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LETTERS to the EDITOR

On progress and poverty

In San Francisco from August 20 through August 25 this year, there was an International Conference and Celebration, marking the centennial of the publication of PROGRESS AND POVERTY by Henry George. It was a busy conference, attended by many interested people from several nations.

San Francisco, where Henry George wrote the book 100 years ago, welcomed us with open arms. Many of us rededicated ourselves to efforts at all levels to imple-

ment the remedies proposed by this great man so long ago.

It has become obvious that Proposition 13's impacts have varied: some good, some bad. Among the bad is the fact that we are more distant in California than ever before from implementation of George's remedies.

This is tragic. It needs correction.

How far away we are is still illustrated by the current wave of exposures and expressions of grave concern over the increasing foreign ownership of our resources, including our land. These concerns demonstrate how lighter taxation of the location values leads to ever increasing prices.

They demonstrate what utter fools we are, in our nation, and especially in our state. Henry George's remedies are needed now more than they were needed 100 years ago.

An official in the Los Angeles County Assessor's office was recently quoted: (he did not want to be identified) "It is a dangerous trend—really stupid. Foreign interests eventually could control most of the land in the central city unless prohibitions are im-

posed like those in some foreign countries where non-resident ownership is limited. So far there has been no such move in that direction."

The monopolistic powers we have allowed to be associated with the ownership of titles to locations far exceeds the devastating powers exercised in days of old by barons vs. their serfs. — IT IS THE SYSTEM NOT OWNERSHIP AS SUCH THAT MUST BE CHANGED. UNTAX THE RETURNS TO CAPITAL INVESTED UNTAX WAGES OF LABOR. UNTAX INVENTORIES AND ALL PERSONAL PROPERTY.

Such burdens are against incentive and ambition. INCREASE THE JUST AND EQUITABLE CHARGE AGAINST THE VALUE OF LOCATIONS BECAUSE SUCH VALUE IS COMMUNITY-CREATED AND SHOULD BE COMMUNITY-COLLECTED. The closer the levy is to the yearly rent-to-land the more nearly we will approach justice in public revenue. And the fee will be our enterprise system.

WILBUR PEREIRA
Westchester

Who will champion cause?

Editor, The Daily Breeze: 9/13/79

Fellow homeowners, we passed Proposition 13 and saved our homes. Now it's time to go one step farther and save our tax dollars.

We all knew Proposition 13 offered a bigger tax advantage to business and landlords than to homeowners but we were desperate and it was the best we had. Business interests and landlords "rode in on our coat-tails" but now it's

As residential property changes hands and is reassessed, homeowners will bear an ever-increasing share of the tax burden. During the pre-election furor, the word was "pass it now and improve it later." We need a champion for our cause.

Howard Jarvis went to bat for the landlords. Who will go to bat for the homeowners?

—P. VAN SANT
Rancho Palos Verdes