

HENRY GEORGE HERALD

PUBLISHED BY THE

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

333 N. Madison Ave., Los Angeles 4, Calif.

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"LET no man imagine that he has no influence. Whoever he may be and wherever he may be placed, the man who THINKS becomes a light and a power."
—Henry George

"THE great work of the present for every man, and every organization of men, who would improve social conditions, is the work of education."
—Henry George

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A P R I L

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Spring Term
Begins
April 23

The enclosed folder lists fundamental classes starting in this area the week of April 23. As usual, many graduates and friends are helping promote them by addressing folders, placing posters, etc. The addressing is taken care of now, but more posters are available to be placed. If you can put up one or more on bulletin boards of churches, organizations, or in business establishments (including markets and drug stores), let us know. This is an inexpensive and effective method of securing interested students.

Personal recommendation is one of the best ways of securing students. Why not try to have at least one friend attend the opening session of a basic class? Offer to go with him, or drive him over the first night. We will send class announcements to any names submitted, or to you for personal distribution.

Hawks Plans
Southern
Area Get-
Together
Sun., Apr. 15

Donald Hawks, popular class leader, plans a tea and get-together of graduates and friends of the School at his home, 320 S. Sloan Ave., Compton, on Sun. afternoon, Apr. 15. Folks will drop in between 3 and 5 p.m. He would appreciate a call soon by those planning to attend. His number is NEwmark-1-4194. He will have on display his rather complete library of Henry George's works, and will discuss plans for activities in the Southern Area.

Spontaneous area get-togethers such as this are important, and can go a long way toward increasing the effectiveness of your School, as well as being lots of fun.

Report on
Fund
Campaign

An unusual amount of earnestness, concern, and generosity has gone into our 1956 "Funds for Freedom" Campaign - for our current budgetary needs. For the past few weeks approximately 40 persons have engaged in the canvass. They and some 135 others have some most welcome, and in many cases quite substantial pledges and contributions. The results are some better than previous campaigns, with a total of \$4074 subscribed to date, exclusive of any funds from the New York Headquarters.

However, this is still way short of our goal of \$7500, considered a minimum local budget to function properly and begin to take advantage of our many opportunities.

There were a number of persons not seen in the canvass or who live out of this area. They were circularized by mail. A great number have not yet responded. Substantial responses from them can put us "over the top."

We believe these friends who have not been heard from yet will count it a privilege to share in this program - in spreading economic enlightenment, and a knowledge of basic freedom and justice; such knowledge as will strike at the very root of a great deal of human suffering and injustice, rather than merely treating the symptoms.

Contributions and bequests are deductible on tax returns. For anyone wishing to remember the School in his or her will, the corporate name is the Henry George School of Social Science of Los Angeles.

1956 can be a year of real accomplishment for your School. An adequately subscribed budget is the most essential ingredient. THE LOAD WILL NOT BE TOO HEAVY WHEN EVERYBODY LIFTS!

Our sincere thanks to all campaign workers, contributors, and those who will make pledges and contributions in the future. They are an important part of a dynamic and expanding movement for the advancement of mankind; for a practical expression of the Golden Rule.

See P. 2)

On March 21 the L.A. County Board of Supervisors decided to earmark "as much as possible" of the revenue from the new Bradley Burns Sales Tax Law, effective April 1, to reduce the property tax rate.

Sales Tax
to Reduce
Property
Levy

It is to be expected that other counties, and cities, will follow suit. This is just part of what has been called the "Great American Tax Shift" - a shifting of the burden of taxation from landholders to the products of labor.

Alexander Hamilton is quoted as saying that there are really only two sources of taxes: from those who hold land and those who work. In the early days of America it was the custom to tax landholders. Now that is out of fashion. The current popular trend is to heap taxes on the backs of those who produce.

It's true, of course, that the general property tax includes levies on improvements and personal property, as well as land values. However, we have in California been collecting a considerable amount of ground rent in this way. Not nearly as much as Henry George proposed, to be sure. But unless the difference in effect of taxes on land values and products are adequately understood, we stand to lose by default what gains have been made along the lines of collecting community-produced values for public purposes. It is not necessary to look abroad for the application of George's principles. Right here is a good place. The property tax does contain a tax on land values.

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Form 3547 Requested

A Significant Editorial

An interesting editorial which appeared in the WALL STREET JOURNAL of March 28 has come to our attention, and we take the liberty of quoting part of it below:

"Sometime back we commented, as much in sorrow as in anger, on the strange apathy of the country...towards Uncle Sam's tax gatherer. Well, the other day there was an increase in (local) real estate taxes out in Cleveland. The notices had hardly been delivered before angry taxpayers descended on the courthouse in vocal protest. Over a thousand phone calls jammed the switchboard...So there is a difference.

"One thing, of course, is that the local tax man is handy; there is some one to protest to...The Federal taxing agencies are distant, amorphous and seemingly unapproachable.

"And there is another difference. For most people it takes a bit of conscious thinking to realize how much the Federal tax man is taking away. People on payrolls hardly think of their total pay as being "their" income since they are rarely allowed to see the whole of it...

"It is something else in Cleveland. To pay the taxes...a Cleveland has to dig down in his pocket and pay out real dollars...

"All this is thoroughly understood by the people in Washington whose business it is to separate the citizen from his money. What with withholding taxes and hidden taxes they take from every citizen many times the take of the tax man in Cleveland...because they do it when he isn't looking. Uncle Sam succeeds by the citizen's ignorance."

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