

The NEW LEAF

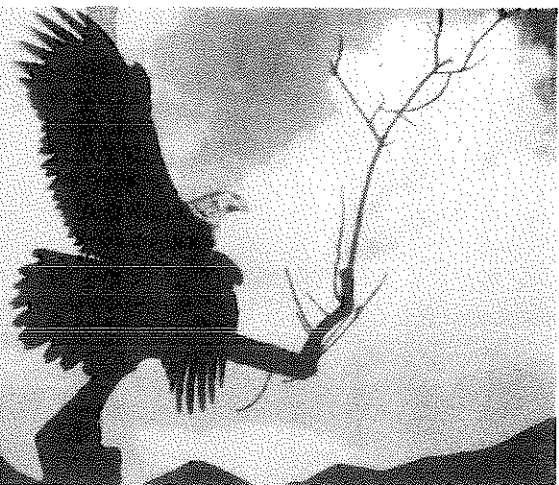
"EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL SPECIAL PRIVILEGE FOR NONE"

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"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it and institute new government..."



ASSOCIATION IN EQUALITY

By Sam Venturella

This year we mark the one hundreth anniversary of the publication of Henry George's *Progress and Poverty*. Henry George dedicated the work "To those who, seeing the vice and misery that spring from the unequal distribution of wealth and privilege, feel the possibility of a higher social state and would strive for its attainment."

What is the 'higher social state' envisioned by that young California newspaperman and occasional politician? It is a state that he described as "Association in equality". Think about it. Association in equality—human beings coming together freely to co-operate in the gathering of good, the making of clothes, the building of houses, to play, to sing, to dance, to court and marry, to beget and rear children, to share joys and sorrows, to worship and pray.

Association in equality. Another expression of the idea of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. The theme that runs through the Law and the Prophets. The law of life repeated and refined by a young rabbi from Galilee in the words "Love thy neighbor as yourself".

Let me read for you these words from *Progress and Poverty*: "... association in equality is (continued on page 4)

The American Revolution

(to be continued)

Shrinking natural resources in the developed nations are placing those countries "on a collision course" with the underdeveloped nations, Esteban Torres, the American ambassador to UNESCO, declared yesterday.

"It used to be an East-West confrontation," he said. "Now we have a North-South collision coming."

Developing nations, located generally in the southern Hemisphere, say that unless they receive a greater return on their resources, there will be trouble, Torres said. "They want part of the action."

He proposed a U.S. foreign policy designed "to bridge the developing gap."

The ambassador reported 114 Third World countries are protesting the economic balance that now exists.

"The so-called Third World has 70 percent of the world's population, but only 30 percent of world income," Torres said. The need for "a new international economic order" is being proclaimed these days in the halls of the United Nations, according to the UNESCO delegate.

"There is too much disparity, too much injustice," he said. What the United Nations hoped to do, he added, is "correct the imbalance."

Torres described the natural resources situation for the United States as "rather bleak" and suggested that "perhaps it is an indication of things to come."

It is important to realize, Torres said, that "we don't control the (amount of) resources we did."

Americans have been living, he said, "in a very ... privileged situation" while "a billion persons" in certain underdeveloped areas have been living "in abject poverty." SAN DIEGO UNION

A Russian Experience

Floyd Morrow, returned last month from a three-week chess tour of Russia, sponsored by the U.S. Chess Federation.

The long hours I spent studying the Russian language prior to my departure for that country paid dividends in many ways. Communications were enhanced a thousandfold. Goodwill was obvious. Even the sternest, most uncompromising and anti-capitalist Soviet citizen I encountered had to melt and smile a little when he was approached in his own tongue modified by a Texan accent.

A fundamental difference is easily observed in our two societies in the use, care and obvious pride Russians take in their common public space, public transportation and public recreation areas. Nor did I ever get the feeling that space was "too valuable" for public use. Generous provisions have been made for parks, recreation, museums and other public places.

Common ownership of the natural resources appears to have solved several other problems as well; unemployment, inflation and absurd urban land use decisions being the obvious.

By the same token, common ownership of capital, together with attempts to produce and distribute on a collective basis, a regimented and rigid system, have created several problems. Lack of quantity, quality and diversity of consumer goods are the most noticeable.

Perhaps both "systems" could learn a great deal from each other. Freedom of thought, deed and action would be immeasurably enhanced if both "governments" would get out of the private lives of their citizens and get on with the business of responsibly managing the natural resources with belong to all of us. What is created by the individual belongs rightfully to him, but who can claim that right with regard to natural resources?

Dear Members of LEAF,

Our nation has recently celebrated its 103rd birthday. On July 4, 1776, representatives of the colonies declared to the world their independence from tyrannical government and economic oppression. Today that crucial declaration is being spoken around the world not only by peoples under tyrannical rule, but by minorities and poor people - victims of economic oppression - in our own nation. They are all asking for freedom, for their fair share, for the chance to make a contribution.

In this centennial year of *Progress and Poverty*, Georgists are coming together from around the world, if not in person, at least in spirit. Together we can be heard as never before, and as never before, the world needs to hear. We have an ideal that all these oppressed people would

like to hear. It is an ideal that will relieve much of the world's tension. All we need to do is speak it. We each need to take the lead to inform the public about what we stand for, and what we will fight for. Where people are deprived of the resources to make a living we need to speak out; where people are deprived of representation in their government, again, we need to be heard. We need to continually declare our independence.

"If, while there is yet time, we turn to Justice and obey her, if we trust Liberty and follow her, the dangers that now threaten must disappear, the forces that now menace will turn to agencies of elevation." (Henry George, *Progress and Poverty*.)

Sincerely,
TONY MEIS

One Way To Democracy

By Laura Tallian

Georgists can write their own legislation, gathering signatures on petitions, and submitting their proposal directly to the voters without intervention by any politicians.

Truly the citizen is sovereign: he competes with no lobbyist and permits no amendment of his legislation; he addresses only his fellow citizens. This is the perfect opportunity for education. Proponents of an initiative have a wide audience. Whether they win or lose, many voters are exposed to their ideas and are made thoughtful. Henry George's ideas may win. They are logical and tax reform is in the air.

"Initiative" permits voters to write their own law, "referendum" submits an act of a legislative body to approval or disapproval by the citizens, and "recall" removes an elected official from office. Remember that each state is different, and in some states the initiative process may not be legal at the state level but valid in certain cities or counties. Apply to the Secretary of State and to city or county clerks for information governing use of the initiative process in your own state, city, or

county. Be sure that a lawyer reviews this information and writes the proposed legislation.

It would be best to center activity in cities and counties having a small population. The signature requirement in Switzerland is a fixed number, but in the United States, except for the state of North Dakota, it is based on a percentage of voting population. This increases the difficulties of the petition circulator in populous areas, so that those having their first experience should avoid this hazard.

Then set tables in shopping centers and gather signatures with your goal at 50% more than the required number to compensate for invalid signatures. A recent decision by the California Supreme Court makes it mandatory for shopping centers or store managers to permit petitioners on their premises.

These states allow the initiative process: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

San Diego Hosts Annual Meeting

The 1979 LEAF Annual Meeting was called to order on Saturday, July 14, at Abraxas School in San Diego. Twenty-two LEAF members attended. Board Chairman Floyd Morrow called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and the agenda for the day was begun.

During the morning session Marion Spurio, Michele Greenhill and Morgan Harris presented information and led discussions on basic aspects of communications, public information, and public relations.

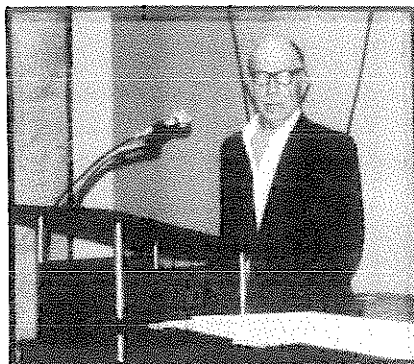
Marion Saprio, discussing principles of person to person communications, stressed the need to identify with the listener's interest rather than the speaker's message.

Michele Greenhill discussed the general principles of a public information program: How one uses what media at what time in order to have the best chance to get your story out to the public.

In addition, Michele recommended a solid "news peg" for each story such as a noteworthy person, time, or event. Any such special circumstance can enhance coverage, making an otherwise limited topic of general interest to the public.

Practical suggestions from Morgan to Georgists planning a public relations program were the following:

1. Write news stories, especially during the Centennial Celebration time, to get the Georgist name mentioned at every opportunity.
2. Create news stories by inviting a Georgist to your community and hold a social in his or her honor, then write it up and include a good word about Georgists in general.
3. On September 2, hold a Henry George Birthday party. Produce and publish the invitation by way of the media, and then write up the event in the newspaper. It may even make the evening news.



MORGAN HARRIS

The afternoon session included a talk by Floyd Morrow on his recent visit to Russia, and a general discussion on the state of Georgism and LEAF, led by Harry Pollard. The many issues, ideas and suggestions brought up during the afternoon discussion will be compiled and presented to the members for discussion at the concluding session of the 1979 Annual Meeting in San Francisco. (Those who would like to have a more detailed account of the San Diego annual meeting, including specific information on suggested public relations programs, write LEAF Central Office, 2242 Morley St., San Diego, CA 92111.)

Fairhope Wins In Court

Wednesday, July 11 the Alabama House Judiciary Committee held hearings on the bill to abolish the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation which had already passed the Senate. Following the hearing, the committee reported the bill out favorably and it was put on the House calendar. The vote was 13 for, and 2 against with one abstention.

The chairman, Rick Manley, sent the bill to the Alabama Supreme Court for rulings on three points concerning the bill, and the Court ruled that the bill did indeed violate the U.S. Constitution in all three areas. It seems unlikely, although not impossible, that the bill will go any further since the Alabama State Legislature won't pass legislation that has been ruled unconstitutional without first making serious revisions.

Board of Directors Elected

The 1979 Election to the LEAF Board of Directors has been completed. A total of 106 members voted for 14 candidates to fill 7 directorships. The winning candidates are: Floyd Morrow, Everett Seeley, Marion Saprio, George Collins, Morgan Marris, Tom Sherrard, and Earl Hanson. They will be installed during the Centennial Celebration in San Francisco, and join Harry Pollard and Robert Clancy who are presently serving terms on the Board.

As announced in the call for nominees, the top 3 winners will serve for 3 years; the next 3 winners will serve for 2 years; and the 7th winner will serve for one year. This will ensure the organization of an election for 3 Board members each year.

If during the year, a vacancy occurs on the Board, the next highest vote-getter of this election will be asked to fill the vacancy until the next annual election. (Results on Page 4.)

The High Cost of Security

WASHINGTON (UPI) - Americans are losing billions of dollars a year by buying "whole life" insurance - the most popular form of life insurance on the market, the Federal Trade Commission said yesterday.

An FTC report said Americans have put \$141 billion in savings-type "whole life" policies - an amount equal to all the money invested in savings and loan passbook accounts - despite "extraordinarily low" earnings.

It said "whole life" insurance policies earn only 1 to 2 percent on the average compared to the 5 to 5½ percent interest on the lowest-paying savings and loan accounts.

The FTC report called the potential for consumer loss "staggering," even taking into account the ability of "whole life" buyers to generally avoid taxes on income.

continued

the law of progress. Association frees mental power for expenditure in improvement, and equality, or justice, or freedom-for the terms here signify the same thing, the recognition of the moral law-prevents the dissipation of this power in fruitless struggles. . . Men tend to progress just as they come closer together, and by cooperation with each other increase the mental power that may be devoted to improvement, but just as conflict is provoked, or association develops inequality of condition and power, this tendency to progression is lessened, checked, and finally reversed."

Even as Henry George was writing, he saw the forces of regression and decline. Listen again to the words he wrote: "There is no mistaking it-the very foundations of society are being sapped before our eyes, while we ask, how is it possible that such a civilization as this, with its railroads, and daily newspapers and electric telegraphs, should ever be destroyed? While

literature breathes but the belief that we have been, are, and for the future must be, leaving the savage state further and further behind us, there are indications that we are actually turning back toward barbarism."

That was a hundred years ago. And for the next eighteen years, the rest of his life, Henry George worked to spread his ideas. He did not despair, nor should we.

Election Results:

FLOYD MORROW	93
EVERETT SEELEY	89
MARION SAPIRO	74
GEORGE COLLINS	71
MORGAN HARRIS	66
TOM SHERRARD	64
EARL HANSON	55
LOUIE FREEMAN	49
ROBERT GOODIER	47
ALANNA HARTZOK	33
REGINALD MORRIS	28
DIANE MULL	28
DAVID PEELE	14
DON NEWAY	12

A Call To Consciousness - Revisited

WASHINGTON (AP) - New studies show that acid rain threatens to kill fish and stunt forest growth in the upper Midwest's northwoods.

Acid rain is formed by discharges, primarily from coal-fired power plants, of sulfur oxides and nitrogen dioxides into the atmosphere. The two compounds are transformed in the air into weak sulfuric and nitric acid, which then falls to the earth as so-called acid rain.

Acid rain is rapidly changing the critical composition of water and soil, making it harmful to native plants and aquatic life.

"The potential for severe ecological damage is serious," stated EPA chemist Gary E. Glass.

" History has thrust upon our generation an indescribably important destiny - to complete a process of democratization which our nation has too long developed too slowly . . . How to deal with this situation will determine our prestige as a leader of the free world." (Martin Luther King, *I Have A Dream*)

Membership Form

You can count on me as a LEAF member at the level checked below:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular \$15 Yearly | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend of LEAF |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining (\$5 mo.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Contribution \$_____ |
| \$60 Yearly | <input type="checkbox"/> Check Enclosed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing (\$10 mo.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Me |
| \$120 Yearly | |

Name: _____ Branch: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

THE NEW LEAF
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