

DENIES CHARGE OF APPEASEMENT

Henry George School Will Welcome Inquiry.

The Henry George School of Social Science was founded to be and has always advertised itself as the citadel of democracy, the school declared today in answer to charges that it disseminated anti-democratic and pro-appeasement propaganda.

Commenting on reports that a complaint had been filed with the State Board of Regents, which would automatically remove the school from the tax exempt rolls pending an investigation, Miss Margaret Bateman, director of the school, declared: "We would be glad to be investigated by any group in the United States; we would welcome it, in fact."

The complaint was said to have been filed by a former teacher who was suspended last September. The authorities said that this teacher had subsequently picketed the school building at 30 East 29th street and passed out to students pamphlets containing the charges, substantiated by excerpts from the Georgist publication, the Freeman. The school contends these excerpts were ripped from their context, their meaning distorted.

Has No Political Ideology.

Miss Bateman stressed the fact that the school is supported by voluntary contributions, that its teachers and most of its staff serve without pay and that it offers free classes in fundamental economics and social philosophy with the works of Henry George as texts. She categorically denied charges that it disseminated anti-democratic or pro-appeasement propaganda, indicating that the school espoused no political ideology and sponsored no organizations.

She called attention to comments by Mgr. Luigi G. Ligutti, executive secretary of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference; Gosta Larsson, the novelist, and others in the school prospectus, praising its educational work as contributing to the preservation of democracy. The school was against taking any political sides, she said, for according to Henry George education, correct thought, not parties or revolutions, was the only way to secure social reform.

Calls Charges Ridiculous.

One of the teachers, a great, great, great granddaughter of George Mason, father of the Bill of Rights, dismissed as ridiculous charges that the school had favored appeasement before the United States entered the war. She called attention to a pamphlet praising Britain's Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, which is distributed at the school. Moreover she recalled that Sir Josiah Wedgwood, member of Parliament, whose criticism of isolationists during a visit here led an America First chapter to demand that he be ousted from the United States, had represented the school at the round table discussion of public affairs at the University of Virginia last July.