

The NEW LEAF

"EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL SPECIAL PRIVILEGE FOR NONE"



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LEAF Sparks Joint Sacramento Hearing

Monday, Sept. 26, 1977, was a banner day for proponents of Land Value Taxation, as LEAF was granted a joint hearing by the Sacramento City Council and Board of Supervisors.

The session, attended by some 50 spectators, started at 4:30 p.m. and ended shortly after 6:30 p.m. Spokesmen for the two legislative bodies termed the hearing an educational effort. Sacramento City Councilman Robert T. Matsui and Supervisor Patrick E. Melarkey indicated they will introduce resolutions endorsing SCA12 which would increase taxes on raw land while removing them from buildings and improvements.

LEAF representatives at the hearing were: Dr. William Filante, M.D., LEAF Pres.; Dr. Mason Gaffney, Economist, U.C. Riverside; Dr. William Truehart, Ph.D.; Executive Director John D'Alfonso; Deputy Director Terry Newland; and Robert Goodier, Bureau of Mines.

State Sen. Albert Rodda spoke in behalf of his Senate Constitutional Amend-

ment and touched on several aspects of it including LVT and self-supporting urban transit.

Dr. Filante followed Rodda and covered such subjects as financing public works, effects on farmers, and efficient resource allocation.

Newland said LVT brings equity and justice in strengthening local government.

Dr. Gaffney described the effects on housing and building prices, the effects on land prices, and the containment of urban sprawl.

Dr. Truehart reviewed a major study of property and land value taxes of Los Angeles County he completed a few years ago which involved the entire population of 1,800,000 privately owned land parcels.

Goodier told of the mathematics of SCA 12 implementation and the rental or leasing, rather than the sale of government land sites.

Newland acted as moderator for the panel which fielded a number of questions from the supervisors and councilmen.

ELECTION RESULTS ANNOUNCED, BOARD TO NAME OFFICERS

Following are the official results of the special annual election following the Lake Geneva Conference:

1. The membership approved increasing the number of Directors by two, giving the Board a new total of nine. The amendment providing this carried 88-19 with 13 abstaining.
2. Receiving the four high-

est total of votes and with it, election to the Board of Directors are (in the order of finish): Mason Gaffney, Robert Tide-man, Robert Clancy, Harry Pollard.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be held in San Diego at the Abraxas School at which time the directors will choose their new slate of officers.



Overhauling of the California State Capitol Building is indicative of the overhauling needed of present creaking property tax laws.

LEAF Wins Recognition

LEAF "is an organization seeking to 'uptax land' and 'untax homes' and other improvements." So says the influential weekly "The Sacramento Newsletter" which reports on California legislation, government, and politics.

Devoting considerable space to LEAF in its Aug. 31 issue, the publication writes. "Apparently LEAF has elicited the interest, and in some cases support, from eminent persons and established organizations. Interest is not confined to

California — other states, as well as national associations of government and business have evinced interest. Although the overall goal of LEAF is not new, tax burdens for individuals and businesses are causing people to take a second look at these proposals.

"Presently, the drive by LEAF members is for support of SCA12-RODDA D-Sacramento) which would remove all taxes upon

(Continued

Here's The Conference List

Because of the numerous requests for the list of those who attended the Joint Georgist Conference at Lake Geneva this summer, THE NEW LEAF is happy to print the following roster of attendees. Our thanks to Sam and Dorothy Venturella who played such an important role in making the Conference so successful for compiling this list.

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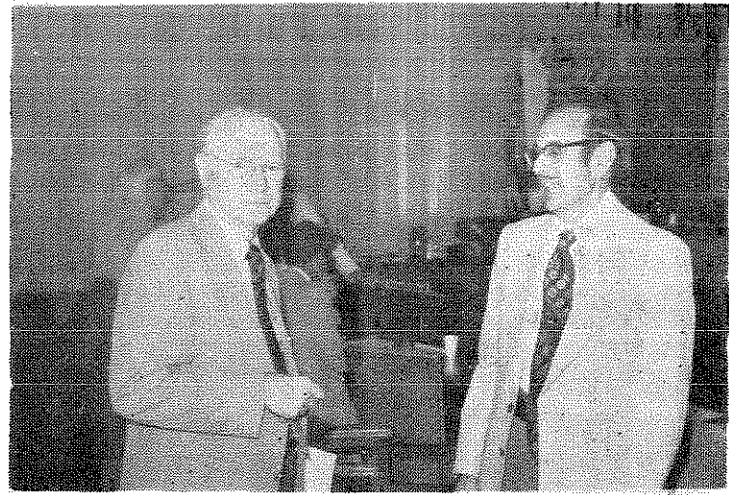
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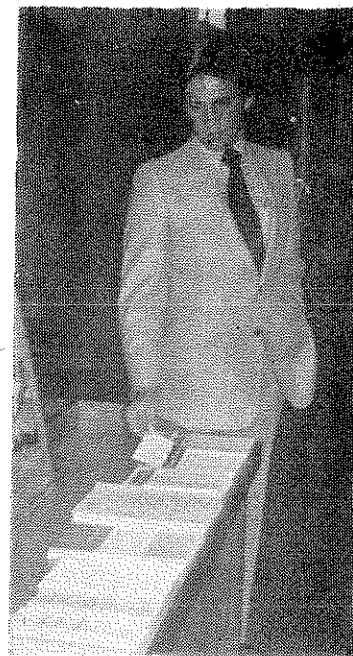
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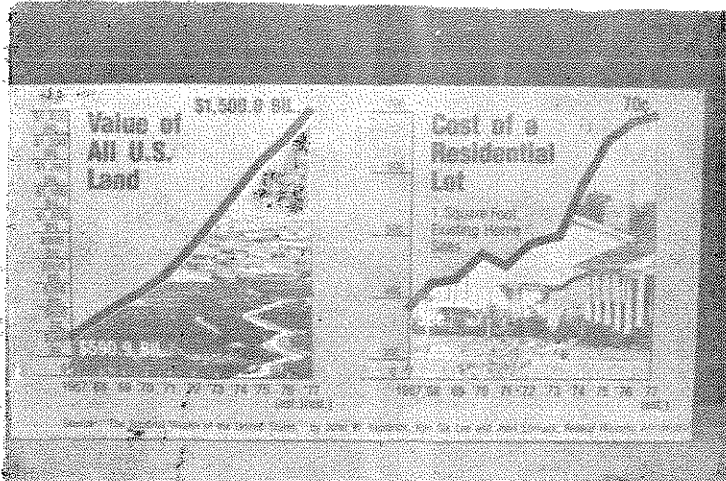
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One of the LEAF provided displays at the joint hearing.

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Author's New Address

William Newcomb, prominent LEAF author, has a new address. It is 532 Wickham Road, Melbourne, Fl., 32901, c/o Expose Books.

Newcomb's latest book, "Conspiracy Against Homeowners and Tenants" is receiving considerable notice. It can be ordered at Newcomb's new address.



LEAF Pres. Bill Filante and Sacramento Branch Pres. Charles Tulley are happy about the way things are going.



LVT has the interest of the public but has been placed in "an unfavorable light by speculators and land developers," says Rodda.

Morrow Featured Speaker

LEAF Chairman Floyd Morrow was the feature speaker at the September meeting of the El Cajon Blvd. Civic Association, San Diego, California.

Reviewing the problems of redeveloping the downtown business area, Morrow said most of it has been stalled for 10 years because there are no incentives to move it along.

"The guy who doesn't develop, who holds out the longest, gets the biggest prize," said Morrow. He referred to the runaway inflation experienced by idle, vacant land and contrasted it with the heavy tax penalties which are levied



Filante, who is also Pres. of the Marin Water District, describes LVT as "an untaxing process" whereby unfair burdens are removed from those who produce.

when land is improved.

As the dean of San Diego's City Council Morrow reminded his audience that while some of his political opponents tag him as "a flaming liberal" he and only one other councilman voted against the recent \$20 million increase in the city budget. It carried by a 7-2 vote.

Addressing his audience of business owners and professional people, Morrow called upon them to become politically involved. "You business people better speak out on some of these (current) issues," he warned. "You are directly affected by what goes on in government."

Morrow emphasized that often the voice of private citizens carry more weight than that of elected legislators. "I can speak out all day but your voice means much more."

Morrow criticized "urban renewal" or "redevelopment" plans which find a political subdivision such as a city acquiring land with tax monies or through the powers of eminent domain and then selling it below cost to speculators.

Describing the slow-downs a city faces when it attempts to improve area neighborhoods Morrow said: "I say we shouldn't be taxing homes, or apartments, or office buildings anyway. If those taxes were passed over to land values, none of this would be happening."



"The tax on improvements discourages the investment of capital," warns Truehart.



"Land could not be held idle for speculative purposes" asserts Gaffney. "There's no reason why gasoline stations couldn't be located in the basement of buildings."

LEAF WINS RECOGNITION

(Continued from front page)

buildings and improvements and replace lost revenue through higher taxation of raw land values. Proponents claim "our cities are deteriorating and slums are increasing because taxes on improvements discourage modernization and rehabilitation." They add that "a tax system is discriminatory which takes from workers and businessmen their earnings . . . while permitting landholders and land speculators to retain the values of land, sites, and resources for which they do not labor."

"Rodda's SCA12 provides that assessments upon property improvements and personal property would be reduced 20% a year, beginning in 1979, so that by 1983 they would be exempt from taxation; and in order to make up for lost revenue, assessments on raw land values will be raised at the rate of 20% a year, so that by '83 all non-exempt lands in California shall be assessed at 100% of their full market value — thus after '83 the property tax would be levied upon land values only."

"People are no longer indifferent about taxes, and all proposals should be examined by those concerned in order to evaluate their merits or demerits."

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