipalities, such as Fairhope, tap multiple sources to secure essential public revenues. Land, buildings and many items of personal property are subjected to ad valorem tax levies. All goods and some services are subject to a 4% state sales tax. Motor vehicles are subject to an annual registration charge as well as an ad valorem tax. Also the essentials to their operation, fuels and lubricants are taxed quite heavily. The buildings and taxable personal property of our lessees are taxed on these items to the same extent as are their neighbors who own and pay taxes on the land.

From the rent fund collected from those who lease our land we pay the state, county and municipal taxes levied on the land and we reimburse our lessees the amounts they have been required to pay on the value of their buildings and taxable personal property held upon their leaseholds.

I have mailed a copy of your letter to "The Mayor" to Dr. Arthur P. Becker, 574 A Bolton Hall, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211. Dr. Becker is a professor of economics at the University and is chairman of a Committee on Taxation, Resources and Economic Development. The Committee and particularly Dr. Becker, have been giving a great deal of their attention to land value taxation.

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Sincerely yours,

C. A. Gaston, Secretary

ED WALKER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.
Box 365 -- Valdez, Alaska
99686

September 9, 1967

The Mayor
Fairhope
Alabama

Dear Sir:

I note in Encyclopedia Americana that your town embraces the "Single Tax" and is considered to be an "enclave of this type of municipal taxation.

Here in Valdez, a town that was moved to a new location and completely rebuilt following the 1964 Alaskan Earthquake, we are about to adopt a system of taxation. I would like to consider the Single Standard as a solution. From all that I can learn, this is the only equitable manner in which the tax burden should be distributed. Our town is about one fourth the size of yours so, if the Single Tax Standard works for you, it should work well for us and still allow ample room for expansion. We do not have any large property owners within the improved area of the town, Hence I can foresee no great problems. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Could you please send me a copy of your City Tax Code and other data that might be helpful, including a short letter from you stating your candid opinions. Please bill me for any charges.

Sincerely yours,

Frances P. Walker (Mrs.)
Housing Chairman, City of Valdez

ED WALKER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.
Box 365 -- Valdez, Alaska
99686

September 9, 1967

The Mayor
Fairhope
Alabama

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Could you please send me a copy of your City Tax Code and other data that might be helpful, including a short letter from you stating your candid opinions. Please bill me for any charges.

Sincerely yours,

Frances P. Walker (Mrs.)
Housing Chairman, City of Valdez

Apr. 2, 1955

Mr. M. H. Wilkins, Tax Collector
Bay Minette, Alabama

Dear Mr. Wilkins:

Enclosed find check of Mrs. Bessie K. Allegri for \$293.15 in payment of the 1954 tax on her FST assessment No. 3. Please send the receipt to us and if you have not already done so send a duplicate receipt for Mrs. Allegri's payment of the 1953 tax on the same property.

Very truly yours,

C. A. Gaston, Secretary

Jan. 5, 1956

State Department of Revenue
Legal Division
Montgomery 2, Alabama

Gentlemen:

At the request of Baldwin County Tax Collector M. H. Wilkins we are sending you herewith copies of our lease form.

All of our land is assessed by our corporation on its corporation assessment. Lessees' properties, buildings and personal property, are assessed individually and tax bills are rendered in their names in accordance with such assessments.

Full title in the buildings, etc. vests in the lessee and he may sell them to another and transfer his leasehold interest to the buyer, subject to the terms of the lease, or he may remove them from the land and surrender the lease as provided in the lease contract.

For your further information we are also enclosing copies of our application for land and our constitution. We trust that the information given will meet your requirements, but will be pleased to furnish such other information as may be desired.

Respectfully yours,

C. A. Gaston, Secretary

Copy to M. H. Wilkins
Tax Collector
Bay Minette, Alabama

April 26, 1957

M. H. Wilkins, Tax Collector
Bay Minette, Alabama

Dear Mr. Wilkins:

Enclosed find M. O. to pay the 1956 tax, interest and fee on F S T Assessment #113 of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Carnley.

We were unable to contact M. W. Dent by phone but wrote him and sent a copy of the letter to his mother Mrs. Lillian M. Dent and hope you have heard from one of them.

Neither was I able to contact W. F. Hawie by phone but I wrote him an urgent letter. With respect to that case Mr. Hawie is considerably behind with his rent obligations to us and I advised him that we could not be depended upon to delay action much longer. If he has not paid the tax or made payments to us by May 2 we will probably advertise the property for sale and if so will surely have the tax money before June Tax Sale.

I talked with Mayor E. B. Overton and he indicated that he would pay at once. Hope he has done so.

Sincerely,

Secretary

P.S. Please return the Carnley receipt to us and advise which accounts are still unpaid.

MRS. EARL C. WILSON
5 FOSTER DRIVE
DES MOINES, IOWA 50312

April 30, 1969

Mr. C. A. Gaston
340 Fairhope Ave
Fairhope Alabama

Dear Mr. Gaston

Thanks so much for your research & information about Des Moines families,

Actually all the names are families, however there is only one Earhart listed & that is C. H. Earhart & could well be some distant relative.

I taught school with a "Meeshon" girl but have lost track of her thru the years.

It is interesting to see how people move about & then take roots.

Thanks again for all your time & trouble,
Alice Pearly Wilson

MRS. EARL C. WILSON
5 FOSTER DRIVE
DES MOINES, IOWA 50312

April 12, 1969

Mr. C. A. Gaston
Single Tax Corporation
Fairhope, Alabama 36532

Dear Mr. Gaston

On a brief visit to Fairhope I
was told a group of families from Des Moines
Iowa later in 1895 established a Single
Tax Colony in Fairhope.

Since I've lived all my adult life in Des
Moines & know all the "old" families I wonder
who these people were - just pure eccentricity!

Could you tell me?

Sincerely

Earl C. Wilson

(Mrs. Earl C.)

April 25, 1969

Mrs. Earl C. Wilson
5 Foster Drive
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

Dear Mrs. Wilson:

I have at hand the minutes of the first meetings held in my father's office in Des Moines that led to the founding of Fairhope. Names of Des Moines people who attended and participated include many that never maintained their interest long enough to actually become a part of the Fairhope community. The first meeting was held Thursday, January 4th in my father's office, room 8 over 312 West Sixth St. Listed as present were E. B. Gaston, my father, L. R. Clements, Alf. Wooster, J. Bellangee, J. P. Hunnell, Rob Elder, J. R. Svereign, W. H. Sanders, H. C. Bishop, R. G. Scott, Jno. Swayne, B. G. Dyer and C. W. Enyard.

Mentioned as being in attendance at later meetings are Ed. A. Ott, S. S. Mann, T. E. Mann, George B. Lang, L. C. Mann, T. J. Newbury, W. H. Davenport. Of the foregoing only the Gastons, my father and mother and four children, Mr. Hunnell with his father and mother and Mr. Bellangee became residents of the Fairhope community. I should have also included the Manns, particularly S. S. Mann. Others coming here later from Des Moines were Mrs. Caston's father and mother, C. H. and Leah Mershon and brothers, Nathaniel, Arthur and Dr. G. A. Mershon.

I feel sure there are others from Des Moines but I cannot recall any more names that I can positively identify with Des Moines at this time.. I will be interested in learning. My father's half sister was married to Cyrus Earhart of Des Moines and some of that family still live in the city, I believe. The unfinished sentence above should be that I will be interested in learning if any of these names ring a bell among your acquaintances.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

February 11, 1956

Mrs. Mamie S. Wilson
Fairhope, Alabama

Dear Lessee:

Your lease to Lot 6, Block 2, Golf Course Sub-
division is now complete except for your signature.

The additional charge for improvements and ser-
vices \$255.00. You will be expected to pay that amount
and balance of \$30.00 due on your bonus offer upon deliv-
ery to you of your lease. We are holding the check for
* \$15.00 which you forwarded to us as your second bonus bid.

Please attend to this at your earliest conven-
ience.

Very truly yours,

Secretary

Returned Check of \$15.00 to Mrs. Wilson

Due us when lease signed \$255.00

*Paid Jan 14 45 lease fee
410 Bonus
23.10 rent 1/2 yr*

*2 mo rent ref
7.70*

Paid Feb 13 430 ~~lease~~ Bonus

Total bonus \$40

Due 4255 Imp + services

Alice Goodman - H E-8-5784

Wm Miller 5-d-4-4192

Mrs Waldo -

WISTERIA GARDEN CLUB - FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA

407 N. Ingleside Ave.
March 18, 1965

Dr. C. A. Gaston, Secretary
Fairhope Single Tax Corp.
340 Fairhope Ave.
Fairhope, Alabama

Dear Dr. Gaston:

The Wisteria Garden Club is interested in starting a city beautification project in Fairhope, using some of the funds we have raised in recent activities. Before attempting to put any specific plans into operation, we would like to hear the views of the Single Tax Corp. on possible beautification projects and how the Garden Club might best coordinate its plans with any present or future plans of the Single Tax Corp.

We would like to have you attend our meeting on Friday afternoon, April 2, to present any suggestions you might have and to answer questions about activities of the Single Tax Corp. Our meeting will be held at the St. James Episcopal Church Parish House. Coffee will be served at 2:30 p.m. while the group is gathering, and the discussion will begin at 3:00 p.m.

If you will not be able to attend the meeting yourself, we would appreciate it if you would ask one of your other officers or members to represent the Single Tax Corp. at our meeting. If you have any questions about the meeting, please call me at 928-5138 or our President, Mrs. Fred Woods, 928-8081.

Sincerely,

Barbara O'Gwynn
Barbara O'Gwynn
(Mrs. Claude H.)
Corresponding Secretary

Apr. 23, 1955

Mr. J. E. Wooley
Fairhope, Alabama

Dear Mr. Wooley:

As I reported to you Friday Ponder Company made the low bid on our House Service Sewer Connections proposal and their bid was accepted by our Executive Council.

In addition to you and Ponder Company a bid was received from Ruffles Company. We wish to express our appreciation for your bid and trust that you will bid on any future proposals made by our corporation.

Sincerely yours,

C. A. Gaston, Secretary

PROPOSAL FOR UNIT PRICE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

Proposal of: J. E. Wooley
(Name)
Fairhope, Ala.
(Address)

to furnish and deliver all materials and to do and perform all work necessary, in accordance with the plans and specifications, for the construction of

APPROXIMATELY 480 feet of HOUSE SEWER SERVICE CONNECTIONS. This work being located in Fairhope, Alabama, on the lands of the Fairhope Single Tax Corporations, and further being on Johnson and Berglin Streets, in the area known as "The Golf Course Subdivision".

TO: FAIRHOPE SINGLE TAX CORPORATION,
FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA.

Gentlemen:

The undersigned bidder has examined the Plans and specifications referred to above, and has visited the site of the work, and will provide all necessary labor and equipment and material necessary to do and perform all of the work to complete the construction of the above mentioned work in accordance with the requirements of the said specifications and to the satisfaction of the Engineer.

The undersigned bidder understands that the quantities of work shown herein are approximate only and are subject to increase or decrease, and offers to do the work whether the quantities are increased or decreased, at the following stated unit prices:

Approximately 480 feet of 4" vitrified clay pipe sewer, being 30 house sewer service connections, to extend from the existing main line sewer to a point 16 feet from the center-line of the existing right-of-way (street right-of-way):

Price: 1.60 (One and 60/100 dollars) dollars per linear foot.

The under-signed bidder also agrees to begin work within three days from the date of Notice of Acceptance, and to prosecute said work in such manner as to complete it within 15 calendar days after beginning it, provided a reasonable allowance for days lost because of rain is made.

Dated: Apr. 21, 1955

BIDDER: J. E. Wooley

By: J. E. Wooley

(Signature)

FAIRHOPE SINGLE TAX CORPORATION
Fairhope, Ala.

**HOUSE SERVICE SEWER CONNECTIONS, GOLF COURSE SUBDIVISION,
ON JOHNSON AND BERGLIN STREETS**

1.- Scope of Work:

To furnish all labor, materials, and necessary equipment for construction of approximately 480 feet of house sewer service connections in above noted location.

2.- Specifications:

Connections to be made in places shown on attached plan, as marked on the ground by stakes set by the corporations engineer; any lost or destroyed locations are to be re-established by said engineer, within 24 hours of request by contractor.

MATERIAL: 4" Vitrified Clay Sewer pipe, A.S.T.M. SPECIFICATION G13

JOINTS: Joints may be made with hot-poured bituminous compound or cement-mortar, or Kepper Bitumastic GPL-2 joint compound. If hot-poured bituminous compound joints are selected by the contractor, such joints are to be made in accordance with specifications which will be furnished by the engineer upon request. Kepper joints shall be made in accordance with the specifications furnished by the contractor. Cement mortar joints are to be firmly and properly caulked with tarred jute or oakum; mortar shall consist of 1 part Portland cement, 1½ parts clean, sharp sand, and only enough water to give workability.

GRADES: All pipe connections to be laid so that the terminal end of pipe shall be 6 inches above main-line sewer connections, and in a straight line. Ends of lines to be capped or plugged (building contractors will make connections at terminal ends when final house connections are made.)

DITCHES: No ditches are to back-filled until pipe and connections have been inspected by engineer and city sanitary inspector. Ditches are to be filled to a depth of approximately 1 foot above pipe, and then thoroughly tamped, BEFORE balance of ditch is backfilled. Back fill to be packed into ditch after filling by driving truck or tractor over ditch; excess material then to be piled up over packed-in ditch.

GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS: All work to be performed to the satisfaction of the engineer.

FAIRHOPE SINGLE TAX CORPORATION
Fairhope, Ala.

HOUSE SERVICE SEWER CONNECTIONS, GOLF COURSE SUBDIVISION
ON JOHNSON AND BERGLIN STREETS

Page 2

TIME OF WORK;

Work to be started within 3 days from date of notice of acceptance of bid, and completed within two weeks from the beginning date. A reasonable allowance will be made if necessary for working days lost because of rain.

NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE;

Acceptance of bid will be indicated by letter from the Secretary of the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation, and will be given within three days of the bid-opening date.

Payment for work:

Upon receipt of written notice that the work is ready for final inspection and acceptance, the engineer shall promptly make such inspection, and when the work is found satisfactory, he shall promptly issue an final certificate, and the contract sum shall be paid to the contractor within fifteen (15) days after the date of said final certificate.

Engineer: The engineer for this work will be Claude V. Arnold,
of Fairhope Title & Survey Co.; Telephone: Office, WAB-5031
Home WAB-3911

June 13, 1957

Mr. and Mrs. George B. Wright
Fairhope, Alabama

Dear Lessees:

On checking into your file in our office it is noted that the transfer from Mrs. Petrik to you was subject to a sales contract and that the issuance of a lease to you is withheld pending completion of the purchase contract. You may not have a copy of the lease contract, the constitution and the application for land which you signed and is now held in your file in our office so copies of these are being enclosed. You will note that some of the sections pertaining to matters discussed with you yesterday are underlined.

Our corporation has been applying its principles here for more than sixty years. The very considerable difference between fee simple land titles and Colony lease title has been widely publicized and clearly set forth in the wording of the constitution, application for land and lease contract. That you were aware of these differences was evidenced by your statement that the attorney that examined them for you questioned that you would find them acceptable.

Your reaction to our proposed street right of way and your figures on the amount you should receive for transfer of the lots on the east end of your leasehold will be presented to the council at its meeting next Thursday. My understanding is that you felt you should have \$750.00 for the north lot with the oaks on it and \$500.00 each for the two cleared lots.

We urge that you give the enclosed items a careful reading so that you may more fully understand the principles under which the Colony was founded and to which it has pledged its support.

Very truly yours,

Secretary

P. S. Conveyance to us of the north 50 feet and the remainder of the east 152½ feet would reduce your current rent charge to \$75.32. The present rent charge on the east 152½ feet amounts to \$60.98.

June 22, 1957

Mr. and Mrs. George B. Wright
Fairhope, Alabama

Dear Lessees:

At its meeting Thursday night the council was advised of your strong opposition to the proposed road along the North line of your leasehold. No decision was reached but it was agreed that the matter be given further study to see if it might be possible to find a solution less objectionable to you.

With respect to your disposal of the lots at the East end of your leasehold the council is in no way disposed to allow you a consideration in excess of the value of the improvements on the land. We regret your failure to understand our principles and to agree with their purpose. However we cannot feel that we are in any way responsible for such misunderstanding. The wording of our constitution, application for land and lease contract is forceful in the declaration of the principles to which you object.

We will surely advise you of any further developments in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

c/c D. R. Coley, Attorney at Law

CHRIS C. DE LANEY
D. R. COLEY, III
JOSEPH M. HOCKLANDER

LAW OFFICES OF
D. R. COLEY, JR.
302-6 FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS BUILDING
106 ST. JOSEPH STREET
MOBILE, ALABAMA

June 27, 1957

Fairhope Single Tax Corporation,
340 Fairhope Avenue,
Fairhope, Alabama.

ATTENTION: Mr. C. A. Gaston

Dear Mr. Gaston:

I have and thank you for the copy of your letter of June 22nd addressed to Mr. and Mrs. George B. Wright.

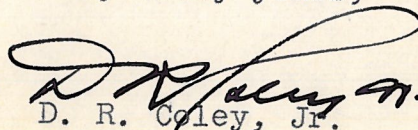
I have known Mr. Wright for many, many years, and he is a very good man.

As you probably know, after he had acquired his interest in the property at Fairhope and had started the improvements on his building, he suffered a heart attack and has had several repetitions of it.

He did not understand entirely the provisions of the lease under which his property was acquired -- however I am sure that, understanding it, he will not want to do anything contrary to the provisions of the leasehold agreement and to the principles upon which the corporation is founded.

I sincerely hope that the corporation will not undertake any action which might cause him anxiety, particularly in view of his weakened physical condition.

Very truly yours,


D. R. Coley, Jr.

C/D

85.60
53.28
32.32

4 1/3 more on E. 152 1/2' 23.34

Jan. 3, 1958

Mr. & Mrs. George B. Wright
Fairhope, Alabama

8245

Dear Lessees:

I am very sorry I could not get the promised letter to you before the end of the year as I had indicated in our phone conversation. As I told you I had looked over the East 152 1/2 feet of your leasehold with two councilmen and at the time we had arrived at a figure we believed would be approved by our council. Unfortunately I mislaid the memo I made and had to again contact the councilmen. This I did last night as well as consulting with the entire council.

As a result of last night's considerations we offer to accept your surrender of the East 152 1/2 feet of your leasehold and will pay you for the trees etc., \$300.00. If our offer is accepted on or before our first February meeting, the 6th, we will refund to you the 1957 rent you paid on the surrendered portion, in the amount of \$60.93. This offer is made as a consideration for our delay in offering terms of settlement.

We appreciate that the trees, etc. may be worth more than our offer but it is our experience that lessees who want and will pay for trees are sometimes difficult to find. Also we anticipate that we will not offer the land for lease until sanitary sewer service is available and that may be a couple of years. Should you accept our offer the bill mailed you today would be reduced to \$53.28, the first half of this year's rent on the West 250 feet. 1958 rents are approximately 6% more than for 1957, as ordered by our executive council Nov. 21.

Should you feel that you can dispose of the lots to a greater advantage to you the council would give favorable consideration to a price of improvements substantially higher than they feel justified in offering you due to the circumstances as shown above. Permit me to again express my sincere appreciation for your extreme patience in this matter and to wish you a healthy and happy 1958.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

Feb. 21, 1959

Dear Zeuch:

I am ashamed to have delayed so long in replying to your letter of January 19. I had been expecting that Reuben would be in to see me about the matter. Of course I should have gotten in touch with him at once. He is working in Mobile and is only off on Saturdays. I had expected to see him last Saturday but didn't make it until today.

He says he has written his lawyer in San Jose to prepare a proper mortgage but it has not yet been received. I presume it will have to be forwarded here for Reuben's signature, then returned for recording before it will be ready. I will, of course be quite willing to be of any service I may. Reuben's plans for returning to Costa Rica are very indefinite. He says Helen Belle tells people in about a year and continues the same reply.

It is good to learn that you are well and interested in your present locale but glad to learn you plan to continue to do some traveling. Hope it will bring you our way. We are quite well as are Paul and Mary and the children, the boy is in kindergarten this year. In spite of their strong integrationist feelings they plan to enroll the boy in a private school for his first year. The Charlottesville schools have promised to integrate in September. Paul is relishing the apparent waning power of the Byrd machine. We plan on a visit to them this spring. They like Charlottesville very much, have a number of young teacher friends and expect to be there for at least another year.

The Colony is doing very well but is out of land for lease until roads can be extended into some undeveloped areas in the city. Organic is going strong, an enrollment of over two hundred, too many, I think. I or Reuben will let you know as soon as things are in order to complete your transaction. Margaret joins me in wishing you happiness and good health.

Sincerely,

Rte.1, Box 153, Romoland, California.

January 19, 1959.

My dear Dr.Gaston:

You will probably be surprised to hear from me since I have not written you for some time. With this bum ribbon I hope that you will be able to read what I have written.

When in Costa Rica a couple winters ago I visited the Quaker Colony at Monteverde de Guacimal. While there I found that Reuben Rockwell was being held up in the development of the hydroelectric plant for lack of capital. So I agreed to let him have \$5,000.00 from my current income over succeeding months. He has now received that amount in full and is ready to make out a first mortgage on the plant in my favor as of July 1, 1959 to cover the loan.

So we have agreed to ask you to act as the agent through which the notes I hold shall be exchanged for the first mortgage if you will be so good as to act in that capacity. I will then send you the five one thousand dollar notes to hold until he delivers to you the mortgage for \$5,000.00 at 5% amortized over a period of five years and bearing evidence of proper recording in Puntarenas, the province in which Monteverde de Guacimal is located. Will this be agreeable to you?

In my opinion the Quakers have a nice pioneering project down there if they have the guts to stick with it. If I were younger and not a diabetic I would like to live there on the mountains with them. It could be a simple, wholesome, healthful life for them all. They are away from the fleshpots and have plenty of work to keep them fully occupied.

I came here last september to see what I could do to help a little organic gardening cooperative get up off the ground and going. Am still working at it. I like this dry farming area so well that I am thinking of buying an acre or two on which to put up a cottage ~~xxx~~ and to set out to golden muscat grapes, Japanese persimmons, Carpathian walnuts, avocados and citrus fruits. These last to give me something to do.

This is out of the smog belt. We have a lovely setting and the air is dry the year round. Sunshine every day of the year except the few times we have rains. We get water for irrigation and for domestic use by putting down 50 foot wells and by using electric pumps and pressure tanks. I feel fine as can be expected in this spot. Then, too, I am close to the V.A.Center at L.A. in case I should need hospitalization for any reason.

I keep busy with my reading, writing a little, and working in the gardens from time to time. I find that four hours of manual work daily, along with a proper diet, enables me to cut down on insulin. I think that I shall be relatively happy and contented here. With this as a home base I can make trips whenever the spirit moves and I have accumulated the wherewithal.

My best to Margaret and Paul and wife. I hope you are all well and prospering.

Kindly let me know whether you are agreeable to act as agent.

As ever,

(over)

Teuch

Our project here is 28 miles south of Riverside on Highway 395 the direct route between Riverside and San Diego. We have \$40,000 worth of unencumbered real estate. It gets down to frost a couple times during the winter and up to around 100 degrees in the summer - usually in September. We have fresh vegetables the year round from our irrigated gardens. Right now we have onions, radishes, lettuce, kale, chard, cabbage, turnips even though this has been the coldest winter in 34 years according to our nearest neighbor who has an orange grove.

REGISTERED NO. 362

Value \$ 25⁰⁰ Spec. del'y fee \$

Fee \$ 75 Ret. receipt fee \$ 10

Surcharge \$ Rest. del'y fee \$

Postage \$ 4 ☐ Airmail

Postmaster, By

From F. Singley Inc Corp
Fairhope Ala

To Dr. William E. Jersch
819 Berth Ave

POD Form 3806
Sept. 1955

Waterloo Clower



c48-16-70493-3

838

The sender is not required to pay a registration fee providing for full indemnity coverage (up to the limit of \$1,000). However, if the actual value of the matter mailed exceeds \$25, the sender must pay a fee of at least 55 cents. Some matter having no intrinsic value, so far as the registry service is concerned, may involve considerable cost to duplicate if lost or destroyed. The sender is privileged to pay a fee for insurance against costs of duplication if desired.

Domestic registered mail is subject to surcharge when the declared value exceeds the maximum indemnity covered by the fee paid by \$1,000 or more. Claims must be filed within 1 year from date of mailing.

Consult postmaster as to fee chargeable on registered parcel post packages addressed to foreign countries.

GPO c48-16-70493-3

3-2801-01-200

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1955

Rte.1, Box 153, Remoland, California. March 7, 1959.

My dear Dr. Gaston;

Many thanks for your letter of February 21. When the time comes, which I take it will be near July 1, I shall send you the notes for exchange for the mortgage. This is as Reuben wished it. The loan was an accommodation at half the local interest rate anyway to help along what I thought a good cause.

It is good to learn that you are all well and that Paul and family are happily located - even if it is in Darkest Virginia. That State, like all of the South, will have to toe the line in time. I get irked every time I think of man's inhumanity to man in the South - including Fairhope. How some of those Organic kids, and townsfolks, hated the Negroes when I was there.

I am glad that Organic is booming and prospering, although I take it that there is not much that is Organic or even Experimental about the place now. How much of the growth is due to the fact that Organic does not admit Negroes - the last I knew anyway?

Helen Belle is not very enthusiastic about Monteverde and Costa Rica, I am afraid. I sensed as much when last I talked to her down there. She loves creature comforts and social life too much to accept semi-pioneering gracefully. She has not learned that happiest is the man or woman who has found a rational cause and then lives for it. She will postpone returning down there just as long as she can. Reuben may have to shanghai her and drag her down to Costa Rica.

I enjoyed the reports on the Colony. Fairhope is a lovely spot. The Single Tax Corporation, once set up on virgin land, could not help but prosper as population and industry grew in that area. It is just too bad that there is not a younger generation of Fairhoppers who understand what the Colony is all about and with a desire to carry on the experimental enclave. Some day the stupid benefactors may vote it out of existence.

This is a lovely little valley, to my way of thinking, where I am at present. The peaks - Baldy, Gorgione, Jacinto - are now snow-capped although the valley is green with growing grass and grain. Our winter garden of carrots, chard, kale, parsley, cabbage, onions, etc. supply our table, with a surplus for sale. I planted potatoes in early February. Garden peas are six inches high. Strawberries are blossoming. We are putting in our spring gardens. Had about three inches of rain in February which put "a good season in the ground" as the Arkansayers used to say. But we will have to depend ~~for~~ on our irrigation from wells for our water for the most part. In two years the Colorado River water will be by our place. But that will cost \$60 an acre foot if used for irrigation.

If all goes well I shall get title to my acre in April. I shall then put down my own well - from 30 to 50 feet - for very fine water for domestic use and for irrigation. After that I shall tackle putting up my cottage. David Campbell, who is over at Long Beach, writes that he would like to help me build. Maybe we can work out something. I want him to make me a visit to see the place and the valley. That before he returns to Fairhope for the family reunion.

My very best to Margaret and yourself and to Paul and Mary and the family.

As ever,

Leuch

Fairhope, Alabama
March 16, 1961

Dear Dr. Zeuch:

I note by a receipt I hold from Reuben that the mortgage was delivered to me November 19, 1960. At that time I was overwhelmed with rent calculations due to action of the Executive Council Nov. 17. For the moment, I thought, I put the mortgage in our safe with my personal papers and my correspondence with you. Unfortunately when the press of emergency business was over I failed to remember to forward the mortgage per your directions.

Last evening after I had gone home from the office Reuben called with your letter of March 12. He was quite concerned for fear the mortgage might have been lost. I assured him it wasn't and that I would attend to getting it off at once. Unfortunately I never got to a point where there is nothing for me to do. Too bad for you to have depended upon me in this matter. However I am glad you became disturbed about the matter or I might have failed to remember to mail it until you came to Fairhope. Hope you will understand.

Sincerely yours,

Hotel San Miguel, San Miguel de Allende, Gto., Mex. 3/12/61

My dear Rockwell:

Your check has been coming through regularly each month. However, you wrote me on Dec. 1 as follows:

"No doubt you have the mortgage by this time."

But no mortgage has ever come through. It has not arrived at my sister's address, 819 Dutch Ave., Waterloo, Ia nor at my addresses in California and here. Dr. Easton has never written me that you delivered it to him as our understanding was. I am sure he would have sent on the mortgage if the exchange had been made.

Each time I have pressed you to take care of this matter of the mortgage you had the excuse that your attorney was ill. You assured me that the mortgage had been drawn and registered. Then you intimated that it had been sent. But no mortgage ever arrived.

I am now half way down to Costa Rica. If the mortgage is not now delivered I shall proceed on down and gather suit. Your conduct in this matter leaves me no alternative.

Sincerely,

William E. French

Fairhope Ala.
1-4-60

Mr E Zench
Romoland, Calif.

Dear Dr Zench:

Please pardon the delay in getting this payment off. We have been moving into a trailer and things have been "upset."

after getting your letter of the 14th of Dec. I wrote to Volio again and this time got action. Enclosed is a copy of his letter which is self explanatory. I am holding the mortgage here until I hear from you. I am not sure of your legal residence &c.

If you will send me the information Volio asks for, by return mail I will send it with the signed mortgage back to him for registration and as soon as he returns it I will turn it over to Mr Gaston in exchange for the notes and you can make endorsements of the payments I have made.

I am taking the liberty of sending this to your address in Calif. hoping I can get the papers back to Volio before he leaves for the States.
Hope this finds you well as usual
your friend
Ruben L. Richwall Box 482

LIC. ARTURO VOLIO JIMENEZ
LIC. ARTURO VOLIO GUARDIA
Abogados
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

OFICINAS DE ABOGACIA
VOLIO & VOLIO
Apartado 601
SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA, C. A.

Oficinas en San José:
Teléfono 3641
Cable: ARVOL

December 29, 1959.

Mr. R. L. Rockwell,
P.O. Box 482,
FAIRHOPE, ALABAMA.

Dear Mr. Rockwell:

Many thanks for your very kind letter of the 22nd. inst. and enclosed check. That indeed settles our account for past services rendered to you.

As per your instructions, I have drawn a first mortgage on your Electric Plant located and operating at Monteverde, Puntarenas for the amount of \$ 5,000 dated July 1st., 1959 payable on consecutive monthly installments of \$ 100 each including interest at 5% per annum and made to the order of Mr. Wm. E. Zeuch, creditor. This mortgage will be exchanged for the original five notes of \$ 1.000 each which you gave Mr. Zeuch as a temporary collateral when he made the loan to you.

Following the requisites of the Costa Rican Civil Code, the first Mortgage has been written in Spanish and in the official form, in duplicate. Original will be returned to you for delivery to Mr. Zeuch and the copy will remain filed at the Registry of Prendas (Mortgages). Please sign both original and duplicate on the line marked with a red (x) and return them to me by airmail, to have the mortgage recorded. Legally, we had to show the amount of the full first mortgage (\$ 5,000) and of the monthly payments (\$ 100 each) with their equivalent in "COLONES" or Costa Rican money, at the official rate of exchange. Of course, you will repay Mr. Zeuch in U. S. Dollars whether you reside Stateside or in Costa Rica. Please mail also the required additional information on Mr. Zeuch as I have shown only his name. I need as additional information is marital status, occupation and name of City where he is a resident and this information will be filled in the blank spaces left on the mortgage prior to its registration.

A registration fee of 4 per thousand should be paid in legal stamps to be attached to original of mortgage deed. Therefore, it will cost \$ 20 in fees. Usual notarial fees are \$ 15 so kindly enclose your check for a total amount of \$ 35 to pay for registration and attorney's fees. By the way, mortgage covers the full electric plant system, including pressure pipes, water wheel, alternator-generator, transformers, meters, regulators, transmission lines and distribution system i. e. the whole hydro-electric plant located and fully operating at Monteverde.

I am leaving on a business trip to the U.S.A. on January 22, 1960 and will be visiting the East, via Miami. I hope on my way back home to make a possible stop-over at Mobile and to have the pleasure to see you there. My best wishes to you and your nice family for the Coming New Year.

Very cordially yours,

Your friend,

Arturo Volio G.

AVG/em
enc.-

AMERICAN LIFE SCIENCE FOUNDATION

1028 SO. WILTON PLACE,
LOS ANGELES 19, CALIFORNIA
REPUBLIC 5-7623

Pomona, California. 11/7/60

My dear Mr. Gaston:

As you know Reuben Rockwell has failed thus far to bring in that first mortgage to exchange for those notes of mine that you have in your safe. His attorney wrote months ago that the mortgage had been drawn and recorded in Puntarenas but has never delivered it to Reuben. Since Reuben has been paying \$100 a month regularly I have done nothing more than keep nagging him to deliver the mortgage to you in exchange for the notes.

Now Reuben writes that he and his wife are returning to Costa Rica after the New Year. I have written him that I will delay taking any action ^{such} as my lawyer advises, until he gets down there and has time to locate the, according to his lawyer, already existing first mortgage and send to you for the exchange.

As I am having next week to spend the winter in Mexico my winter address will be G. Frank Leuch, 819 Berth Ave., Waterloo, Iowa. So in case Reuben sends the mortgage to you you may forward it to me at that address. If Reuben does not deliver it when he gets back then I will feel compelled to go down to Costa Rica and enter suit. This whole matter has puzzled me. I hate annoying you in regard to it.

My health is so-so. I keep my blood sugar count normal with 20 units of N.P.H. 4-50 insulin daily. But as I am now in my seventies I can't expect many more birthdays as a matter of course. But I have no aches or pains, put in a few hours work daily, read the best new books as well as the local magazines and newspapers and listen in

on radio and TV to the ravings of this mad world. I feel about it all
much as Tennessee did in his poem "Vastness" when he asked:

"What is it all but a trouble of ants

In the glare of a million millions of suns?"

In Mexico I will get away from the winter coolness and dampness
that now have here. We have already had a couple inches of rain and the
temperature gets down into the upper thirties at night. I shall divide my
time in Mexico between San Miguel de Allende, Guadalajara and Puerto
Vallarta - This last is a fishing village on the west coast a thousand miles
south of here. It has a fine tropical beach, just right for a beachcomber.
And the Hollywood crowd has not yet discovered the place.

I hope that all is well with you and yours and with all our mutual
friends in Fairhope. Give Margaret and Paul and his family my very
best regards. I hope that Paul is surviving the Byrd atmosphere in
Virginia.

As ever,

Leach

Alt. 1, Box, 153, Romoland, California.

Jan. 10, 1960

My dear Dr. Gaston:

Enclosed are two letters from Pauline Archwall which are self explanatory. He seems ready to consummate the mortgage. As you have the notes I take it he has already got in touch with you.

Quickly do whatever is necessary to finish the transfer. I take it that I may have something to pay for stamps, etc. Whatever it is let me know and I will send a check.

His business catches me at a bad time recovering, I hope from the flu. As the nearest competent doctor is at Redlands 30 miles north, this is not a good place to have the flu or anything else.

I hope that 1960 is starting off well with you all although I cannot be very optimistic about things generally.

My very best to Margaret and to Paul and family.

As ever,

Leuch

RECEIVED FROM C. A. GASTON NOV. 19, 1960:

Five notes for \$1,000.00, identified as A, B, C, D, and E, executed by me to Dr. Wm. E. Zeuch, in payment of which I delivered to C. A. Gaston as agent for Dr. Zeuch, a mortgage acknowledging my indebtedness to him in the original amount of \$5,000.00., as represented by said notes.

R. L. Rockwell

Route 1, Box 153, Romoland, California. June 21, 1959.

My dear Dr. Gaston:

Enclosed are the five, thousand dollar notes of which I wrote you early in the year and which you kindly consented to hold and exchange for the mortgage on Reuben Rockwell's power plant at Monteverde de Guacimal, Puntarenas, Costa Rica.

I have marked the notes A, B, C, D, & E, in order of the dates at which they were made. Notes A and B have each had \$50 in interest paid on them. Aside from that there has been no interest paid. The accumulated interest as of July 1, 1959 on all the notes will amount to \$225.50 if I have figured it correctly. I shall expect to receive a check for that amount as well as the first mortgage on the plant. Kindly send them to me at 819 Bertch Avenue, Waterloo, Iowa, the home of my sister which I use as a more or less permanent address until I am fully established here.

Just at present I am waiting for the well driller to begin on a well on the one acre I have bought here as a site for a permanent home. I expect to get the well down and the cottage built before the end of this year. I want to do as much of the work myself as I can. I have an old friend here, an English born friend, who will help me with the building.

This dry farming area seems the best climate I have found yet for my health. It gets a bit warm this time of year but the humidity is very low so that I do not mind the heat so much. It does not give one that dragged out feeling one gets where there is heat and high humidity. Then, too, I get here the lacto-vegetarian diet and the daily manual labor that are helping me to control my diabetic condition. You will be interested to learn that I discontinued insulin five months ago and yet, with the regimen I follow, my blood sugar count has come down so that now it is not much above normal. I do not know just what it is that has reactivated the beta cells of my pancreas. Maybe the green drink I take every morning made of unsweetened pineapple juice, in which has been liquified alfalfa, parsley, chard and a number of other growing plants. Or it may be the carrot juice which I drink daily. In any event something is keeping down my blood sugar count and improving my health greatly. Everybody tells me that I am looking fine. And I feel O.K.

I took a trip during May, with a party of friends, down the west coast of Mexico as far as Tepic, the capital of the State of Nayarit. It was an ideal trip in many ways. The weather was perfect. It was the end of their dry season - their rainy season begins in June and lasts until October or November. I had not been over that ground since 1937. The progress since then has been marked. A new highway, rebuilt cities in the modern style of architecture, big dams for hydroelectric power and irrigation, fine growing crops of wheat, alfalfa, cotton, sugar cane, corn, melons, tomatoes and other things. This time I stopped to see Topolobampo, the site of the American cooperative colony during the eighties of the last century. They are at work finishing the last stretch of the railroad from Texas to Topolobampo that the Americans proposed that long ago. They are planning to turn Topolobampo into a fine port. It has the best natural harbor on the Gulf of California. That port will be almost a thousand miles closer to Texas than any American port on the Pacific.

I hope everything is fine with you and yours. And thanks for the kindly service for me.

As ever,

Leuch

The mortgage is to be for five years at five percent, amortized with monthly payment which, if I remember correctly, will amount to payments of \$94.56 a month. You probably have amortization tables handy and can check on this. The payments to begin August 1, 1959.

Sept. 2, 1959

Dear Dr. Zeuch:

Since receiving your letter of July 12 I have intended writing you and informing you that I have found room for the notes in the safe in the FSTC office. They are in a pouch with my personal papers. I hope it will not be necessary for you to have this information but in the event of something happening to me it might be helpful.

Hope your speculations concerning the reported increase in the blood sugar countproved to be correct. It hardly seems there could be any considerable trouble with you feeling so well, and in the absence of classical symptoms.

My younger brother, A.F. fell on a boat landing ramp some four weeks ago and broke his left hip. Fortunately the fracture was such as could be mended with a pin so he has not had to be in a cast. He is in the local clinic where he can have almost constant family attendance. He is doing quite well and the doctor's reports of healing progress are encouraging. There appears good prospect of his getting about on crutches in about ten days.

Margaret and I are well and we have good reports from Paul and family. They stayed in Charlottesville this summer so Paul could put in practically full time on his dissertation. A letter today reports that he is quite well pleased with the results though no indication of how near to completion he thinks he is. He has been advanced from instructor to acting assistant professor with an annual increase in pay of \$1000, and, on top of that President Darden realized his ambition of securing an across the board \$600 salary increase prior to retiring. That puts Son Paul substantially ahead of his dad salarywise.

Wish we could have enjoyed some of those good melons with you. Hope you have your well now. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Route 1, Box 153, Romoland, California. July 12, 1959/

My dear Dr. Gaston:

Reuben Rockwell has written me enclosing a check for \$231.38 to cover interest due on all the notes up to July 1, 1959.

But he writes that the first mortgage on the hydroelectric plant has not yet been sent to him. However, he offers to pay \$100 a month until the first mortgage does arrive. I am writing him accepting that offer. I do not want to appear to be pushing him in any way.

So, if you will be kind enough to do so, just hold the notes until such time as the mortgage does arrive. Your safe at STC may be full of such odds and ends for your friends but maybe you can find a nook to file them.

Latin America is known as a land of "mañana" but it seems that Costa Rica must be trying to outdo its Latin neighbors by becoming a land of "el año proximo". It will cost me nothing, I hope, to be patient. I just want to be sure that my house is in order.

My blood sugar count last week was up from the previous monthly test. I do not know whether it was due to a substitute technician at the Riverside Medical Center who is taking the place of the regular technician who is on vacation or whether the count really is 215. I feel fine and have none of the symptoms usually associated with diabetes - unusual thirst, ravenous hunger, loss of weight, excessive urination, etc.. My urinalysis does not show excessive sugar. So I will not get excited about my condition until I take my August test under the regular technician.

I am still waiting to get a well drilled on my acre so that I can get to the building of my cottage. Drillers seem to be as temperamental as prima donnas. It will probably cost me all of \$500 to get a good well put down and cased. As this is a dry year out here everybody, so it seems, is either trying to deepen his well or else drill a new one.

Wish that you and Margaret were here to enjoy some of our melons. Just got through picking 150 water melons to store in our wellhouse for the trade. These melons raised without irrigation are unbelievably sweet. Our Crenshaws are not yet ripe. I would not have believed that we would get any melons after a winter with less than three inches of rain. But they get moisture from somewhere. This is my first experience in a dry farming area. It is surprising what six inches of dust mulch will do to conserve whatever moisture there is.

I hope that all is well with you and yours. Give Margaret and Paul and his family my very best regards.

As ever,

Fench

Ps. I run round here in sun tans and sandals to try to keep cool in this heat wave. My friends say they are going to fix me out with a feather headress and pass me off as an Indian Chief. I am certainly brown, or red, enough for one.

Rta. 1, Box 153, Romoland, Calif. Mar. 13, 1960.

My dear Dr. Gaston:-

Several months ago - in December I believe, I sent you letters I had received from Rochester indicating that he was about ready to deliver that first mortgage.

Since then I have heard nothing more from him. Now, for March, I have not received the \$100 monthly payment on the loan which he has heretofore been paying promptly each month since he volunteered to make such payment; until the first mortgage was made and delivered.

Can you give me any information bearing on all this. If so, I would appreciate it greatly.

I hope this finds you and your family O.K. I seem to be holding my own against diabetes and am as busy as two cherry merchants.
My very best to Margaret.

Post heard Reply
3/21/60
6 A G

As ever,
Zach

THE FAIRHOPE COURIER
August 10, 1933

TAX COLLECTOR'S NOTICE OF
SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

This is to certify that under and by virtue of authority vested in me as Tax Collector of Baldwin County, Alabama, and in accordance with ruling of Attorney General of Alabama as relates to the sale of personal property, that I will offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash at front door City Hall of Town of Fairhope, on Monday the 21st day of August 1933 at 10 o'clock A. M. the following described personal property situated and described as follows; TOWIT:

SIGNED: JESSE M. SMITH,
Tax Collector, Baldwin
County, Alabama

Melissa E. Bemis: Taxes, fees and costs included in each item)

Melissa E. Bemis: Improvements on Lots 1&2, Blk.
"B" Subd of Blks 18-19-20-27-28-29 Div 4
Single Tax Colony - - - - - \$11.19

G. E. & H. D. Briggs: Improvements on lots 1 & 2
Blk 33, Div 2, Fairhope - - - - - \$21.77

Est. Henry Crawford: No. 1: Improvements on West
part Blk 1, Div 1, Fairhope - - - - - \$44.58

etc. etc. etc. etc. etc. etc.

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CODE OF ALABAMA 1907

2176. (4011) (540) Sale of personal property; no redemption allowed; payment before sale.--After the first day of January of each year the tax collector must proceed, without delay, to levy upon any personal property of delinquent taxpayers for the payment of their taxes, and, after having first given ten day's notice of the time and place of sale, with a description of the property to be sold, by posting the same at three or more public places in the precinct of the residence of such delinquent, either at the time of assessment or of the levy, or, if he is a non-resident of the county, in the precinct in which the levy is made, he must sell the same, or so much thereof as may be necessary to satisfy the taxes, fees and expenses of sale, including expenses of keeping the property and moving the same to place of sale, in front of the courthouse of the county, or at the voting place, or, in case the amount of the taxes does not exceed five dollars, at any other place in the precinct in which such notice was posted, at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash; and the property so sold shall not be subject to redemption. For making such sale the collector shall be allowed a fee of one dollar, to be collected out of the property. But such taxpayer may, at any time before the sale, pay the taxes, fees, and expenses, including the collector's fee for the sale, the same as if it had been made, and thereby discharge the levy.

2177. (4012) (541) Application of proceeds of sale; other levies and sales authorized.--The proceeds arising from such sale shall be applied to the payment of the expenses of the sale, and of the taxes and fees due from such taxpayer, and any balance remaining shall be paid to the owner of the property, if present at sale; if not present, or if present and he refuses to receive the same, the collector shall deposit such balance with the county treasurer; or, if there be no county treasurer, with the judge of probate, taking a receipt therefor, and the same shall be kept as a special fund; and whenever such owner shall apply to the collector for such balance, the collector shall deliver to him the receipt therefor, and upon presentation therefor by such owner, the officers with whom such deposit was made shall pay to him the amount expressed in the receipt. But if such excess is not called for in three years after the sale, by the person entitled to receive the same, upon the order of the commissioners' court or board of revenue, stating the case or cases in which such excess was paid, together with a description of the property sold, when sold, and the amount of such excess, the county treasurer shall pass such excess of money to the credit of the general fund of the county, and make record of the same on the books, and such money shall thereafter be treated as part of the general fund of the county.

2178. (4013) (542) No property exempt from sale.--No property, whether exempt by law from taxation or not, shall be exempt from levy and sale for the payment of taxes and the fees and charges lawfully incurred in assessing and collecting the same.

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4-12-'76

Dear Corrie :- Your Colony letter of the 2-24th, finally spurred me to action and I have just talked with Charlie Allen. He promised to go in and see you tomorrow and pay the rent. In case there is a deadline which he doesn't meet, please let me know and I'll send a check for the amount. Allen, evidently paid slight attention to your letter as he hadn't gotten the message of the importance of the third paragraph.

Jud and Horton were here for short vacations visits and Claire leaves Wed. for Conn. Mary Andrews left a week ago. She and Sara are certainly adventurous to handle that huge car.

Love and best wishes,

Lillian.

April 24, 1970

Dear Lill:

No doubt you have correctly surmised that Charlie Allen has taken care of the emergency. He paid the rent to the end of 1969 but has not paid any of the 1970 rent, though that cannot be considered irregular for him and we would surely notify you in the event of any considerable emergency.

I am leaving tomorrow morning for Charlottesville for a visit with Paul and family. Will return in time for the primary election on the 5th. Next year they will be in Atlanta for at least one year and I'll get to see more of them then. Paul's book is out now. It is The New South Creed, A Study in Southern Myth Making.

I would like to know Claire's address in Conn.
lease
I must get their ~~add~~ to them, preferably when they are both at the same address, for signing and return of the Corporation Copy to us.

When you come to Fairhope I'll be glad to have your make 102 N. Summit St. headquarters. Take care of yourself.

Love and best wishes,

SUMMARY OF PANELS AT WORKERS DEFENSE LEAGUE SLAVE LABOR CONFERENCE

SLAVE LABOR IN THE SOVIET SPHERE

Formation of an international league against human slavery was proposed by Eugene Lyons, author, in the panel on Slave Labor in the Soviet Sphere.

Declaring that slavery in the old days was a mild thing compared to what is going on in Russia today, Mr. Lyons pointed out that a commission of 20 to 25 experts in law and human relations who would take evidence from witnesses and public representatives and make the facts of slave labor a matter of public record, would do much to arouse the conscience of the world to the growing threat to freedom everywhere.

TWO-YEAR NIGHTMARE

Vivid descriptions of inhuman conditions in Russian labor camps by two former inmates highlighted the panel.

Janina Konar, a Polish student who spent two years in three camps before being released in an exchange of prisoners, termed her experience a "nightmare of torture and slow death."

Arrested in 1940 during the invasion of Poland by the Red armies, she was sentenced to three years of hard labor without being informed of the reasons for her arrest. She was finally sent to Mordva, 250 miles south of Moscow, where there were 36 camps, each surrounded with barbed wire and patrolled by sentries with orders to shoot anyone approaching the walls.

Everyone had to work a 12-hour day and do a certain amount of work in that time. No distinction was made between men and women in the work assignments. Some women worked along with the men in forests cutting timber for a whole day without food and without even a few minutes off to get warm.

In order to get a full ration of food, which consisted of tea, soup and bread, the prisoners had to perform a certain amount of work each day—the norm. Failure to achieve the norm means a reduction in rations. The prisoners were half starved and soon reached a state of complete physical exhaustion. No medical care was given and only a temperature of 102 degrees freed them from work.

SLIVER OF SOAP

Women were permitted to bathe once a month and were always attended by the men in charge of the camps. They were given one pail of dirty water and a thin sliver of soap. Many of the men in administrative jobs were common criminals and would propose sexual relations with the women prisoners in exchange for more food and better work assignments. Although such relations were forbidden by camp authorities, refusal usually meant persecution, Miss Konar declared, and hunger compelled many women to submit. When a woman became pregnant she worked until the eighth month, then was removed to another camp. Here she was given lighter work until about six weeks after the birth of the child, which was taken away to a state institution.

Many of the political prisoners in the camps faced life imprisonment, Miss Konar said, and knew nothing of the outside world or of the fate of their families. She read a message from one of the prisoners which said:

"You will be free. You will return to life where people work and live as decent human beings. I beg of you if people are

still human beings maybe they will take pity on us here who are buried alive."

Life in a Siberian labor camp was described by Vladimir Litvinsky, who escaped to this country after falling into German hands. He is now at Yale.

A 19-year-old student at the University of Leningrad and completely loyal to the Soviet Union, Litvinsky was arrested in 1935 after refusing a proposal of marriage by a department head in the Ministry of Interior. He was condemned on the basis of his school diary and the foreign correspondence he kept up for his stamp collection. After a secret trial, he was sentenced to six years. He spent one year in a prison in Leningrad and was then sent to a concentration camp in northeast Siberia. During the 48-day trip to Vladivostok, the 50 prisoners who were packed in a single car lived on salt water fish, bread and water.

70,000 DIE

The first year in the gold mining camp, Litvinsky reported, was fairly tolerable. Because of the importance of the work, the prisoners were treated better than the free workers in Russia: they worked 12 hours a day and could even send money home. However, in 1937 the political situation changed and all prison supervisors were either shot or imprisoned. Rations were cut and the prisoners worked without pay 12 hours a day in winter and from 14 to 16 in the summer. With the overwork, inadequate food, clothing and lack of medical care, as many as 70,000 died in a year, he said. The criminal prisoners, about 10 per cent of the camp population, were given the best and easiest jobs and were trained to be bitter enemies of the political prisoners.

CYNICAL ATTITUDE

David Dallin, author of "Forced Labor in Russia," estimated the total Russian concentration camp population at 7,000,000 to 12,000,000 and asserted that Andrei Vishinsky, former Russian delegate to the United Nations, did not deny this in a speech before the UN Assembly criticizing Mr. Dallin's book. He said that it was impossible to estimate the total number of camps since many spring up in one locality and then move elsewhere one to five years later.

Pointing out that concentration camps in Russia had formerly been termed "corrective labor camps" by the official press, Mr. Dallin declared that since 1937, however, a cynical attitude has developed and that officials themselves use the term "concentration camps."

INDISPENSABLE TO ECONOMY

"These camps are not merely a devilish invention of human character," Dallin said, "they have become an indispensable element of the whole Soviet economy with its authoritarian control and its cynical attitude toward human lives. Russian economy could develop without concentration camps but Communist economy, by its very nature, must depend upon slavery."

AFL OPPOSES SLAVERY

Expressing the opposition of the American Federation of Labor to slave labor in Russia, William L. Munger, executive secretary of the United Hatters Cap and Millinery Workers, declared that the institution of slave labor is political rather

than economic and warned that further widening of the influence of the Soviet Union spreads the slavery system.

The AFL has introduced a Bill of Rights before the Economic and Social Council of the UN, he reported, and has asked for a full investigation of forced labor.

NO COMPROMISE WITH EVIL

Pointing to the recent Communist coup in Czechoslovakia, Arnold F. Zander, president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, said that the situation there is proof that you can't compromise with evil.

"The problem of slave labor should be simplified in terms of good and evil," he declared, "and the hearts and consciences of the world aroused on that basis."

U. S. ALSO GUILTY

Maurice Goldbloom, executive secretary of the American Association for a Democratic Germany, said that about 10,000,000 people from eastern Europe, mainly women and children, have been held in forced labor camps in violation of international agreements.

Declaring that this country cannot escape its share of guilt for forced labor, Goldbloom pointed out that when British and American representatives protested the labor drafts in Germany for work in Russia and the wholesale removal of factories and entire personnel, the Russians were able to point to the Yalta agreements and the Allied Control proclamation No. 2 signed by Dwight D. Eisenhower, giving approval to labor draft for Russia.

Max Delson, chief counsel of the Workers Defense League, declared that the League could play an important role in combating Russian forced labor and that it could become the spearhead of the proposed international commission against human slavery. He suggested that government radio programs could be used to carry messages to the people in Russia.

PAVLOVIAN DOGS

In summarizing the panel discussion, James T. Farrell, author, called for joint action with other organizations in a great campaign against slave labor wherever it exists.

Asserting that the Workers Defense League has fought Jim Crow, peonage and other injustices in America, Farrell said that this panel was emphasizing slave labor in the Soviet Union because there, a new social class of slaves—without hope for the future, has been created.

"This is the basis for a new slave and police state," he declared. "The ruling regime of the Soviet Union is, in fact, turning the population of one-sixth of the earth's surface or more into Pavlovian dogs."

Deploping the present apathy and cynicism, he pointed out that in the 1920's when Sacco and Vanzetti were legally murdered, there were protests all over the world.

MANY SACCOS AND VANZETTIS

"Today there are many Saccos and Vanzettis, there are victims of injustices by the thousands and millions and there is comparatively little indignation expressed.

"It is the task of the proposed commission against slavery to mobilize the lost conscience of humanity. This is one of the ways we can help to create the sentiment for a third force in the world."

PEONAGE IN THE U. S. AND FORCED LABOR IN ASIA AND AFRICA

Defining peonage as "forced work for payment of real or alleged debt," Rowland Watts, national secretary of the Workers Defense League, stated that it is an illegal though prevalent practice in certain areas of the U. S.

H. L. Mitchell, president of the National Farm Labor Union, pointed to the sharecropper system in the South under which Negroes and whites are forced by debt to remain in the employ of their landlords year after year. He then described the conditions of Mexican laborers who are smuggled across the border into the U. S., forced to work at 25c an hour and then reported to immigration authorities for deportation when the job is over. Mitchell also told of how gangs of workers are recruited by labor agents in the sugar beet industry at a certain sum a head. He urged a strengthening of existing Federal anti-peonage statutes.

PEONAGE IN THE CITIES

Francis Heisler, WDL attorney, asserted that in our big cities, there is "quite a bit of practical slavery, particularly of members of minority groups." Describing a recent case right in South Chicago, he told of Joe Georgevich, rooming house owner, who imported Croats from the old country to work in the Gary steel mills. Under an agreement with the paymasters, the men's wages went to Georgevich who kept it to pay for their passage, and their room and board. If the men attempted to leave the rooming house, they were fired and blacklisted. Heisler also described the conditions of Negro cab drivers in St. Louis, who have to submit to virtual extortion by franchise owners who control all the cab franchises in the city. Strong in local politics, and closely connected with the personal loan companies, dealers and auto insurance companies, these franchise owners extort the major part of the Negro cab drivers' earnings through various kinds of kickbacks which they enforce as a prerequisite for the privilege of operating a cab.

The Civilian Public Service Camps for conscientious objectors in World War II were condemned by Heisler as setting a precedent for the establishment of slave labor in America. He deplored the fact that this was not understood by any judge before which he had argued the cases of men prosecuted for striking against the camps' forced labor setup nor even by Justice Owen J. Roberts, chairman of the President's Amnesty Board, who ruled that such men were not deserving of amnesty.

IN THE SOUTH

Peonage in Florida was described by Von D. Mizell, WDL executive board member from Fort Lauderdale, and by Morris Milgram, former national WDL secretary. Mizell told how since the WDL's anti-peonage campaign, Fort Lauderdale Negroes can walk along the streets without fear of being picked up on false vagrancy charges, convicted and fined or forced to work on the roads. Milgram told how Negroes on remote Florida plantations work year after year to pay off debts to the owner and are made to be grateful that the owner does not turn them over to the authorities. He recalled how the WDL in 1936 helped obtain the first peonage conviction since 1875—that of Paul Peecher, marshal, at Earl, Ar-

kansas, who was sentenced to a two-year jail term and \$2,500 fine.

Isadore Katz, chief counsel for the Textile Workers Union-CIO, stated that in some Southern company-owned mill villages, high rents on company houses and high prices in company stores, keep many textile workers in a state of economic dependency and fear which amounts to a condition of peonage. He cited in particular the geographically isolated mills where hillbillies assembled by the owners as spare hands in competition with the regular workers remain in a constant state of debt.

FORCED LABOR IN CHINA

The widespread practice of forced labor in China was outlined by Harold Isaacs, author and foreign correspondent. He said that the most extensive form of forced labor there was under the military and labor conscription program, which takes in millions of Chinese peasants. In addition there still exists in that country straight slavery under which youths are sold to farms, households and houses of prostitution. In many parts the relation between peasants and landlords is still one of feudalism. Also there is a great amount of contract labor under which large work gangs are recruited and transported to the cities or abroad. Contract labor, under laws making it little better than conditions of imprisonment is used by many factories in big cities and enterprises abroad. Attempts of factory workers to organize are met with violence and shooting on the part of Chiang Kai-shek police. Each year in China thousands of men and women die from undernourishment, sickness and starvation under the various forms of forced labor.

Anthony Vangly, first Viet-Nameese student to study in the U. S., told of the corvee system under the French in Indo-China—the practice of forcing persons to work for the state without pay for a certain number of days each year. Although the corvee has been abolished by law, the French still use the system to recruit forced labor for their own interests. The system has been outlawed only in the independent Viet-Nam republic. While laboring under the corvee, workers are overcrowded in miserable hovels, there is insufficient food and water is scant. Workers caught trying to escape get jail terms up to 30 days. Many men thus recruited and sent to French islands in the Pacific die there.

John Andu, president of the Indonesia League of America, asserted that today in Dutch-controlled Indonesia, 10,000 political prisoners are subjected to forced labor and others are required to pay off their taxes with labor. If they refuse they are beaten and thrown into concentration camps. The inmates' diet is dried fish and rice.

IN AFRICA

Throughout the continent of Africa, compulsory labor is recruited by the big financial interests for road construction, portage and plantation cultivation, Robert Gardner of the UN Trusteeship Division said. In the Belgian Congo and French Cameroons, farmers are conscripted on plantations during the farm season with the result that they are unable to cultivate their small pieces of land. They are hence without adequate nourishment

during the hungry season. In the British Gold Coast, which is supposed to be a model colony, many men die along the road from undernourishment while on their way to work in the mines.

Asserting that International Labor Office regulations are not enforced, Gardner expressed the view that it will take "the full blast of world opinion to save us at this critical stage." He said that the United Nations is now trying to get information regarding African labor conditions, which the colonial governments are unwilling to give. He pointed out that in some of the most reactionary colonies, the capital being used is American.

AFL AND CIO SPOKESMEN BACK FIGHT AGAINST SLAVE LABOR

Opposition to slave labor the world over was expressed by AFL and CIO officials at the Workers Defense League's February 28th luncheon-conference on "Forced Labor—World Menace to Freedom." They also approved the WDL's campaign for a complete investigation of the facts about slave labor in all countries.

Speaking for James B. Carey, secretary-treasurer of the CIO, Jack Altman, vice-president of the United Retail Wholesale & Department Store Employees, described Carey's recent trip to Europe to get the World Federation of Trade Unions to consider the Marshall Plan as "part of the struggle against slavery and slave labor." He asserted that half the slaves today are within the orbit of the Soviet Union. He endorsed President Truman's civil rights program and the WDL's anti-peonage campaign in the South.

H. L. Mitchell, president of the National Farm Labor Union-AFL, recalled that his union had been organized to fight forms of peonage in the South and that in 1936 with WDL aid, it had obtained the first federal peonage conviction since 1875.

Martin Gerber, regional director of the United Auto Workers-CIO, said: "The continued existence of slave labor is a threat to free labor all over the world. The labor movement knows that the world cannot be free unless the worker is free." He added that slave labor is particularly dangerous in the Soviet Union, where it has become an important part of the state apparatus.

Arnold Zander, president, American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees-AFL, said: "We honor the Workers Defense League in its campaign to marshal all of us who can be marshalled against slave labor everywhere. The AFL has consistently fought slave labor through its free trade union committee. We have resisted communist influence in trade union movements. We have been so clear on this matter that we steered clear of the World Federation of Trade Unions."

Israel Feinberg, vice-president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union-AFL, pointed out that "after two wars in which we have been promised the world would be made safe for democracy, we find 20 million people in slavery."

Summarizing the recent activities of the Workers Defense League, its chief counsel, Max Delson, asserted that the league's anti-peonage campaign is "ferreting out situations where chattel slavery and peonage exist in the South." Chairman of the luncheon meeting was Rev. Donald Harrington, the league's national chairman.