

Cal Framework Goals
Teachers Sponsored by SF HGS
Links Ethics to Economics

San Francisco Director Robert Scrofani and a team of three California teachers presented the first draft of the "Ethics in Economics" Curriculum at the Conference of the National Council for Social Studies Teachers. The Henry George School of Northern California is a major sponsor of the project.

"The new curriculum is designed to increase teacher awareness of the ethical issues involved in our economic decision-making," according to Scrofani. "In general the the Joint Council on Economics guidelines are limited to discussing 'what is', rather than 'what ought to be.' In practice this means teachers guided by textbooks do not really consider the ethical consequences of our decisions."

Ethics in the framework

Ethics and economics are both important strands in the new California History Framework. It suggests both ethical and economic literacy as key goals. To develop ethical literacy "students must: (1) Recognize the sanctity of life and the dignity of the individual (2) Understand the ways in which different societies have tried to resolve ethical issues. (3) Understand that ideas people profess affect their behavior. (4) Realize that concern for ethics and human rights is universal and represents the aspiration of men and women in every time and place."

Motivated by the belief that ethics is integral to the teaching of economics the group of teachers led by Scrofani of Berkeley High School and Robert Vaughan of Harbor High School (Santa Cruz) sought support to begin a series of workshops to supplement the "status quo" of much of the current economics curriculum. Joining with the Educators for Social Responsibility, and the Center for Economic Conversion, the Henry George School of Northern California is supporting the project.

Five workshops were held in 1989-90. Members of the ethics in economics roundtable later joined the economic conversion project led by Melanie Judge. This project focuses on attaining a society in which our economic decisions are more in harmony with nature.

Curriculum Strategy

The group is creating a ethics based curriculum strategy to use with the textbooks throughout the course. After testing by teachers and review by economic professors it will be made available by the Center for Economic Conversion and the Henry George School.

Sections of the ethics curriculum were revised for the 4th, 5th and 8th grade teachers and presented at an "Economics Across the Curriculum" in-service sponsored by the Woodlands, California School District recently. A formal presentation will be made to California teachers at the annual conference of the California Social Science Conference in March 1991.

HIS Economic Literacy Project Report

Shorter if used

Materials developed by the New York School and the Northern California Henry George School were distributed at the following conferences:

1. **BAGEP (Bay Area Global Education Program)** annual summer seminar at Stanford "History Behind the Headlines." - individual distribution to 30 teachers; presentation at curriculum faire
2. **Economic Workshop Stanford University**, August 1990 - 35 attending
Presentation of materials and distribution of:- Economic and Ethics materials.
- Full sets of Economic *Land and Liberty* Series to the Professors and participants; 46 page economic newsletter produced by the HGS of San Francisco; Economic video series Understanding Economics to 2 teachers.
3. **Mendocino County Summer Staff Development** - "Economics Across the Curriculum." 65 attending.
- Material distributed based on grade level interest including US, World and Economic series and Appalachia. The district reproduced "Jamestown and Disneyland" for its teachers.
- 2 video tapes of "American Heritage" given to the county.
- Individual meetings held with mentor teachers and curriculum directors and ESR Coordinator for the County.
4. **National Council for the Social Studies**, Anaheim, Cal November 1990.
- Presentation by teacher team of new *Ethics in Economics*.
5. **Woodlands School District**, "Economics Across the Curriculum." presentation to 4th, 5th, 6th grade teachers.
6. Sept 1990 - "Ethics and Economics" subgroup on Sustainable Development reviews the ethics curriculum and develops new lessons on sustainable development.
7. Weekend Conference on Ethics in Economics in Sebastapol with teachers from 3 school districts.

Other:

August 1990 Scrofani attended the "Collection of Land Rent" seminar sponsored by the HGS and Robert Schalkenbach Foundation in New York. Letters and pictures sent to the Soviet participants.

∞ New York's **Industrial Revolution** Land and Liberty 5 lesson series edited. Section on women sent to local experts; rewritten by Scrofani.

∞ Wright Act and material on "Water - Liquid Gold" "Best stuff we received on this topic," according to Santa Cruz High School department head.

∞
"Economics and Ethics" material being incorporated into the Berkeley High School Economic Standards. Once completed will be distributed with appendix to other schools.

SF's Harlan Trott Dies


Harlan Trott, longtime correspondent for the Christian Science Monitor and a former editor of the Analyst, the Northern California HGS newsletter died recently.

Harlan grew up on the East Coast and in World War II captained a minesweeper. His brother worked for Admiral Raymond Spruance later Ambassador to the Philippines.

After coming to the West Coast as a Monitor correspondent he was introduced to the ideas of Henry George by J. Rupert Mason former school and International President. After "seeing the cat," his understanding of the political economy increased. "It gave his work an additional insight," said one of his colleagues at the School. "His writings were penetrating and often courageous."

Harlan had many friends among members of the school, particularly Robert Tideman, former director and Bob De Fermery. He introduced many people to key water issues, still prevalent in California today. His article, "Doing It the Wright Way" relating to the 1887 LVT financing method for irrigation appeared in the Frontier Magazine and guided a number of people to "see the cat" in the water monopolists. His inspiration still appears on page 1 of this issue in a story by Bob Scrofani.

Harlan lived in Walnut Creek with his wife Eleanor. He has two sons.



Methodist Peace & Justice
Focus for New Seminar

Under the aegis of long-time Board Member, Clay Berling, the Board of Directors approved a project of outreach to Peace and Justice Committees of Bay Area Methodist churches.

Clay is inviting over fifty Methodist groups to join the school at a special one day seminar to be held in an East Bay Methodist Church in early 1991.

Clay's letter of invitation includes these words: "Some years ago I became part of a political economy group which helped me see that many of our social concerns are not just a matter of evil working in the world, but spring from the normal everyday efforts of each of us acting in our personal interest. The result is a systematic failure of economies on the left and the right."

The one day seminar will focus on the central issue of land tenure and its impact on peace and justice in our world. Followup interviews will be held with the attendees to test the effectiveness of the new one day seminar.

A large, stylized handwritten signature, possibly reading "Clay Berling", is written in dark ink. The signature is composed of several loops and flourishes, with the name "Clay" and "Berling" being the most legible parts.