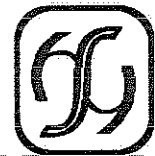


Henry George Newsletter



Volume 55, Number 4

July - August, 1991

TO RUSSIA WITH LOVE: The Georgists are Coming!

- by George Collins

At the official invitation of Professor Mikhail Bronshtein, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Economic Reform of the Supreme Soviet, Prof. Nicolaus Tideman, Prof. Steven Cord, appraiser/assessor Ted Gwartney and I engaged in a consultation tour of the Soviet Union in the spring of 1991. Our two-week tour took us to Moscow, Leningrad and Pushkin in Russia, and Tallinn and Tartu in Estonia.

The invitations to Leningrad and Estonia were made that previous summer when Director Igor Nerush and Prof. Ivar Raig attended a special conference held in New York on Concepts and Procedures for the Collection of Rent in the Soviet Union [see

had conducted a seminar at the HGS in April.

I would stay at Prof. Bocharov's apartment with Sascha and her husband, Alexander (also Sascha) for two nights and two days in Moscow. Ted would be lodged at the Estonian Hotel in downtown Moscow (which is owned and operated by the Estonian government) along with Professors Tideman and Cord, who had arrived the previous day.

Early on Monday, I went by subway to meet my three colleagues at the Estonian. We were taken on a walking tour to the exhibits and grounds of the Kremlin and Red Square. Our guide, facilitator, and interpreter (except at the Kremlin museum where we had a staff member) was the charming Dr. Elena Perepelitsina, Assistant of the Supreme Soviet, member of the Committee on Economic Reform.

After lunch our work began. We met with Prof. Bronshtein's Subcommittee on Economic Reform. The group of about twelve consisted of members of the Supreme Soviet, Chair of the Agrarian Committee, and specialists from Institutes on Land Relations from other republics. An official interpreter was

present at this session, in addition to Dr. Perepelitsina.

In his introduction, Prof. Bronshtein referred to the letter that had been sent to President Gorbachev urging collection of land rent instead of sale and then taxation. The letter was written by Professors Tideman and William Vickrey and signed by thirty economists, including three Nobel Laureates. His comments on the importance of our visit were underscored by another member's statement that the land rent question had gone from a purely economic to a political issue.

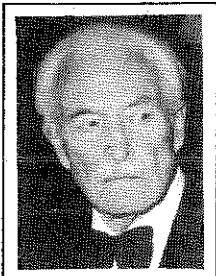
Before the meeting we decided that each of us would make a five-minute statement on a different aspect of collecting land rent, to be followed by questions from our audience. I led (continued on page 7)

To Lanc Greene
& Pearl Hirsch:
A Thank-You

At a nostalgia-tinged dinner on June 6th held at the handsome Sumptuary Restaurant, the Board of Trustees of the Henry George School paid tribute to two stalwarts on their retirement: venerable Board member Lancaster Greene and charmingly efficient bookkeeper Pearl Hirsch.

Lanc Greene, now in his 91st year, has served on the Board since 1935, holding the offices of Vice President and, until his retirement, Treasurer of the organization. He has been a Georgist for over seventy years, having been introduced to the philosophy by his high school teacher. High among the many contributions he has made to the school and its philosophy over this long period of service has been his professional expertise as an investment counselor. Lanc has now been elected to the status of Trustee Emeritus of the School.

Pearl Hirsch concludes twenty-six years of sterling service as the school's bookkeeper, ending her career as the Assistant for Administration. Over the years, through altered circumstances and changing administrations at the school, Pearl's adroit efficiency and personal charm in an extremely sensitive position has won her the affection of everyone, from office-supply vendor to Board member. Her respect for the ideals taught and devotion to the interests of the school is no better illustrated than in her confidentially made, personal decision to postpone the urgent need she had to retire at an earlier date in order to accommodate what she perceived the school would need for its continued success. Fond memories and deeply felt expressions of high praise were (continued on page 7)



Standing: Dr. Elena Perepelitsina, Ted Gwartney, Prof. Mikhail Bronshtein, Nic Tideman, translator, Institute researcher.
Seated: George Collins, Dr. Sofia Kabakova, Steve Cord

our Nov.-Dec. '90 issue]. Director Nerush heads the Leningrad Institute on Urbanism, and Prof. Raig is a member of the Estonian Parliament as well as the Supreme Soviet. Victor Scheglov, Head, Department of Economics and Social Research of the Central Scientific Research and Design Institute for Town Planning in Moscow, and Prof. Bronshtein, who were also at the conference, organized the Moscow component.

I arrived in the Soviet capital on Sunday, May 12th in the company of appraiser/assessor Ted Gwartney. We were met at the airport of Alexandra (Sascha) Bocharov, daughter of Prof. Yuri Bocharov, Deputy Director of Research at the Central Scientific Research and Design Institute for Town Planning in Moscow. Prof. Bocharov

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EDITOR'S NOTES

This issue includes a centerfold spread of quotes and images from the two Henry George conferences held back-to-back at Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania, June 13-17. A detailed report can be found in the Summer issue (#72) of *The Georgist Journal*, edited by Robert Clancy and published by Henry George Institute, 121 E. 30th St., New York, NY 10016. Other photos and conference news are found in the July/August (V.4, #4) *Groundswell*, edited by Richard Noyes & published by Common Ground USA, 2000 Century Plaza (238), Columbia, MD 21044.

The Council of Georgist Organizations announced its officers for the 1991-94 term, at the Annual Conference (CGO's 11th) in Easton: Richard Noyes succeeds Sam Venturella as Chairman, Clay Berling succeeds Noyes as Deputy Chairman, and Mark Sullivan was re-elected as Secretary-Treasurer. Honored at the banquet for their lifetime devotion to the principles of Henry George were John Burger of Minnesota, as "Georgist of the Year" and Sam Venturella as "Georgist Educator and Single Tax Advocate."

Next year's North American conference will be held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, sometime in June. Lucy Silfa, head of the Dominican Republic HGS, and Manuel Felix, head of the Latin American Division of the New York HGS, were designated to serve as CGO Advisors until the culmination of the Santo Domingo conference, which they will help coordinate with the other CGO officers. This conference will be more expensive than most previous ones, so begin to save now.


Affordable Housing Conference: "Preserving Affordable Housing: An Introduction to Community Land Trusts (CLTs)" will be held October 1-3 in Washington, DC, and sponsored by the Institute for Community Economics. On the agenda: training in starting CLTs to create and permanently preserve affordable housing; case studies and caucuses with experienced CLT leaders; workshops on CLT legal structure, fundraising, and more. Contact: Carrie Nobel at ICE: 57 School St., Springfield, MA 01105 (413-746-8660).

E. F. Schumacher Society has set up its Decentralist Library and Resource Facility. Among the contributions to this effort were a grant from the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, and books and pamphlets from the Henry George School Research Library. The Society welcomes donations of suitable books. Contact Ruth Blair at the Society, Box 76, RD 3, Great

Barrington, MA 01230 (413-528-1737), or Kirkpatrick Sale, 113 West 11th St., New York, NY 10011 (212-989-5098). The Society also sells and publishes various books and booklets, is involved in land trusts and currency reforms, and solicits membership @ \$25 a year. The Society was ably represented at the CGO Conference at Lafayette College by Robert Swann who gave an update on CLT progress.

Shogun: A reader sent us the following undated clipping: "The 568 acres that were once the shogun's castle [now the "imperial palace"], if ever sold on Tokyo's hot real estate market, would have an estimated value equal to all of the land in Canada." - Clayton Jones, *Christian Science Monitor*.

That All May Live is a new book that develops the ethical approach of Georgist philosophy, and is subtitled "Guidelines Towards a Better Society." Written by Godfrey Dunkley and published in South Africa, it takes on special urgency when dealing with issues such as apartheid and land rights. How to achieve freedom and justice? Did capitalism go wrong? At the center is the author's graphic demonstration of how taxes on production take marginal land (and therefore, labor) out of production; and how a single tax on land rent restores marginal land for use by labor. The author also examines several charters and declarations of human rights that have been issued over the ages. Godfrey Dunkley, a professional engineer, has made several presentations over the years at conferences of the International Union of Land Value Taxation & Free Trade, of which he is currently Deputy President. *That All May Live* can be purchased @ \$10 + \$1.50 postage from the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, 41 E. 72nd St., NY, NY 10021 (212-988-1680).

Rent As Revenue: The Enemy of Interest by Australian Dr. Les Hemingway, makes the case that "Interest (or most of it) arises because labour products that wear out can be exchanged for land that lasts forever. Furthermore, interest rates rise, or do not fall when they should, because spare wealth is invested in land. If spare wealth becomes plentiful, then it should flow onto the loan market and bring interest rates down. Instead, it gravitates to the land market and drags prices up. Mortgages and the demand for finance follow suit, and any impending fall in interest rates is checked." A land value tax would divert the flow of spare money from the land market to the loan market, bringing down interest rates. *Rent As Revenue* may also be purchased from the Schalkenbach Foundation @ \$7 + \$1.50 postage (\$.75 on 2nd book). 

PHILLY UPDATE

The Philadelphia HGS held a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on June 8th. Twenty-two volunteers were honored for their contributions of time and energy during the past school year, and each received an illuminated scroll bearing a quote from Henry George: "Strong soul and high endeavor, the world needs them now...." George Collins was the featured speaker. The evening's guest of honor, Lu Cipolloni, was presented with a special proclamation (see box) in honor of thirty-seven years of volunteer service to the school.

The 1990-91 school year at the birthplace concluded with its spring graduation in June; 32 certificates were awarded in six courses. The school continued to reach out to the public, as volunteers Cleo Robinson-Anderson and Ken Ford joined Lu Cipolloni and Mike Curtis in representing the school at two local fairs in June.

The Prison program in Delaware is growing by leaps and bounds. Mike's tally for 1990-91 tells the story: In Smyrna, seventeen students completed *Applied Economics* under inmate teacher Joseph Walls. In Gander Hill, fourteen students finished *Fundamental Economics* with Mike Curtis, and forty-nine received certificates in *Applied Economics*, taught by five recent graduates. The weekly *Law of Rent* Seminar at the Plummer Work Release Center in Wilmington was attended by 587 people this year.

A feature article on the HGS program appeared in the May-June issue of *The Isthmus*, the inmate newspaper of the Delaware Corrections Center in Smyrna. Written by A.E. instructor Joseph Walls, the article included two photos of recent graduating classes as well as comments made by graduates of the program. Asmar Rashad writes, "I signed up for this class not knowing really what to expect, but as time went by I really began to look forward to the class.... To my surprise I learned that Political Economy...deals with one's livelihood. It opens your mind. It lets you see things for what they are -- not what they seem." *Applied Economics* graduate Darrell Madric writes, "This course may be the best investment of your time that you have ever made."

Why are prisoners so receptive? "It is really the inmates' enthusiasm that makes the program go," says Mike Curtis. "A teacher like Joe Walls is invaluable. But -- since prisoners have little to gain from the current system, they tend to find it easier to evaluate it. They are a little bit like players coming late to a game of *Monopoly* -- they're welcome to pass Go, if they can, and pay rent, if they're able, but that's about it."



TRIBUTE TO LUCIA M. CIPOLLONI, VOLUNTEER

Since 1937, Lucia M. Cipolloni has served as the secretary, treasurer, registrar and teacher; cook, chef and bottlewasher of the Henry George School. Whatever was needed, Lu was there -- Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, rain or shine, sometimes three or four times in one week.

In the face of all adversity, Lu is the icon of purpose and commitment.

"We have to do it because it's right," says Lu.

In recognition of a lifetime of faithful service to your school and the world, we, the students and members salute you as the heart and soul of this institution.

proofread the *American Journal for Economics and Sociology*, and was in contact with many Georgists from around the world. To international, as well as North American, Georgist conferences, Pat brought not only her professionalism but her interest in world affairs and extensive experience working for the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.

I was only dimly aware of Pat's former "incarnations" before Schalkenbach which included free-lance editing for the publishing companies of Macmillan and Random House, five years as editor and journalist (at CBS Radio News and Public Affairs assistant producer in Washington, DC, and at Education, Inc. as research director and assistant editor), and fifteen years as reading specialist and teacher in public elementary and secondary school in France, England, and New York. In addition, Pat has taught at and trained teachers for American University, from which she had received her M.A. degree. Pat also earned an M.S. from Bank Street College and a B.A. from University of Maryland, where she was named outstanding graduate of the College of Education, and became a member of Pi Delta Epsilon journalism honorary.

Pat had been introduced to the Georgist world by School trustee Fryda Ossias, who joined with the staffs of the School and Foundation, Georgists and other friends of Pat in celebrating Pat's "retirement." The festivities, given by the Foundation, were held on July 11th in the very Victorian first floor of the Mayer Building. The beverages included champagne, and the hors d'oeuvres included caviar -- fitting to honor an American woman pioneer who had pursued her career in France and later preceded by several years the current wave of visitors to Russia. The highlight of the afternoon was the operatic voice of Margaret Anne Butterfield, accompanied on the piano by Cynthia Hoxie, singing *Musetta's Waltz* from *La Bohème* by Puccini, and *Widmung* by Ruckert and Schumann.

In her new life, Pat says, she will complete some Foundation projects and serve as consultant when needed. She will continue to write fiction, study and travel, do more volunteer work, and, of course, continue her Georgist friendships in New York. - The Editor

THE MANY LIVES OF PAT ALLER

Pat Aller retired on July 1st from the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation in New York. The Foundation publishes the works of Henry George and others in support of George's analysis (see our January/February 1991 issue). Pat served for eleven and a half years as the organization's Assistant Director, starting when its offices were at the Henry George School at 50 East 69th Street. Pat stayed with Schalkenbach during the years it occupied the fourth floor of the School at 5 East 44th Street, and made the move with the Foundation to its new offices on the third floor of the Mayer House, 41 East 72nd Street, New York headquarters of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens.

Susan Klingelhofer, who has worked with Pat as administrative assistant for the last six and a half years, succeeds Pat as Assistant Director under Director Dr. Oscar B. Johannsen.

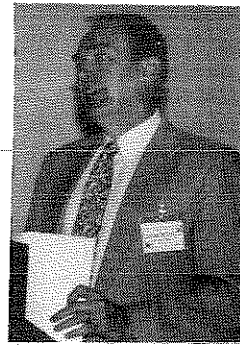
Having spent eight years working under the same roof with Pat, I got to know her as intelligent, witty, gracious and very knowledgeable in the areas of editing and publishing. Pat handled book and pamphlet editing and production, promotion and research. She also wrote reports,



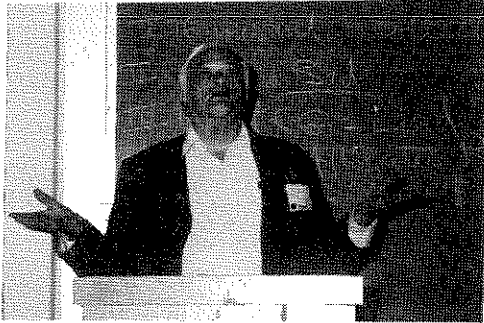
Friends: Alanna Hartzok & Pat Aller

Why are we interested in extending knowledge of George's theories in the academic community? Well, for one thing, it is a way of carrying out the promise the college made when it accepted the original bequest. Furthermore, George's analysis can offer fruitful insights in a number of scholarly disciplines. If this is true, then the eventual consequence...will be increased knowledge of Henry George on the part of students, most of whom will not become college faculty, but all of whom should become informed citizens. Our present plan is to hold such a conference every second year. This means that the fourth Lafayette conference will be held in 1997, the centennial year of Henry George's death.

--Prof. Jerome Heavey

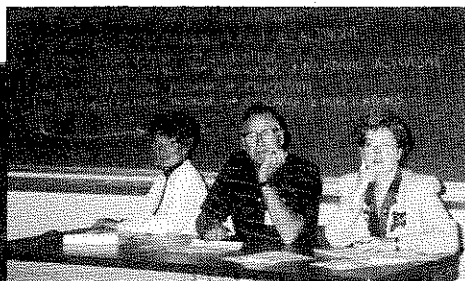
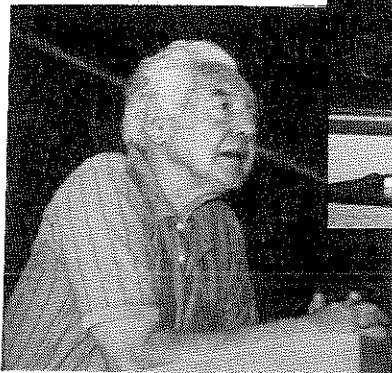


George...was well aware that all monopolies are not based on land ownership, unique natural advantages or tremendous fixed capital investment. Today, seventy-five percent of all transactions are affected by prices administered by what economists now call oligopolies -- monopoly by the few -- industrial monopolies and labor monopolies. These, too, he decried, though he was strong supporter of free and open trade unions and trade associations. --Will & Dorothy Lissner, *Democracy in the 21st Century*



David Ricardo referred to rent as the return "for the use of the original and indestructible powers of the soil." The reason he used the term "soil" was because Ricardo, like the Physiocrats, viewed agricultural land as the main source of rent.... Henry George took Ricardo's definition and modified it only slightly. Effectively, he substituted the term "site" for "soil". He rightly saw that the land could be put to all sorts of productive uses other than agriculture.... But just as George had to extend Ricardo's concept, so must we now extend George's. Georgists should be very cautious in doing so, but not afraid to do so; for as Nietzsche said: "one rewards a teacher badly if one remains only a pupil."

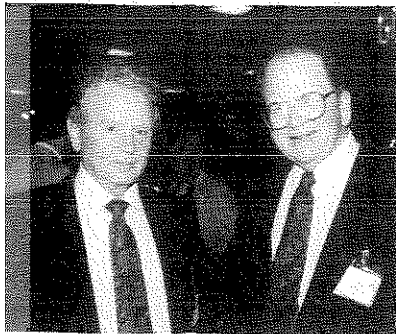
--Ian Lambert, *Where Georgists, Greens, and Indians Meet*



Real estate is a major component of the economy, and has historically been subject to large and widespread fluctuations. A rapid rise in real estate prices and rents based on future rather than current benefits (induced by public goods not offset by public collection of rent) is bound to affect business profitability.... Historical data...have shown that real estate booms have preceded major depressions. The construction industry plays a major role in creating the boom and subsequent bust, and monetary, regulatory, and public-works accommodation by government have induced and accommodated the speculative booms. The theory that the major real estate cycles, accommodated by monetary inflation, have significantly contributed to the major depressions is consistent with the historical record.

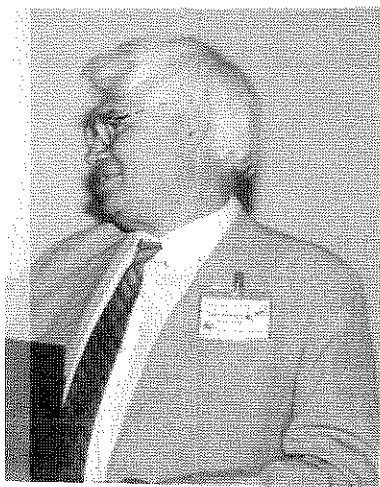
--Fred Foldvary, *Real Estate and Business Cycles*





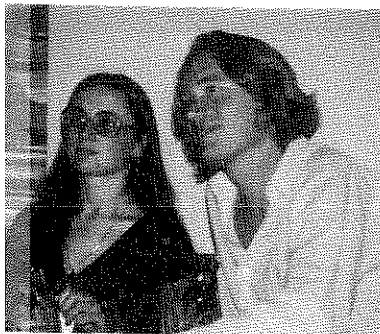
To me, the work of Marcelo de Barros Souza and other liberation theologians from the [Basic Ecclesial Communities] augurs for a renewed interest in Henry George. Not only are liberation theologians putting aside dependency theory and becoming very aware, as was George, of the close ties between land ownership and oppression. They also, like George, are finding their answer in the biblical view that God intends land to benefit all people. Besides their interest in a just use of land, what indicates to me a close future relationship between liberation theologians and Henry George is that they approach the Bible in such similar ways. One could almost say that liberation theologians ...have rediscovered (of course by their own paths) Henry George's method of interpreting scripture.

--Dr. James M. Dawsey, *Henry George and Liberation Theology*



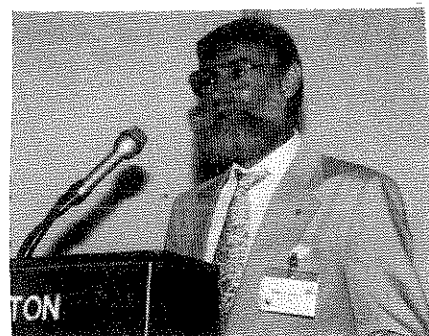
Let us conclude by returning to the analogy of laundered drug money. It is an analogy that can be pressed only so far. The primary reason for confiscating legitimate assets purchased with drug money is to help stop the drug traffic by removing an incentive for supplying drugs. But George's "remedy" would already have removed any incentive for the socially-harmful activity that was the focus of his concern. A secondary reason for such confiscation is to punish those who flout the law. But the private appropriation of rent is not against the law. Let us by all means seek to make it so. But if we were to do so retroactively, we should be guilty of ex post facto justice, which is no justice at all.

--Dr. Robert V. Andelson, *On Interest Originating from Invested Rent*



Land possesses not only "natural" qualities but what we may call "social" qualities, that is, accessibility to people -- to their works and their activities, to markets, to government services. The traditional definition of land as the contribution of "nature" obscures the fact that, by virtue of its geographic immobility, land value and even land itself is generated by human beings.... But...as George observed, even the value of natural resources depends upon the demand for them -- which depends upon the activities of society

--Kris Feder, *Land, Labor, and Capital: A Critique of Henry George's Categories*



Meddling, by the State, in human production and distribution has been attempted from the beginning of time, always with disastrous results. "This has been tried again and again," observed George, "by the strongest governments, and is to some extent still being tried, but always unavailing." (The reader will please note that this passage was written at the end of the nineteenth century; the shattering totalitarian experiments of the twentieth century had not yet begun!)

--Dr. Jack Schwartzman, *Henry George and the Concept of Natural Law*

ABSOLUTE CONTROL: A VISIT TO HUNTINGDON

The Pennsylvania State Correctional Institution at Huntingdon is an old, fortress-like installation out in the mountains about eighty miles northwest of Harrisburg. The maximum-security prison, which houses about 2000 inmates, is by far the largest employer in rural Huntingdon County -- and has been, probably, since it was built in 1888. The prison came to the attention of the Henry George Institute in 1989 when two students, Thomas Lyons and Mumia Abu-Jamal completed all three political economy courses. Soon more students started cropping up from Huntingdon -- a total of five graduates and five more enrollees, to date. Apparently Jamal and Lyons were getting word around.

The HGI's knowledge of Mumia Abu-Jamal's notoriety (see the May-June *Newsletter*) did not come from Jamal himself. It was not until he was halfway through the second course that we heard, in the press, about his death-row status, his solitary confinement, and the efforts being made on his behalf. To learn more, I attended a rally held in North Philadelphia in July of 1990, sponsored by the Partisan Defense Council, the New York organization that is coordinating a campaign to re-open Jamal's case. I learned there that Jamal was in "disciplinary confinement" in Huntingdon: twenty-two hours a day in a small cell, with no radio, TV, or phone; the remaining two hours for exercise in an enclosed pen known as the "cage." Why? He refuses to cut his hair.

It was decided in the summer of 1991 that the Henry George Institute would send a letter, joining the swell of voices asking Governor Casey to commute Jamal's death sentence and end the inhumane "D.C." treatment. Bob Clancy and I agreed that such a letter would have more force if it could report on an actual visit and conversation with the prisoner -- so, on July 12th, Philadelphia HGS Director Mike Curtis and I made the trip to Huntingdon.

We would see Jamal (and another death row student, Mr. Leslie Beasley) through glass and wire in an "attorney's room." While that was being arranged, though, we had a chance to meet with three HGI students from "population." Thomas Lyons, unfortunately, declined the visit. In a letter to Bob Clancy written later the same day, Lyons apologized, saying that he had been lifting weights, had had no notice of the visit, and indeed had not been visited by anyone at all, in six years. The other three, John Hoard, Leroy Robertson and James McCurdy, all spoke highly of Lyons as the Georgist who got them all interested in the first place!

These three men, all impressively purposeful and connected, gave us some insight into the ways of life at Huntingdon. "Huntingdon is a sort of elite prison," John Hoard observed, "for inmates and for guards. People are sent here if they are too violent -- or, too clever." The fact that our visit was unannounced to them -- although we had been told it would be -- was not surprising. The consensus was that Huntingdon maintains *absolute* control -- not through violence or overt intimidation, but through a Machiavellian management of information and communication. Some publications, particularly if they are left-leaning, are overtly censored; and regular mail intermittently disappears. The safest way, we were told, is to send it return receipt requested, but even that is no guarantee -- and at the base prison scale of 29¢ an hour, it gets expensive. Huntingdon inmates keenly feel their isolation. More than half are from Philadelphia. Amtrak, the only public transportation from Philly, stops once a day, ten miles from the prison, and there are no buses.

The initial appeal of the Institute's course was its low price; these

men wanted, they said, to study whatever subject they could get their hands on. As they got going, they began to find Henry George's ideas liberating. "It meant a lot to me to find out that there is a *cause* of poverty," said Leroy Robertson, "and there really is something that can be done about it." All three echoed that sentiment heartily, and insisted that many more inmates would be interested. When I mentioned that the Director of Education had stated that there weren't many inmates with sufficient reading skills, James McCurdy scoffed, "There are a lot of intelligent people in this place." Hoard, Robertson and McCurdy all volunteered to pass around HGI literature.

As valuable as our visit with these three was, I began to get more and more anxious. We'd been supposed to visit Jamal and Beasley first, then the others -- but no, the attorney's rooms were tied up.

Would some pretext keep us from seeing a politically sensitive prisoner? Mike, who has experience with prison administrators, having taught economics in Delaware prisons for twelve years, was less tense than I. But he agreed that anything could happen.

Finally, after a long wait, we were informed that Mumia Abu-Jamal had been brought to the cubicle, and in we went. What an odd, hollow sense of triumph, to meet, after two years of correspondence,

petitions, rallies. Jamal is a tall, imposing man, with a deep and resonant voice (the "Voice of the Voiceless," I immediately recalled: his show over NPR stations in the late seventies.) His smile, although not displayed often, is wide, open and bright. Mike and I talked with him for over two hours about many topics, and we marvelled at how well-informed he manages to be on all manner of political fronts.

Mumia Abu-Jamal exudes dignity and discipline. He would have to, to survive in his position -- certain aspects of which, however, are of his own making, or, more precisely, due to his responses to the conditions imposed on him. The dreadlocks, for example. A more conservative hairstyle could win him some creature comforts, but -- to trade one's dignity for a bit of the good life -- on death row? No: he maintains a neat, clean appearance; the red bandanna tied around the dreadlocks is impeccable.

Jamal files his own legal briefs. He has lawyers, but "They don't interfere. This is life and death for me; I have to do it myself." He gets periodic visits from his family and updates from advocates on his case, but the great majority of his time is spent in contemplation. "I would start on the Henry George lessons as soon as I got them -- and work right through to the last question in one sitting. Sometimes," he smiled, "I thought you'd forgotten the address."

Later, I asked what we could do to help. He thought for a while, and then looked up hopefully. "Got any more courses?" No, alas, we didn't, but we had students -- and so it would be arranged for Jamal to teach HGI courses by mail.

When they receive visitors, of course, death-row prisoners are conspicuously handcuffed. I am rather new to prisons, and throughout the second half of our conversation with Jamal a question nagged me: what about a handshake? It is not possible; perhaps one simply resigns oneself to that. But, as we stood to go, I found myself doing the natural thing (later I would do the same, almost as a matter of course, with Leslie Beasley) -- both cuffed hands press against the wire screen; both the visitor's hands press against the other side. That is a handshake on death row, and I'll never forget it.

-- *Lindy Davies*

It would be wrong to see Jamal's case as a total aberration, justice in this country being a highly selective instrument, especially in cases complicated by race and politics. But the extent of legal errors willfully overlooked here suggest that justice didn't even make an appearance in Judge Sabo's courtroom. The Governor of Pennsylvania, Robert Casey (Main Capital Building, Room 225, Harrisburg, PA 17120), can grant clemency to Jamal at any time now. He should do so immediately.

—Kathy Deacon, *The Nation*, April 23, 1990

GREENING THE CALIFORNIA DESERT:

One of the most fascinating papers delivered at the Lafayette College conference was a history of water issues in California, by San Francisco HGS Director E. Robert Scrofani. The coming of modern civilization to California meant the moving of vast amounts of water. "A visit to the verdant beauty of Golden Gate Park in San Francisco," Scrofani begins, "would persuade the visitor that this fabled city had abundant water. In fact, the area of Golden Gate Park was once an immense sand dune."

The history of California's "water wars" had three distinct stages. "Under earlier Mexican rule private use of water was governed by the doctrine of *riparian rights*" -- in other words, those owning land on the banks of rivers had the right to use the water. Landowners not contiguous to a stream had no rights to its use. This led to bitter fights for many years between water monopolists and farmers who had to pay for this vital resource.

The anti-monopoly writings of Henry George, a prominent California journalist in the 1870s, had considerable influence, particularly on a young state representative named C. C. Wright. George proposed in his San Francisco *Post*, that dams be built in the Sierra Mountains for the watering of farmlands, urging "Make the land benefited pay for the expense, and give the people interested the management." Wright authored a bill, which was enacted in 1887, to do just that. It enabled special assessment districts to be formed which had the power of eminent domain, thus allowing irrigation dams to be built, financed by bonds, which were in turn paid off by means of a tax on land values.

This law was ingenious in that it made water available to thousands of farmers, who then paid for it themselves, through the enhanced value of their land. The act was amended to make it even more effective, exempting from taxation "all trees, vines...growing crops and all the structures of whatever class or distinction." The law was tremendously successful. In 1915, L.L. Denney, a former legislator, told the *Los Angeles Times*, "I doubt if any law ever enacted by our legislature has even approached the beneficial effects of this law."

In the early 20th century, though, the federal government, with the Reclamation Act of 1902, began to get into the dam business. The intent was to subsidize family farms by building dams and irrigation systems at public expense. The result, however, was to favor "agribusiness" over family farms. "Water in the California desert is cheaper than sand," Scrofani notes -- and

Scrofani Reads the Wright Act

this subsidy vastly increases the profitability of large corporations farming vast domains, crowding the small farmer out of the game. Today, cheap, subsidized water is squandered on water-intensive crops such as rice or alfalfa -- or sprayed profligately in urban sprinklers or car washes. Meanwhile, small farmers and farm laborers are in trouble.

The environmental costs of cheap water have been high. Huge areas of diverse habitat have been "reclaimed", thereby eliminating many native species of mammals, birds and fish. And California uses a third of the pesticides in the nation. As a result, many communities -- particularly those of poor farm workers -- have abnormally high cancer rates.

"The Greening of the California Desert" provides an eloquent testimony for the social and environmental efficacy of financing public infrastructure needs through the value of land. "The current system of water allocation in the West has been called 'socialism for the rich' by some, and 'wasteful' and 'harmful' by others. As California looks to its future it may well want to look to its past when smaller farms, conservation and growth were generated by the simple economic act of letting those who benefited from the water pay for it.... Will a new C.C. Wright arise to apply the old lessons to new problems?"

RUSSIA

(continued from page 1)

off with the ethics of the measure; Tideman addressed efficiency; Gwartney discussed the practice of determining value, and Cord the experiences of cities in America and around the world. A more than two-hour long probing followed, with what might be thought of as a culminating statement from Prof. Bronshtein: "Our ideal is to have what you have." All the questions and comments indicated that the committee's report would be favorable. To close the day our hosts treated us to a Russian ballet.

On Tuesday, I accompanied (Ms.) Sascha via trolley-bus to her workplace, the Central Scientific Research and Design Institute for Town Planning. She is an architect and planner. Her father, Yuri, is Deputy Director of Research. The organizer of our program at the Institute was Victor Scheglov, head of the Dept. of Economic and Social Research.

Some 35 planners and economists engaged in the seminar. It included reviewing the maps and computerized data on their "zoned valuation" system. Gwartney's assessment was that they had used sound initial criteria, but had neither the data nor

A Thank-You (Continued from page 1)

offered by Trustee after Trustee. Members of the families of both retirees were there to share in the honors bestowed upon them.

Our very fond good wishes follow Pearl and Lanc through all the new discoveries they may now explore.

The staff and Director of the HGS expressed very fond good wishes to Pearl at a dinner at Hart's Restaurant on June 25th. Joining them to launch her into her career change were Pearl's husband, Adolph Hirsch, Bob Clancy (who had hired Pearl for the HGS 26 years before), Susan Klingelhofer of the Schalkenbach Foundation and HGS teacher Pia DeSilva.

- George Collins

CHICAGO UPDATE

Summer classes are being offered at 2 and 7 PM on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday for ten weeks starting June 24.

Teachers are Director Sam Venturella (retired City Planner), George Menninger (real estate developer), and Scott Walton (real estate broker).

The Illinois Georgist includes, in its Spring/Summer issue, a feature on the West Virginia conference of Mountaineers United for Sane Taxation (MUST) led by Arthur Rybeck, Jr., and an analysis of "The Savings and Loan Bailout" by Bob Jene.



the technique to do site-specific valuations.

After lunch -- dinner, to Russians, -- we were driven to the Institute of Management, a formerly secret facility, for a tour led by Igor Portyansky, Head, Sector of Regional Settlement Systems. We were told that only one floor is still engaged in secret operations. At this facility Dr. Paul Chelotnaryov of the Institute of Central Sciences, demonstrated the computer mapping system of "zoned valuation" he developed for the city of Dnepropetrovsk. Gwartney called this a unique computer program which could have application in the west, a prospect that Dr. Chelotnaryov had been entertaining. Our land rent proposal met with wide interest and strong support from many members of the Institute. Victor Scheglov said, "I like Henry George's ideas, they make sense and they seek justice."

We then went to Scheglov's home, a flat in a high-rise complex in one of the better sections of Moscow, for a delightful supper. Later, a tour took us past the house in which Gorbachev lives, Lenin Hill and Moscow University, before Nic, Ted and I left on the night train to Leningrad.

To be continued in our next issue.

AUTUMN IN NEW YORK

Classes begin the week of September 16th.

Basic Courses

Fundamental Economics

Tues., Mr. George Collins 5:00 - 7:00
Wed., Ms. Vandana Chak 6:00 - 8:00
Thurs., Ms. Pia DeSilva 6:30 - 8:30

Understanding Economics

Wed., Mr. Lindy Davies 12:30 - 1:30

Progress & Poverty (in Spanish)

Tues., Mr. Nibaldo Aguilera 5:30 - 7:30

Classical Analysis I

Tues., Mr. Mark Sullivan 6:30 - 8:30

Advanced Courses

Applied Economics

Wed., Mr. Lindy Davies 12:30 - 1:30
Wed., Mr. Syd Mayers 6:00 - 8:00

Third World Issues (in Spanish)

Wed., Mr. Manuel Felix 5:30 - 7:30

Economic Science

Mon., Mr. George Collins 6:30 - 7:30

Money & Banking

Thurs., Richard Barbuto, Esq. 6:30 - 8:30

Practical Writing

Mon., Mr. Lindy Davies 6:00 - 8:00

New Advanced Courses for Fall '91!

Our Cultural Inheritance: Great Interior and Exterior Spaces in New York City

Thurs., Mr. Joseph Merz 6:30 - 8:30

Examine the history, uses and influence of important public spaces with architect Joe Merz. The course will acquaint you with the background, intent, and unique aspects of a variety of structures and spaces. This term you'll examine Rockefeller Center, Grand Central Station, Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, and a special waterfront promenade. (Eight sessions - four in the classroom followed by field trips - enrollment limited to 25 students)

Taxes and the Life (or Death) of Cities

Wed., Dr. Steven Cord 5:30 - 7:30

An intensive five-session workshop on the social and economic effects of tax policy. This how-to-do-it course will examine the public revenue choices of other cities - in Scandinavia, Australia, New Zealand and Pennsylvania - and how they apply to New York. Dr. Cord, Professor Emeritus of economics at Indiana Univ. of Pennsylvania, is an expert of property tax reform, and editor of *Incentive Taxation*. (Five weeks - enrollment will be limited to 20 students)

Friday Evening Forums

(Friday Forums are from 7:00 to 9:00 PM)

Land in the Movies

September 13th

The Milagro Beanfield War, a tale of poor farmers, rapacious land developers, rabunious ghosts, and the struggle for water rights in New Mexico. Followed by a discussion with Director George Collins.

Land and Freedom in the USSR

October 11th, Mr. George Collins

In this slide presentation on his visit to the USSR (see article, page 1), George Collins tells what he heard there, from officials, scholars, and the people - and what he saw, from Czarist excess to spartan worker housing.

Tibet in Exile

November 15th, Mr. Rinchen Dharlo

A videotape and discussion on China's forty-year occupation of Tibet and its consequences. Rinchen Dharlo heads the New York office of Tibet and the Tibet Fund, which aids Tibetan settlements in India and Nepal. This program is inspired by the proclamation of 1991 as the "Year of Tibet" and the October visit of the Dalai Lama to New York City.

The Income Tax and You

December 6th, Mr. Fred Kahn, C.P.A.

New federal tax regulations will come into effect this fall - and, of course, state income taxes are increasing in this nightmarish budget year. What are your tax liabilities and deductions for 1991 on wages, interest and investment, estates, etc? This seminar will explain what you have to do before April 15th for your 1991 return.



Henry George School of Social Science
121 East 30th Street
New York, NY 10016

Address correction requested

Saturday Seminars

The Japanese Economic Miracle -

How Real Is It?

Sept. 28th, Prof. Stephen Sussna, 1 - 3 PM
124 million people occupy an area smaller than California, and have a GNP of \$1.8 trillion. Japan's land is worth five times the total value of the U.S. Is that really so good? Dr. Sussna, a professor of law at Baruch College, will interpret Japan's formidable economic accomplishments and consider what the future holds. He has worked as a land-use consultant to the American Embassy in Tokyo and the People's Republic of China.

Economic Justice and Land Rights

October 19th, Ms. Pauline Juckes, C.S.W.

and Mr. Lindy Davies, 10 AM - 4:30 PM

An intensive one-day seminar on the connections between land tenure and poverty. A mix of slides, videos and lectures will highlight land and the struggle to get a living, from Appalachia to New York City - and will consider such solutions as land trusts and land value taxation. Pauline Juckes is a social worker, psychotherapist, and author. Lindy Davies is Assistant Director and teacher at the New York HGS.

Making the City Work

Nov. 9th, Prof. William Vickrey, 1 - 3 PM

Cities large and small are strapped for revenue, and choked with traffic. Professor Vickrey, president-elect of the American Economics Association, has a plan to correct the distorted incentives that have led to these conditions - using electronic pricing mechanisms to charge what spaces are really worth. Let's see how academic analysis balances with New Yorkers' perceptions of what makes a good city.

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