

HENRY GEORGE NEWSLETTER

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June 1985

ANNUAL GEORGIST CONFERENCE ON TAP JULY 17 - 21 IN ST. LOUIS

The annual Georgist Conference of North America will be held July 17 - 21 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Sponsored by the Council of Georgist Organizations, this year's conference will take place at Washington University. Council President Bob Clancy urges all interested Georgists to contact him as soon as possible to reserve space.

The following is a tentative program:

Wednesday, July 17:

Afternoon - Registration; pre-conference meetings, if any.

Evening - Reports from far and wide.

Thursday, July 18:

Morning - Morgan Harris, "Secret Weapons for Georgists";
Jeff Smith, "Geoists and Other Earth Movements";
Steven Cord, "An Economics Quiz".

Afternoon - Workshops, including:

CGO (resolutions, etc.);

Henry George School directors' meeting.

Evening - Clay Berling, "Self-Interest as the Programmer";
Oscar Johannsen, "Money and Inflation";
Mike Curtis, "The Origin and Law of Interest".

Friday, July 19:

Morning - Workshops, including:

Amir Pirouzan, "Computers in Education";

Don Hurford, "Use of Media in Education";

Ed Dodson, "Georgist Periodicals".

Afternoon - Bus tour of St. Louis, including picnic lunch.

Evening - "The Catholic Bishops' Statement on Economic Questions",
a report from Georgists active on this matter.

Saturday, July 20:

Morning - "The Farm Problem", a report from Bob Willis (Iowa),
Woodrow Williams (Ohio), and Chuck Byrne (Missouri);
Bob Willis, "Effects of LVT on Other Taxes".

Afternoon - Speakers from Missouri: Professors Robert Brazelton,
Donald Phares, Edward Metzen and Walter Johnson; chaired
by Irene Hickman.

Evening - Conference Banquet; Stan Frederiksen, chairman.
Guest Speakers: Walt Mueller, member of the Missouri
legislature; Tom Curtis, former Missouri congressman;
John Poelker, ex-Mayor of St. Louis.

Sunday, July 21:

Morning - CGO meeting: conference evaluation and plans for next year
Henry George Foundation of America: annual meeting

This program is subject to change. Georgists are encouraged to contact Bob Clancy at the Council of Georgist Organizations, 5 East 44th Street, New York, NY 10017.

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EDITORIAL

Between Cuba and Puerto Rico lies the island of Hispaniola, shared by Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Since the time of Columbus, the Dominicans have witnessed surges of domination and intervention by foreign powers, be it the lasting impact of Spain, the onslaught of Haitian troops, or the economic influence of the United States. Because of this, and the dictatorial rule of Rafael Trujillo, Dominican society has suffered extensively and fought desperately to overcome severe handicaps.

It is little wonder, then, that communist ideology poses a real threat to this island and others like it. The country shows the classic signs of a "progress and poverty" society, signs portending change — radical change.

Having recently visited the Dominican Republic, I was awed by the abject poverty of most of the people in contrast to the isolated pockets of affluence. Children begging in the streets of Santo Domingo (the capital city which contains about 30 percent of the population) are among the images that will last forever. Shacks along the waterways that are mere shells of homes. People sitting in the street with nothing to do.

And at the same time, vast acres of untilled, unworked land.

Recognizing the urgency for change, thousands of students have flocked to classes of the Henry George School during the last 15 years. Hungry for alternatives to the familiar programs of austerity and governmental influence, these students recognize the essentials of a healthy economy. They know that George's approach can help them shed the burdens of poverty and starvation and escape from the vise-like claws of the International Monetary Fund.

As land remains untaxed and the few buildings taxed, revenue obtained falls heavily on the poor and the middle class. As a healthy agricultural base continues to stall, tens of thousands flock to the capitol, worsening the problem.

Time is running out in this part of our hemisphere, even as it becomes evident that the Georgist alternative offers the best hope of survival.

It is a testament to the validity of Henry George's theories that more people than ever are looking to his solution in this troubled Caribbean nation. We salute Escuela Henry George director Lucy de Silva for her continued efforts to inform and educate. Those who learn may save the country.

--Stan Rubenstein

SCHOOL NOTES

NEW YORK

Springfest '85 was the latest in a series of successful events sponsored by the Graduate Research Committee.

More than 100 people packed the Arnold A. Weinstein Auditorium on April 21st for a unique program which combined a piano recital, an economic discussion and a buffet dinner.

Pianist Estelle Parnas Oringer performed selections from Scarlatti, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Chopin and others during the early portion of the affair. Her crisp, sensitive renderings were extremely well-received. Particularly surprising was the room's fine acoustics, prompting the event's chairwoman, Fryda Ossias, to begin planning similar festivities.

The recital was followed by an examination of international competition in the piano-making industry. The panel included George Collins, director of the Philadelphia HGS; Judith Oringer, author of the recent book "Passion for the Piano"; and William Davidson, NY school trustee.

A buffet dinner followed in the school's lounge.

Panelist Judith Oringer summed up Springfest '85: "The Henry George School was a perfect backdrop for this event: from the elegant hall and building, to the casual dining room, to the hard-working staff."

Contact Elizabeth Reeves, coordinator, to find out more about the Graduate Research Committee (212 697-9880).

PHILADELPHIA

"Understanding Economics", the 12-part television series co-produced by the Philadelphia school, has livened up the classrooms this semester at the birthplace. It joins Fundamental Economics as a basic course, and board-member Ed Dodson is teaching.

Another videotape figures prominently in Philadelphia-area activities this spring. "A Tale of Five Cities", the documentary produced by the Center for Public Dialogue, has been shown "to great effect", according to director George Collins.

The mayor and city council of Chester, PA saw the film and were "highly impressed." In New Castle, Delaware, County Executive Rita Justice was "very receptive" to the LVT message and predicted further attention at the county level.

Significantly, the city of Wilmington, Delaware appointed a Tax Study Commission with a specific mandate to study the implications of LVT. City Council President Jim Baker, who also chairs the commission, saw the film and was "strongly in favor" of the proposal. Furthermore, he declared that the commission would not "drag its feet and then issue a report that will be filed and forgotten." To that end he commissioned Steve Cord to perform an impact study in the city of Wilmington (which is now underway), and to report favorably on the proposal in the budget which is due in June.

Finally, 300 members of the Fairmont Taxpayers Association watched the film and applauded vigorously. Their president then urged them to join with similar groups and follow through in support of LVT as an alternative to assessment appeals and as a weapon against gentrification.

SCHOOL NOTES

LOS ANGELES - "Community or Individual -- Who's on First?" was the topic of last month's Final Friday session at the LA Press Club. City Managers Judy Weiss (Pasadena) and Donald H. Otterman (La Canada/Flintridge) joined with John McKenna, zoning administrator of Glendale, and various Georgists, free marketers and friends for a round table discussion on intercity cooperation and conflict.

ARDEN ACTIVITIES - Several Georgist presentations were made by director Mike Curtis to alternative groups through the efforts of HG alumni liason Jim Joiner. In addition, economics classes have recently been completed at Smyrna Prison.

SAN FRANCISCO - Has produced a beautiful full-color brochure describing their activities and the philosophy of Henry George, and which invites newcomers to send for course information, more information on George, arrange a talk for their organizations, or contribute. It is a fine piece of work.

CABLE TELEVISION - The 12-part series "Understanding Economics" is now appearing on Homeview Cable TV in these Pennsylvania areas: Doylestown, King of Prussia and Perkiomen. The series will air until July. Promotional announcements for UE were broadcast on WFLN Radio in the Philadelphia vicinity.

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