

# Henry George School • CENTER FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE

January 6, 1983

Walter Rybeck  
Center for Public Dialogue  
10615 Brunswick Avenue  
Kensington, MD 20795

Dear Walt:

I believe that certain Henry George School activities here in New England will interest you.

Our work with the Unitarian Universalist Association, headquartered in Boston (see enclosure & Monthly Report), seems to parallel your involvement with the Land Stewardship Council of North Carolina and your interest in the spiritual, moral, and ethical aspects of land value taxation, generally. If you like, I will send you copies of our future correspondence related to this project.

The conference, "Economic Justice in the '80's....", that the School is organizing for March 19th (again, see report) has the potential for drawing "progressive" georgists from outside New England, to Boston instead of New York for Earth Day, according to Mark Sullivan who wants that to happen. Any thoughts, or suggestions on making this a mini-regional georgist get-together?

An idea has come up that, more than likely, entered many an LVT advocate's brain - for a national 'blue ribbon' commission for land value taxation. I've discussed the idea with Bob Wood who agrees with me that the idea has merit and that "the time is ripe" for such an undertaking. Bob suggests that someone - and I think that you, Walt, could be that person - write up a 'charge' articulating the purpose of such a body, who would participate, specific projects, timelines, etc.. When that part of the process is completed, our illustrious Dr. Wood is willing to do some serious fund raising and help establish such a commission. Are you willing and able to undertake this charge, Walt?

-more-

Incidentally, aside from the obvious choices for this proposed commission, one should add to a list of potential members:

Ken Stofferahn  
Commissioner,  
Public Utilities Commission  
Capitol Building  
Pierre, SD 57501

Ken was visiting Boston recently to attend an annual meeting of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. He is a former employer and friend of Joe Heisler, who has been been volunteering public relations expertise at the School.

Ken became quite interested in LVT during the course of a couple of conversations and suggested some groups and conferences, along with the one he was attending, that might welcome speakers on land value taxation: associations of agriculture commissioners, or State Secretaries of Agriculture; the Council of State Governments; the National Conference (Council?) of State Legislatures; State associations of county commissioners; the National Governors' Conference; and whatever the national organization of tax commissioners is called. Probably, you have considered some, or all, of these groups as benefitting from your speakers bureau.

Ken and Joe spoke of Congressman Byron Dorgan (D-N. Dakota), a former tax commissioner, whom both describe as a populist, progressive, and reform-minded. They think that he would respond well to the idea of LVT.

The enclosed Christian Science Monitor article by Ted Kennedy led me to believe that the Senator from Massachusetts might be philosophically approachable. Bob Wood, who is close to Kennedy, is in the process of trying to arrange a meeting to discuss our perspective on the "land ethic" and leasing government lands, etc.. There is also a likelihood that Senator Kennedy will be the keynote speaker at our March conference.

So, the pot simmers!

Fraternally,

Mitchell Chanelis

cc: Stan Rubenstein  
CGO

Enclosures