

From A. J. Madsen to F. Chodorov, 31st July 1939 (Extract)

Thank you for your letter of July 21st July on receipt of which I cabled you "please await some cabled suggestions re programme", but I am writing you by the North Atlantic Air Service leaving to-morrow so this letter takes the place of the promised cable.

Douglas and I have gone over the sketch of the programme and I enclose herewith a re-draft showing a number of suggestions and indicating which of the papers will be printed.

In the first place we were agreed I think that Mr Bus-Björner was to be president of the Conference although the chair at other sessions will be taken by other people. Mr Björner should give his presidential address at the opening session at which he should preside.

Mr Lange has told us that he can be present only on 2nd September but he might arrive in New York on the evening of the 1st so that he could be a speaker either at the banquet that evening or at the luncheon the following day.

The programme which you are issuing and by which you evidently hope to gain many enrolments should embody an appeal to attend the Conference and pay the membership fee of \$1. It should also advertise the list of printed papers and call for a subscription of \$1 for supply of them. But perhaps you would put that kind of appeal in a circular letter although it is not clear whether you intend to send a covering letter or merely printed matter of which you have sent us a proof.

Of those who have provided printed papers the following will be present: B. Björner, Craigie, Douglas, Mason, Lissner, Campbell and probably Farmer from Canada. Lange has said he will be present but as stated not on the day on which his paper (A Letter from Henry George) is mentioned on the programme.

As for the other papers, you will observe that we have built them into the programme by saying that they will be formally presented in behalf of the authors by colleagues who are present at the Conference.

Our idea has been rather to follow the practice adopted at the London Conference which is that the printed papers are for the most part not to be read but rather to be introduced briefly and form the basis of discussion. Therefore we have made an appropriate starred note on the programme.

The Business Meeting of the International Union is not likely to last more than an hour and we have filled in that session with suggested subjects.

You may note our attempt to group the subjects under certain main headings, such as "Land Value Taxation in Practice".

For the rest, there are a number of gaps and there are the sessions devoted to addresses (with how much time for discussion?) by Aaronsohn, Fairchild, Streit, Bronson Cerven, Tucker and Hillman. But you may have others? What about Professor H. Gunnison Brown?

Two papers from Canada namely "The Effects of Land Value Policies in Canada" by Farmer and on British Columbia (the work of a pioneer) could be formally presented by a Canadian delegate. Hamilton will not be present but you will know whether Farmer is likely to come. On the other hand you could choose John Anderson of Montreal or one of the leaders who are coming from Toronto.

Meanwhile, the whole of the funds of the International Union, including membership subscriptions to itself, show a net surplus of about \$500 so that, unless there is a large sale of the Conference papers, the Union will be handicapped to meet the printing expense of about \$500.

The last word I had from Ashley Mitchell, Treasurer, before he sailed for Canada on 26th July, was that opportunity should be taken

at the Conference to make a special appeal for voluntary contributions to cover the whole cost of the Conference and if possible to provide a surplus which could be shared among the three organizing bodies to help them in their future educational activities.

I enclose a list of those who, intimating that they expect to attend the Conference, have paid their \$1 fees as attending members. For your guidance those from U.S. are starred (*) which means that these U.S.A. contributions belong to you and have to be accounted to you by us; this total is \$13 at the moment.

From A. N. Madsen to P. Chodorov, 11th August 1938 (Extract)

I enclose:

- (1) Copy of my air mail letter to you dated July 21st.
- (2) Pages from August "Land & Liberty" which refer to the International Conference.
- (3) Galley proof of the Programme as we had re-drafted it and as referred to in my letter of July 21st; but this was not used as you did not cable us as we requested.

In your letter of July 26th you say that the preliminary programme of which you enclosed the proof, was not satisfactory to your self. Since then, we have received the actual copies of your circular which is still more disappointing to us. I have since heard from Mr Ivar Björner (to whom I sent a copy) who is profoundly disturbed and disappointed.

I must point out to you frankly and firmly that it has the following faults:

(1) It makes no mention of this being an International Conference, and a very valuable publicity feature has been lost - (our list of enrolled members includes names for 30 countries).

(2) It gives no indication that there will be 19 printed papers covering a wide range of subjects which have been prepared and printed at considerable expense for the special purpose of the conference and as its essential discussion material.

(3) It overlooks the fact that Mr Ivar Björner, the President of the International Union is specially going to the United States and that he should have been given the place of honour as President of the Conference and as making the Presidential Address, which is among the printed papers. Instead, he has been relegated to a very back seat, travelling all across the Atlantic merely to respond to an address of welcome by some unnamed representative of the city. He has no mention even at the banquet or at the luncheon.

(4) There is no statement of the Conference fee as \$1.

(5) There is no invitation to anyone to purchase at \$1 the Conference papers (and incidentally become enrolled members and adherents even if absent, which we have exhorted people to do in repeated announcements, and by circular, and with considerable success. The same applies to what Mr Björner has done in Denmark. We relied upon you and it was agreed that you should make the same approaches to your contacts in the U.S. and Canada).

(6) In one of your letters you indicated that the platform speakers will each have half an hour but that speakers from the floor of the Conference will only have three minutes each. I cannot imagine that the floor of the Conference will tolerate such arrangements, which nullify its being a conference and turn it into a series of lectures.

In your letter of July 26th you do not give any indication of how you intend to handle the Conference papers. We are left with the impression that you are going to have them on sale in some obscure corner of the conference; whereas the art of this thing is to try and sell them beforehand and have them in the hands of those attending at the earliest possible moment so that they may read them before the conference begins. The whole idea was that the papers are the agenda of the conference and would not be read but would be presented in a brief statement, leaving as much facility as possible for their discussion.

I have given you above my views of the way in which the President of the International Union has been treated. I may say that he is one of the most modest and unambitious of men and with that observation I think I am entitled to quote to you from a letter I have from him this

morning: "When I received that poor programme tonight I had the notion of calling the whole affair off as far as I am concerned but of course I cannot do that especially after the Danish papers have told that I am going over there to preside at the Conference. When it was decided that the International Union should co-operate in the Conference, I considered it my duty as President to go over there although I could think of a better way to spend the 500 to 600 kroner this is going to cost me apart from the time; but I simply thought I had to go to it is expense in order that the I.U. could be represented as it has been at previous conferences by its President".

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Last Revised: January 8, 2014

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Revised: 1/8/14
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