

## Comment on Lee P'oong Paper.

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Dr. Lee has given us an excellent paper, pointing out that the conflict is not between capital and labor (as we have heard for so many years) but between the landed and the landless. Anyone without land, no matter how powerful and wealthy he may be, still has to come to the landowner on the landowner's terms in order to have a place where he can work, whether his work be manufacturing, selling insurance, farming or teaching.

Dr. Lee also correctly points out that the solution to the problem is not the "excess profits tax," but a tax on any and all profit from landowning, since the landowner did not make the land or spend any effort increasing its value. Its value derives from the community around it who make it usable and accessible by making roads, bringing in electricity, sewers, etc. A very fertile piece of farmland with no access to markets or to irrigation, may be almost worthless. On the other hand, a piece of rock, ashes and gravel, if surrounded by skyscrapers and close to subway lines may have fantastic value. This value has been created by the community and it is the community's duty to repay its citizens for their expenditures by collecting what is called "The Land Value Tax." Dr. Lee shows us one way of computing this tax. Taiwan puts the onus on the landowner, himself, by buying the land from him if he rates it too low! Many people object to the "LVT" terminology and prefer, "Site Value Rental," or "Use Value Charge," but in our climate in Korea, where the private ownership of land is the dream and ideal of every person, we would rather call the land ours and pay a "tax," rather than call it the nation's and pay a "user charge." What one calls it will have a lot to do with how easily the concept can be "sold" to the general public. Only if there is strong public opinion can the pressure of the landlords (who "own" 85% of Korea) be overcome.

Appealing to logic accomplishes nothing. It is gut feeling that controls politics and national policy. Only Spirit-filled Christians have the drive and the fire to keep hammering at this until it has been accomplished. We must "sell" it first, on the basis of the Bible and, second, on the basis of logic. God's laws are nature's laws and they are both holy and practical. Any Christian who thinks God's laws are not workable should turn in his membership card. Our right to fellowship with God is based, not on what we say, but on what we think and how we act! "By their fruits ye shall know them," are Jesus' own words. Christians who do not work for land value taxation are siding with the thieves against the poor.