

The Author

Henry Hazlitt, noted economist, author, editor, reviewer and columnist is well known to readers of the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Newsweek*, *The Freeman*, *National Review*, *Human Events* and many others. Best known of his books are — *The Conquest of Poverty*, *Economics in One Lesson*, *The Failure of the "New Economics,"* *The Foundations of Morality*, *Man vs. the Welfare State*, and *What You Should Know About Inflation*. These are among the books available from *The Foundation for Economic Education* of which Mr. Hazlitt has served as a Trustee since it was founded in 1946.

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PRINTED IN U.S.A.

INSTEAD OF WHAT?

HENRY HAZLITT

Take a recent news item almost at random:

WASHINGTON — The Department of Housing and Urban Development . . . said today it would release \$264 million over the next two years to help moderate-income families buy housing. The program is designed to provide 250,000 new and rehabilitated dwellings for families that earn \$9,000 to \$11,000 a year.

Never mind the details. In our era such projects have become a routine activity of federal, state, and city governments. Politicians promise these and a hundred other kinds of "benefits" to the voters. The Congressmen who voted the appropriations for this housing, when they come to run for re-election, will remind their constituents who occupy the new housing: