

*Bob - For G.S.  
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now*

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MONTHLY REPORT TO HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL, March 6, 1987

*/C.G.O.*

On Jan. 29 met with Ron Stief, Outreach Coordinator at the Center for Ethics and Social Policy. We opened exploration of ways I could work with the Center with economic education to focus on land ownership and taxation policy ethical considerations. He is interested in land issues himself and asked me to clarify the land value tax approach. He requested information on the Wright Act to include in a thesis he is writing. Good working relationship seems to be possible with the Center.

February 21 - participated in a day trip sponsored by the Center and the Community Association of the Pacific School of Religion at GTU. This "exposure experience" was suggested by the International Students at GTU as they wanted to see something of the social problems in America.

The theme was "The Mexican Immigrant: On The Line for American Agriculture". A presentation was made by Lydia Vallareal, Directing Attorney of the Salinas Migrant Unit at the Rural Legal Assistance offices in Salinas. Her theme was an "Overview of the California Agricultural Economy" and included migrant employment patterns and policies in the valley, recent U.S. legislation on immigration policy, land ownership patterns, and migrant worker housing conditions.

Following, a video presentation of news clips showing the conditions of farmworkers living in holes in the ground (Rancho de Cuevas - "ranch of the caves") and pesticide storage sheds. (The basis of a pending CRLA \$3 million law suit).

We then heard Sabino Lopez, case worker and field organizer for CRLA, a former farm laborer. He took us to a farm labor camp to dialogue with community leaders on the issues they face as agricultural workers in the U.S.

About 25 people participated in this tour, including GTU ministers, foreign students from Bangladesh, Phillipines, Zimbabwe, Sudan, and China, and New Zealand, Methodist "missionaries" who communicate to the international religious community about conditions under the Sandanista regime in Nicaragua (mostly favorable), and a few "interested others" like Americ and myself.

There were several opportunities during the tour to discuss issues about land ownership and land values and to sense once again that there is interest in dialog on this issue but it is still a rare topic of real concern.

What is the Center for Ethics & Social Policy and GTU?

The Graduate Theological Union (GTU), founded in 1962, has grown into nine participating theological schools, together with nine associated teaching and research centers representing Jewish, Roman Catholic, and Protestant faiths. The institutions provide educational programs at the graduate level for theological students, students at the University of California, clergy and others concerned with theology and ethics.

The "Center for Ethics and Social Policy" was established by the Graduate Theological Union in January 1974. The Center was founded on the belief that the contemporary "crisis in values" creates the need for new approaches to bring together resources from the social sciences, public policymakers, and theological ethics to focus on vital social policy issues through research, teaching and public discussion and to develop ethical analysis for policy processes in corporate, governmental and public service organizations.

The Center maintains close relations with appropriate areas of the University of California and other institutions and organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area.

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Resource and publication lists being ordered and compiled in order to determine which religious publications we would like to regularly review and correspond with and submit articles to for possible publication.

Also have begun to work with the newly established "Oakland Inter-religious Council", attended the first annual dinner meeting and am on the planning committee for October conference. Intention is to help develop a "social and economic values" type task force as part of the Council. I was asked to represent St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Interreligious Council conference planning.

Participated in weekend "Permaculture Conference" at Merritt college and have begun to reconnect with former associates on economics committee of this field of endeavor.

Have been asked by Dr. Lucile Green to submit land and tax policy planks to the central coordinating committee of the Peace and Environmental Coalition for discussion and possible inclusion in their platform.

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