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To Would-be Free Beings

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The Bondage of the Free

By Royal D. Rood*

We in the United States think of ourselves as free. But actually it can be proven that we, like every people who approve the evils of usury, suffer a bitter tyranny. Forcing an entire population into total dependence on those who operate an exploitive money system is never a pleasant process. It is one our school histories do not discuss. Neither do our school texts point out the significance of compound interest and the full meaning of the debt economy in which every dollar must first be borrowed at some rate of interest before it can circulate goods and services. So this process is little understood by our people, and even less do they comprehend any means of avoiding its evils.

An honest look at history shows that every head of government has been required to seek schemes to operate by deficit. Concealed behind them is a circle of influence which benefits from such policy. To win the approval of the populace who suffer from such policy, heads of government resort to charity and entertainment for them — a repetition of old Rome's "bread and circuses." The diverted public rarely knows about the privileges which governments continue to grant to a few select individuals.

By their extravagance, government heads are soon driven into borrowing from monopolists. This causes governments to increase and inflate the money in circulation which in turn raises the debt and the burden of interest on the people. In a letter recently, Wright Patman, Chairman of the Congressional Banking and Currency Committee, said:

"The American people will pay (on both their private and public debt) almost \$125,000,000,000 in interest during 1966. This is approximately \$10 billion more than the national budget.

"When the current high interest rates are fully reflected on government borrowing, the cost (alone) of servicing the national debt will be \$19,000,000,000 annually.

"Increased interest costs forced the Administration to add more than \$750,000,000 to this year's budget to pay new interest charges on the national debt."

The privileged men are guided by their enormous profits into international finance. Thus they are able to force their government heads into wars, to increase the borrowings from them, and to force regular payment of interest on all these borrowings. Their gains through interest on such loans are far greater than through regular profit-and-loss business with which merchants and smaller manufacturers must be content.

Compound Interest

Interest charged by such giant finance is itself also loaned out immediately on being received, calling thus for interest upon interest, or compound interest. In time, a nation's curve of compound interest moves almost vertically upward, into steadily increasing debt. The heavier interest is periodically refunded at higher interest rates. Thus the debt is always doubled eventually.

The doubling of a single dollar's debt may not seem too significant. But by the 20th doubling that single dollar of debt has become a debt of more than a million dollars, a fact that does indeed conjure up the spirits of evil. Interest payments are sucking currency out of circulation more rapidly than it can be loaned back into circulation, because most of the assets in our nation are already mortgaged to the limit.

This is what persuades the government to approve the craziest schemes in an effort to preserve

in the pockets of the people temporarily a means of exchanging their products. But this deficit financing, this inflation of the currency volume, merely compounds the burden of debt and interest, and hastens the tragic day when finally the currency loses all its value. The end result is unemployment and starvation and the inability of the government to collect even the taxes. This is what took place under the vicious tyranny imposed on the Southern states by President Grant, following the Civil War.

Result of Federal Reserve System

The most vicious monopoly of all is that granted to the Federal Reserve System. To note results in just one field, it gathers enormous pools of money to facilitate development of power machinery for agriculture. This persuades an increase in taxes on farms beyond the power of many to pay. Resulting farm foreclosures and farm mergers have forced great hordes of farm laborers, sharecroppers, farm tenants and small farm owners off the land. They go to the cities for employment, but there automation is ahead of them. So they are compelled to subsist on (and vote in continuing support of) numerous charity and governmental welfare programs. And the rest of us reap the horrible results.

Another result comes to light in the dilemma of the University of Chicago. Its trustees are considering total abandonment of their area because of the decline in neighborhood standards following its "re-development" by Federal money loaned for such "renewal." (Do University of Chicago economists teach the economic facts behind such financial arrangements?)

There seems little hope for an individual if such giants of prestige as University of Chicago cannot escape the penalties which financial forces impose on us. Let it be remembered that any hesitation by President Johnson can bring the same punishment suffered by President Kennedy.

The Bondage of the Free

A book by this title, written by Kent H. Steffan, is \$1 paperback from Vanguard Press, Box 9111, Berkeley, Calif 94709. Here is a story of the race issue before and since the Civil War, including the grim story of Watts and other riots in our cities. This presents a frightening picture of our future—a drifting into civil war beyond anything in our history. This book does not delineate economic causes for racial strife, but permits the phrases "usury" and "usurious policies" to appear in the chapter, "Roots of the Problem."

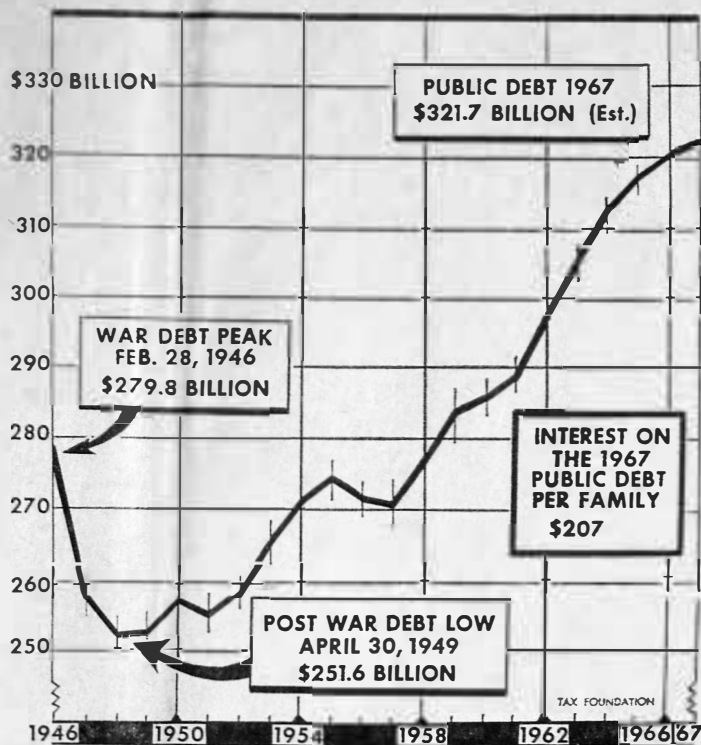
It is my belief that ruling financial forces are part of the background of the race problem. Those forces are destroying our constitutional system of government. They are financing well-paid agitators to stir up riots in our cities—where they will have violent response from victims of our "system"—to arouse a public demand for more controls and dictatorship. In similar ways these forces are establishing the soviet system throughout Asia, China, Cuba and elsewhere. They, in effect, bribe a desperate multitude by temporary charity from taxes. And an entire population determined to retire on charity means eventually an entire population unable to exchange its goods and services.

A Way Out

There may be no such thing as group salvation. If there is, it is incumbent upon the civil rights movement, the peace movement, the movement for racial dignity, the churches, the student rebels, the green revolution — all forces working for the good of men, to come to grips with usury and the mistaken ways modern men organize their banking, credit and exchange systems. There may be hope, if it is not too little and too late, in Borsodi's Foundation for Independence.

I still believe that a part of the impending tragedy of financial

Rise of the Federal Public Debt



Since touching its postwar low point in April, 1949, the Federal public debt has risen almost steadily. By June 30, 1967, end of fiscal 1967, it is currently estimated debt will reach \$321.7 billion, a new high. All chart points except those labeled are as of June 30.

Letters, cont'd

can. — Edwin Flatto, Cotton Exchange Bldg., Brownsville, Tex.

Thanks For Tools

To the Editor:

We'd like to contribute to the New School of Living Center the following items (which we took to the Mill in June): a digging bar, a bow saw, a spading fork, a wheelbarrow.—Richard Stanewick, 5323 Magnolia, Philadelphia, Pa.

In the Midst of Ferment

To the Editor:

Thank you for your comment, which is very helpful to me. I am impressed and encouraged by the developments in the School of Living programs; and by the very wonderful plans for the Center. It sounds good, it is real, it is actually being done. There is much ferment in the air, much is being thought and discussed, and so many people are beginning to feel interest and concern that I do not find it difficult to be optimistic.

We know people deeply and urgently excited about ideas of community, human relating, etc., even though they express them differently from one another. They are trying to start schools, organize communities, develop new ways of life, publish books, newspapers, etc. They all agree in principle that human beings need to learn much about how to live in community, how to enjoy difference, to grow when not agreed with, how to spontaneously try to live such a life. But they are not meeting each other and practicing them in common. At any rate a few of us would like to bring the matter before the founders and leaders of various groups here in our area.—Frances, 600 Stanyan, San Francisco, Calif.

Self-Discovery

To the Editor:

One of the nice things about being old is that the base comes to be in oneself. One day you suddenly feel it. No dependence on or reliance in another. No more wondering, or being hurt, or lonesome. You are the place, the purpose. You are at home. You are "home."

All the people of your past.

breakdown can in some degree be avoided by the individual and his family who are willing to live simply. Get on a homestead. No one can chew and swallow as food the gadgets produced by factory automation, even when parcelled out by "governments." A degree of salvation will be found in the good earth of a homestead. Homesteaders can comfortably survive on what they and their families can produce. The meek shall inherit the Earth and feed upon its fruits.

especially the ones you love best, are who and what and perhaps also, why, you are. It is good, finally and surprisingly to know yourself; no longer puzzled or lonesome or doubting. The time does come when life resolves itself into a meaning, a pattern, a certainty and a releasing.—June Burn, Florida.

Owner-Built Homestead Coming Later

To the Editor:

Winter is my best time for writing, and I'll be submitting chapters on the **Owner-Built Homestead** in January or February. I am particularly busy now, pressed by many projects that were postponed by taking time out during the past summer for studying sculpturing, and the trip east to survey and counsel on the Heathcote development for School of Living. I have many good notes and ideas, but certain research and the writing must wait for later, when I can be more sure of time to do a good job. . . . I am particularly pleased with letters from people who have read **Go Ahead and Live!** and find my chapter on the Owner-Built Home of interest. We are breaking ground at the far end of our homestead for another type of building I've been wanting to try.—Ken Kern, Sierra Homestead, Oakhurst, Calif.

To Would-Be Free Beings

To the Editor:

Listen for a few minutes, you guys and gals, you hell's angels, beatniks, beatles, you sex-weary, love-hungry, bewildered folks!

Become factual, honest and objective. Why court frustration, fatality and futility? Why waste your life-energy in cities? Why mortgage your health to kools, camels, cokes, cognac and contraceptives? Why deficiently survive on devitalized luxury foods from supermarkets?

Face facts now! Give your—
(continued on page 5)

City, cont'd

be enough to pay for this particular duplex.

All right, you're in business. The rule is that you buy only property presently rented. The income should pay for the bank mortgage, the interest on the debt, and insurance and maintenance. Your \$10 each, or \$250 a month, will pay for a renovation program. All of you can, if living near the duplex, get together and paint and improve and landscape and increase the value quickly. Each dollar thus spent on minimum value-increasing improvements ought to repay you two or more for one.

If you've rejected the "dogs" and bought wisely, you will soon have a house which could be sold at a nice profit. The whole community is better off. Two poor families are now decently sheltered. You, the group, have increased your equity. You've earned a profit on your investment. And this building will increase your equity for the life of the mortgage.

Or it can be sold when improved, and all profit, all regular pooling, all original investment used to buy a larger apartment house. A four-unit could be the next step, and it should earn a good deal more.

Nickerson's Example

The process of pyramiding earned William Nickerson a million dollars in his spare time, starting with \$1,000 invested in a family home.

In 20 years, Nickerson's system can be pyramided to a million dollar value by plain, steady prudent investing in income property.

His book, **How I Turned \$1,000 into a Million in Real Estate—in My Spare Time**, is published by Simon & Schuster, New York City. The price when I bought my copy was \$4.95. You'd better query.

There are now other books in a similar vein, well documented. A visit to a larger library is suggested for the earnest student of this fascinating subject.

Expert real estate operators expect to make 20% to 30% on their properties. Homesteaders, if they examine Nickerson's methods, could hope to do as well.

One or a group can expect to buy with one-quarter down, the banks financing the rest. You use other cautious people's money to make money for yourself. The banks themselves do it all the time.

Why shouldn't homesteaders with the long view attain their own dream by giving deprived city people a little boost? Both parties are certain to come off better for the effort.

A WAY OUT

Recent copies of **A Way Out** available include:

March 1965 — on Intentional Community.

May-June 1966—History, goals and opportunity of The School of Living.

July-August 1966—A Call For A Real Right and World Rehabilitation via Adult Education in Major Problems of Living.

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*Royal Rood is educational director of the Responsible Enterprise Association, 4501 Cicotte St., Detroit 10, Mich.

Earthworms

Their Intensive Propagation and Use In Biological Soil Building

[Note. In the early years at Lane's End Homestead, I propagated earthworms. Difficulties therewith, and the increasing number of "projects" on the homestead, led to discontinuing it. In August, 1966, a talk by A. P. Thompson, of Golden Acres Organic Orchards, Front Royal, Va., at our School of Living annual workshop, on the marvelous results he has achieved with earthworms (and seeing that mass of breeder worms in his culture box), renewed my interest. I find that good instructions for a breeding program are hard to locate; Thomas Barrett's (master earthworm worker and authority) books are out of print (School of Living copies of his books can't be found). With the loan of a book from Alice Sechrist, friend of Dr. Barrett, we will quote significant portions in forthcoming issues of *Green Revolution*.—M. J. Loomis]

Foreword

Thomas J. Barrett, a Los Angeles physiotherapist, faced a dark day in 1936. His health had broken and his business had failed. At an age when he was ready to retire, he had to make a new start.

To regain his health, Dr. Barrett had to get out of the city. A friend offered him an acre on a hot, dry hillside at the edge of the San Fernando Valley for \$5 a month. The only growth on the steep slope was cactus, and the doctor and his wife spent weekends clearing away tin cans and digging in the shallow soil to level a site for a tiny shelter.

The doctor's first shovelful held a wriggling earthworm, which inspired a mental flashback to 18 years before. Thomas Barrett was a doughboy in France, watching an aged peasant, in spite of booming gun fire, sweep up loose soil at the foot of a damp wall. Why was this earth so precious?

"Le Bon Dieu knows how to build good earth and he has given the secret to the earthworms," replied the old Frenchman gravely. He gathered the earthworm castings every few days to enrich his garden and flowers.

In 1936, Dr. Barrett asked his wife, "Why can't we put worms to work turning our hillside into a garden?" Reading up on earthworms, from Aristotle through Charles Darwin, was to transform his acre and his life as well. His homestead changed to an oasis, with an ivy-covered cottage, surrounded by trees, grape arbors, vegetables and flowers. Earthworms provided him with a livelihood, horticulturists and specialists came to his door from many lands. He was listed in *Who's Who*.

Earthmaster Farm

Dr. Barrett named his hillside "Earthmaster Farm." He started with some earthworms brought in from well-mulched dells in the rainy season. He got others from earthworm farmers. He found that in a moist mulch pile, earthworms are prodigious reproducers if given all the food they can eat. They thrive on leaves, lawn trimmings, hay, manure and buried scraps from the kitchen. Gradually his acre became more and more lush. When he wasn't satisfied with the way a tree, bush or vine was performing, he dug a hole close to its roots and planted a shovelful of soil from his earthworm culture bed. Grass grew three times as heavy as on nearby lots. Petunias grew twice as large; vines yielded top-quality grapes. His carrots were so big that a single one, diced and cooked, filled three standard cans. Some of his peaches weighed a pound.

An earthworm, working the surface at night and boring into the earth by day, will cast up his weight in fresh soil every 24 hours. These castings are excellent plant food. Topsoil, after being thus transformed, is five times richer in nitrogen, seven times in phosphate and eleven times in potash. In a dozen years, Dr. Barrett had at least a million earthworms boring into his hillside, drilling as much as six feet in the rocky subsoil to bring up minerals that formerly were unavailable to the roots of growing plants.

Dr. Barrett figured that a million earthworms weighed as much as a horse, but their combined muscles were a hundred times as strong as a horse. They worked around the clock, while a horse plows about eight hours a day. Worms mulch around the roots of plants where a horse plow can't go, and instead of damaging the roots, the earthworms open holes for them in compact subsoil.

More Topsoil vs. More Land

Sometimes Dr. Barrett was asked why he didn't buy the barren acre next to him and turn earthworms loose on it. "I don't want more land," he explained. "I just want more topsoil. That's the trouble with thinking in this country: everybody wants more acres when what we need is more topsoil."

The doctor began talking about the achievement of his earthworms to anyone who would listen; he wrote many articles, and a book, *Harnessing the Earthworm*, of which *Earthworms, Their Intensive Propagation and Use in Biological Soil Building* is a condensation.

From his many years of research with earthworms, three of which he spent as a laboratory assistant at the California Institute of Technology, Dr. Barrett believed that every city could maintain a farm where the garbage of the community would be used to feed earthworms and make soil, instead of going to waste. He believed that the organic waste of any city like Los Angeles, if transformed back into soil by earthworms, could produce enough food to feed the city's population.

It takes nature 500 to 1000 years to lay down an inch of topsoil. Under favorable conditions a sufficient number of earthworms can do the same job in five years. Any individual, working with a compost pile, can start building topsoil for his garden or lawn. Crowded on the face of the earth are more than two billion people depending on our dwindling supply of topsoil for food. Many of us believe with Dr. Barrett's conclusion that "it's time we harnessed the earthworm to rebuild it."

(to be continued)

Letters, cont'd

selves a survival chance! Why exist as slaves to timeclocks, paychecks, banks, timepayments, breweries, tobacco trusts, tax-collectors and gadgets?

Move now, unbound, non-segregated, and unregimented. Live here and now like a free world

habitant, freeland. Grow your own food, sprout it or find it in the wilderness. Beg no one for a job of slavery. Learn the simple, natural life-facts of freefolk economy, intensive gardening, natural food preparation, folksing-dancing. Tutoring and hostel shelter provided free of charge to each earnest one. Write me. — Rusel Jaque,

Housing For Meat Rabbits

Earlier I promised to give you the word on rabbit housing from our son's 4-H manual, but on comparing it to other material I have I find it too simplified and skimpy to bother with. It is a junior manual and the writers apparently figured youngsters that age would not be building their own hutches.

I found good housing information in *Farmer's Bulletin 1730*, available from the government printing office, and in *Rabbit Raising, Manual 9*, from the college of agriculture, University of California. The best information is in *Rabbit Hutches and Housing*, from Reliable Fur Industries, Montebello, Calif. This 45-page booklet has hundreds of diagrams and material lists for all types of hutches (including some used only in foreign countries that could be adapted to use in this country). I will mention some of these here.

Barrel Hutches

In France there are thousands of backyard rabbit hutches of low-cost barrels, what could be simpler? Unless you want to kneel on the ground in all kinds of weather to care for the rabbits, you might want to establish the barrels on waist-high scaffolding of some kind. The all-wood floors would need to be covered with straw, grass, shavings, sawdust, peat moss, etc., for cleanliness (the material to be changed at least weekly). In the heat of summer, the lack of ventilation in a barrel might cause some loss unless you shaded the hutches, perhaps under trees.

Morant Hutches

In England, France, Belgium and Germany, the Morant system of movable combination hutches and runs is used in order to let the rabbits graze on fresh grass daily. Hutch cleaning is then simplified for the rabbits do not make toilet in the sleeping quarters. The ground on which the hutches are moved about is enriched very quickly with the droppings that fall between the two-inch mesh flooring.

In construction, there are two types of Morant hutches: an oblong box and an apex roof type.

The box is 6 ft. x 3 ft. x 2 ft. high in front and 20 in. high in the rear, with a hinged water-shedding roof and top rails extending 6 in. at both ends so that two people can move the hutch daily. We have a chicken shelter similar to this for young chickens before they are established in the laying flock in our barn.

Box 623, Patagonia, Ariz. 85624

No Bargains For Us

To the Editor:

We loitered over breakfast and the morning paper. My wife handed me the 2-page spread of Labor Day grocery specials, saying, "All these bargains and not a one for me." She was right. Everything listed was either something we already had in the freezer or growing in the garden, barn and pen; or because it wouldn't "feed" us.

A few samples: pure vegetable shortening—hydrogenated empty calories; cream pies, ever-fresh bread and buns—we never buy bakery goods made with white flour and refined sugar; Mastercraft French fries—we cook our own organically grown potatoes; mayonnaise—my wife makes it; low calorie Hawaiian punch—low calorie means coal tar sweeteners, and no, thanks; Vienna sausage and luncheon meat—full of chemicals; cucumber chips—we make our own; sugar, 5 lbs. for 37c. Flocane fine granulated—no bargain at any price; self-rising flour—more empty calories with chemicals; cola drinks—don't use them.

Trouble with homesteading is, since we grow most of our own food, eat it fresh and store, can or freeze it, we just can't take advantage of those wonderful bargains in poisoned, fractured food at the supermarket. — Hal Porter, Rt. 1, Box 1742, Port Orange, Fla.

Our shelter has sturdy wheels at the house end of the structure and one person can move the ark about. The sleeping-nesting house at one end of the structure is of solid wood walls, with a sleeping shelf raised above the floor to get the rabbits off the floor when cold.

The apex roof type is even easier to build, consisting of two side panels 6 ft. long and 30 in. high, with 2 ft. of it at one end being of solid wood to form two sides of the house. Add to this three triangles, one covered with 1-in. poultry mesh and the other two of wood. One has a hole 7 in. in diameter (the rabbit door between the house and the run).

You will want a door in the house in order to service the rabbits, a sleeping shelf and straw or other clean litter on the floor.

The back wall of the Morant run is of solid wood, as protection against winter winds and rain.

Rabbits raised in this manner are extremely healthy, since they utilize natural food. The food cost is lowered and cleaning time is cut considerably.

The Warren System

In the warm, dry sections of our country a warren system could be used, similar to methods that have been used in England for over 200 years. The rabbits graze in a pasture, fenced 4 ft. high with 1-in. mesh, above which is strung a barbed wire to discourage predators. One length of poultry netting is laid on the ground and wired to the fencing to prevent the rabbits digging out. The housing is a light, portable building with a sloping roof to shed rain. The pasture should be divided into four parts; the rabbits moved to the next section as they graze down one section. The idea is similar to our old-fashioned chicken yards, the system being close to the natural manner that rabbits live in the wild. Again the food cost and the cleaning time are cut.—Rose Smart

(to be continued)

HOMEMADE BOOKS, written by vegetarians, hand produced at old Whittier Farm. **WE WALKED TO MOSCOW**, by Jerry Lehmann; 100 pages, 20 photos, maps, etc.—\$1. **YOU COME WITH NAKED HANDS**, by Brad Lytle; 295 pages, 60 photos, texts, etc.—\$4.25. **THEORY AND PRACTICE OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE**, by Arthur Harvey. 29 pages—20c. written by omnivore: **OF HOLY DISOBEDIENCE**, by A. J. Muste—15c. written by both kinds: **HANDBOOK ON NONPAYMENT OF WAR TAXES**, edited by Ernest Bromley; 42 pages—35c. All Five Titles, \$5.65 (you save 30c). Also available: machine-printed books from India written by Gandhi. Free list. Greenleaf Books, Raymond, N. H.

THE GREEN REVOLUTION — 5 November, 1966

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THE OWNER-BUILT HOME is nearing completion. Vol. 4 will be finished in October issue of *Green Revolution*. It will be reprinted in looseleaf form, 3-hole punched for insertion in ring binder, as were Vols. I, II, and III. Each volume is \$2, from School of Living or direct from Ken Kern, Sierra Route, Oakhurst, Calif.

BOOKS FOR SALE

Go Ahead and Live!, Loomis \$4.00
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Brookville, Ohio 45309

I want to participate in and support the New School of Living Center at Heathcote Community, Freeland, Md., as checked below:

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