

THANKS for the piece on Taiwan! I sent it immediately to Governor Atiyeh, with a cover letter, etc.

MRS. GEORGE W. DANA
4030 S.W. 58TH AVENUE
PORTLAND, OREGON 97221

October 20, 1983

Mr. Mitchell Chanelis
Henry George School
59 Temple Pl.
Boston, Mass. 02111

10498

Dear Mitch:

This is by way of follow-up on my proposal made by phone the other day. There are now articles in the general media, especially newspapers, almost daily, skirting all around the need for LVT--some of the even referring to it specifically, or at least to the need to recapture for public purposes the incremental value due to public expenditures. Last evening, I also learned that, at the UN Conference held in Vancouver, B.C., in 1976, commonly referred to as HABITAT, the final Report included just this kind of mandate, for application, world-wide. In this country, the United Nations Association is the citizens' organization that is supposed to keep the lines of communication open between UN happenings and the public, so I asked to what extent this had been done with regard to the land issue. The answer was, essentially, nothing at all.

However, the UNA/USA is now in the process of setting up a major committee, of economists, corporate leaders and labor leaders, to begin to explore what kind of program should be developed for public education in the economic area of concern. It might be a good time to encourage Georgists to become involved in whatever way, and at whatever level, is possible for each, i.e., staff contacts with the national office in New York, and individuals to contact local chapters of UNA/USA. Copies of the relevant section(s) of the HABITAT Report (probably securable from National UNA; otherwise, from the UN Information Service) should probably be sent with any letter going to Georgists who might be appealed to by this kind of liaison effort.

All of this bolsters my belief that we should move rapidly to incorporate a nation-wide, hard-money entity capable of engaging in political activity and lobbying at every level: local, state, national and UN. For fullest effectiveness, flexibility, and viability over the long haul, I suggest the political effort have two components:

1. The BASIC means of an individual becoming part of the political movement to be a one-time-only "registration" fee of, say, \$15.00 per person, payable to the Georgist Caucus. This incorporated entity to have three initial Trustees, whose responsibilities would be:
 - a) To place in a Trust Fund at least \$8.00 of each fee
 - b) To place each person's name on a permanent registry of those supporting LVT as a means to greater economic/social justice
 - c) To use the annual income from the Trust to send ONE first-class mailing each year to each member; this mailing to be in the nature of an Annual Report on significant developments across the whole spectrum of Georgist activity--legislative, educational; local, national, world. It would include a coupon for correction of one's address, and another for resigning from the Caucus in the event one changed one's mind somewhere along the line.
 - d) To make the NUMERICAL strength of this lobby (in each relevant jurisdiction) known to established Georgist groups, or individuals interested in starting local political groups, as occasion warrants; on the registration form itself, a "box" could be included for

- persons wishing not only to register as part of the lobby, but also wishing to be put in touch with any local chapter or one of the national foundations, etc.
- e) To provide, in the event of discontinuance of this annual information service; for the return to each still-active member^{of} his/her share of Trust corpus; this is essential for several reasons, and this policy should be stated in the sign-up brochure
 - f) To limit the Caucus Trustees' activities to these items, so that no more than \$2.00-\$4.00 of each fee need be spent for administration.
 - g) Based on the figures given in a) and f), my hope would be that this Caucus would gradually become the "universal" INITIAL associative device for all Georgists in the U.S. (and there is no reason why it could not be the same for Georgists everywhere)--so that ALL would "count" politically, even if their own activities/time/annual/contributions beyond the original \$15.00 went to some other entity. To this end, \$3.00-\$5.00 of the proposed fee could be forwarded to the entity of a registrant's choice, as a first-year's introductory dues or contribution, in fulfillment of item d), above.

The primary advantage of the above structural arrangement is that it can be established on a PERMANENT basis, self-supporting financially (increasingly so as time goes by, due to deaths, some peoples' failure to notify of address changes, and perhaps a FEW resignations), and tending always to GROW, which is absolutely essential for political success. (The main disadvantage of ANNUAL dues/contributions as an associative device in any movement whose goals can only be achieved over time, and through the political process, is that even those most "sold" on the ideas will not, necessarily, make such payments indefinitely. Therefore, the usual membership pattern is a sort of revolving-door situation, with some coming in and others dropping out all the time, and no valid means of measuring the true "will of the people" at any given point.)

2. The second part of the proposed national hard-money entity would build on the above and existing ITL's, etc., in various places. It would be a standard, hard-money membership organization, with the usual attributes:
 - a) An initially self-appointed, but probably later ELECTED Board of Directors, as democratically structured as the members desire
 - b) Annual DUES of an appropriate amount, preferably high enough to include an annual rebate to local chapters PROVIDED they are "active"; in line with 1.g) above, if a Caucus registrant indicated a desire also to belong to the membership organization, a portion of his/her Caucus fee would be transmitted to it immediately, for full membership on a one-year, introductory basis
 - c) Existing ITL's, etc., to be invited to be local chapters of national entity, with appropriate representation on its Board of Directors
 - d) National newsletter to include regular column/page for reporting activities, studies, etc., of all Georgist organizations, including how and where local groups/individuals might apply for grants for special projects, etc.
 - e) All ^{political} program activities other than retaining the national roster of the Caucus (eventually, ALL Georgists willing to be "counted" politically) and supplying the ONE over-all report to all Caucus members, would be the responsibility of the national dues-based entity, functioning at local, state and national levels and--I would hope--also obtaining official status at the UN, with an Observer accredited at least to the Office of Public Information and, preferably, to the Economic and Social Council as well. This would place us in position to influ-

3.
ence not only the relevant UN agencies, but also all of the mainstream U.S. organizations who have similar UN representation (about 125) and a concern for social and economic justice within this country, as well as in the world at large (most religious groups, for example, plus MANY others, such as the World Assn. of World Federalists, World Federation of UN Associations, and dozens of secular groups), with respect to the importance of LVT as a means toward their own goals.

Such a two-pronged political structure would provide us with both a long-term, constantly growing, broadly-based political constituency supportive of LVT legislation at all levels AND a membership organization whose programs could be tailored to meet new legislative and educational opportunities as they arise, also at whatever level of governance. Note that, for purposes of achievement of political goals, very large numbers of voters are necessary, but they do not all have to be personally and actively involved on a day-to-day basis in "program" activities: that is, they do not have to "members" of the group actually planning and carrying forward the work itself. Indeed, the vast majority of voters do not have the time, energy, money, etc., to be this much involved, and if the ONLY way they can be part of the movement at all is through annual dues payments, they simply will not join, and so we lose their political strength, too.

On the other hand, there must also be a means for engaging effectively the resources of time, energy, money, etc., that a certain percentage of the public WILL want to put into this--and will be much more likely to if they know they are the LEADERS of this much-broader segment of the public, as well. To help lend enthusiasm to their own efforts, an occasional (perhaps once a year) column in the newsletter might simply state the number of Caucus members in each state. The further advantage of combining both kinds of outreach is that EVERY person over 18 can legitimately be invited to join the Caucus--since EACH has the same stake in the eventual success of our ideas--whereas solicitors tend to screen out, beforehand, all those individuals they think might say "No" to a dues-based, highly "active" organization, and so narrow their solicitation efforts to only a handful of individuals they know reasonably well personally. Our experience with the Federalist Caucus has amply shown that persons who sign up in it often go on to join the dues-based entity, too, after receiving the Annual Reports for a couple of years, spontaneously and without further solicitation by people at the local level.

In short, the above suggestion is responsive both to the "networking" concepts of many (especially younger) people, and the more formal organizational structure that is required for genuine "forward motion," including the extra (annual) funding sources essential for such activity.

I do hope you will find these ideas not only helpful, but also appealing. After talking with you, I read some the reports of last summer's meeting in California, and noted that some others expressed the feeling we now need a political organization--Morgan Harris comes immediately to mind. Obviously, too, there must be many Unitarian-Universalists who are prime prospects for invitations to join, at least a Georgist Caucus, if not a national ITL, as well.

Let me know what you think--and thanks again for all your other help,

C: Alanna Hartzok

R. Tsy