

Equal Rights

To The Earth's Resources

Fall 1987

Georgists' Campaign Underway for Philippine Land Reform

A new project to encourage a sound land reform in the Philippines has been launched by The Henry George School in cooperation with Common Ground USA. According to Wendell Fitzgerald, "We are asking Georgists nationwide to work for social justice by demonstrating to ourselves and others the effectiveness of the ideas of Henry George in dealing with modern problems."

Fitzgerald notes that not only is the Philippines voting for a new democratic legislature, but the USA will soon appoint a new Ambassador to the Philippines. This is an incredible time to make a difference. We will strive to reach local Filipinos and other leaders who have returned home since the revolution, and to support them in the difficult changes that need to be made to help democracy work.

The project was launched with a letter to 250 Georgists and others nationwide. The packet included information on land reform in Taiwan and background material on the Philippines. Material in this newsletter will aid you in joining this project. Fitzgerald urges all newsletter readers to examine the material and to write letters to appropriate officials.

Common Ground USA is a nationwide group of Georgists and others who have established programs to translate some of George's ideals into practice. Key people in California include Stan and Marion Sapito, Clay Berling, a Board member says, "I welcome the opportunity to apply some of our Georgist ideals to aid the non-violent revolution which has brought a chance for democracy in the Philippines."

What Can You Do?

1. Read the background material in this issue on the Philippines and Taiwan. Or write for a material packet from Henry George School, 63 Chatahooga St., San Francisco, CA 94110.
2. Write your local newspaper a 3-4 paragraph letter telling them why sound land reform is essential to peace in the Philippines.
3. Write to your congressmen, senators and government officials.
4. Mobilize your local contacts in clubs and churches.

[cont'd on page 6]

100 Year-Old Lesson in California Land Reform

"The holding of large tracts of land, uncultivated and unimproved by individuals or corporations, is against the public interest, and should be discouraged by all means not inconsistent with the rights of private property."

(California Constitution XVII.2)

The California Irrigation Districts as they were originally conceived and implemented demonstrate one of the most effective, non-violent land reforms in history. Their use of a land value tax to pay for improvements led to many disputes which were settled by the California and U.S. Supreme Court.

Gold drew most of the people to California in the late 1800's. But California was then, and still is, a land of much sunshine and no rainfall during the summer months. California's valleys were then marked as deserts in all the geographies.

Wages were high during the first years of the gold rush. Soon enough the best mineral lands were "enclosed" and wages dropped severely. Later arrivals began the more difficult task of turning water into golden fruit and crops.

As other regions where earlier civilization began, the common need for artificial irrigation of the land made cooperative or community action necessary. By 1887 California's population had grown so much that almost all the easily irrigated land bordering rivers and streams had been improved. Most of the land, however, was still in very few hands. The legendary Cattle King, Henry Miller, could drive his herd from Oregon to Mexico and camp each night on his own land.

One of the state's legislators conscious of the need of small farmers wrote a law which [cont'd on page 6]

HGFA Trustees' Annual Meeting

61st Annual Meeting of
Henry George Foundation of America
Point Loma Nazarene College

San Diego, Calif. July 26, 1987

Trustees present: Claude Arnold, Robert Clancy, George Collins, Dr. Steven Cord, Floyd Morrow, Nadine Stoner, Arthur Yeatman and Joseph Casey.

Others present: Dian Arnold, Clay Berling, John Burger, Ted Gwartney, Earl Hanson, Jacob Himmelsheim, Eugene Levin, Homer Marcum, Dick Noyes, Harry Pollard, Aldo Ridley, Marion Sapito, Ginny Yeatman.

Steve Cord has been trying to get a monument in a nearby park to commemorate the place where Progress & Poverty was written in San Francisco. The house was torn down in the 1930s for a pylon on the Bay Bridge. The 1926 plaque is now at the Henry George School San Francisco.

President's Report included interrelated activities of Henry George Foundation of America, Center for Study of Economics, and Common Ground. Copies of ads were passed around; ads are being placed in **Washington Monthly** and **New Republic**.

Discussion continued on financial statements. Reference the "Combined Budget (Proposed)". Steve Cord has been getting \$25,000 salary and \$5,000 expenses from Schalckenbach to go calling on cities.

Steve Cord read the Resolution he had drafted honoring John Kelly's work on the HGFA Board and expressing sympathy to his widow, Violet Kelly, and family.

Trustees elected were: Steve Cord, Ed Dodson, Everett Gross, Marion Hahn, Frank Nelson, Perry Premice and Dan Sullivan. Joe Casey was elected to fill unexpired term of John Kelly.

Steven Cord: "I work for a prophet-making organization (Henry George)."

Steven Cord proposed the following HGFA officers: President, Steve Cord; 1st VP, (replacing John Kelly) Walt Rybeck; 2nd VP, Gerald Schleicher; Honorary V.P., Agnes George De Miller; Treasurer, Edward Schayer; Secretary, Marian Hahn; Corresponding Secretary, Steve Cord. Motion passed.

Nadine W. Stoner
Secretary Pro Tem

Equal Rights

A quarterly published by the
Center for the Study of Economics
Editors: Frank E. Nelson
Edward J. Dodson

Billions for Bankers Debts for People

**Congress Shall Have The Power To
Coin Money and Regulate
The Value Thereof**

In 1913, Congress gave away this power vested to it in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution. With the passage of the Federal Reserve Act, a private corporation with a board of directors was established and given the exclusive right to control the creation of money.

How Money Is Created

Let's say the Federal Government, having spent more than it has taken from its citizens in taxes, needs, for the sake of illustration, \$1,000,000,000. Since it does not have the money, and has given away the authority to create it, the Government must go to the creators for the \$1 billion. But the Federal Reserve doesn't just give its money away! The Bankers are willing to deliver \$1 billion in money or credit to the Government in exchange for the Government's agreement to pay it back - with interest! So Congress authorizes the Treasury Department to print \$1 billion in U.S. Bonds which are then delivered to the Federal Reserve Bankers. The Bankers then pay the cost of printing the \$1 billion (about \$1,000) and make the exchange. The Government has now indebted the people to the Bankers for \$1 billion on which the people must pay interest! Since 1913, that debt has grown to over one trillion dollars on which the people pay \$100 billion a year in interest alone, with no hope of ever paying off the principal.

Another Part Of The Sordid Story

Those U.S. Bonds have now become the assets of the Banks which they use as "reserves" to create more credit to lend to States, Municipalities, individuals, and businesses. Added to the original \$1 billion, they could have \$16 billion of "created credit" out in loans paying them interest, with their original cost being \$1,000 for printing the original \$1 billion! Since the U.S. Congress has not issued Constitutional money since 1863, in order for the people to have money to carry on trade and commerce, they are forced to borrow the "created credit" of the monopoly Bankers

and pay usury-interest!

And There Is Still More

The Bankers are able to approve or disapprove large loans to big corporations to the extent that refusal of a loan will bring about a reduction in the price that corporation's stock sells for on the market. After depressing the price, their agents buy large blocks of stock, then the Bankers approve a large loan, the stock rises and is sold for a profit with which they buy more stock. This practice is so refined today, the Fed need only announce to the news media an increase or decrease in their "rediscount rate" to send stocks up or down as they wish. Since 1913, the Bankers have purchased secret or open control of almost every large corporation in America, siphoning off in the form of interest on loans, most of their profits.

Still Another Fact Of The Scam

The only way new money (which is not true money, but "credit" representing debt) goes into circulation is by being borrowed from Bankers. However, only the principle



Steven Cord, Pres., HGFA with Artie Yeatman, HGFA Trustee at PLC Convention Booth, Lancaster, PA, 6/87.

of the loan is created, never the extra money needed to pay the interest with. When a citizen goes to a Banker to borrow \$50,000 for a home or a farm, he must agree to pay back \$733.17 per month for 30 years at 17 1/2% interest, for example, for a total of \$263,941.20 principal and interest. He added \$50,000 into circulation when he borrowed it (new money created by the Banker) and the Banker removed \$263,941.20 from circulation as the loan, principal and interest, was repaid. The \$23,941.20 difference was never created and the money supply was reduced by that amount. The only way it can be replaced is for someone to borrow more into circulation, thereby increasing our total debt to the Bankers.

The money-lenders, who produce nothing of intrinsic value, slowly, then more rapidly, gain a death grip on the land, buildings, and present and future earnings of the whole working population. In 1910, the U.S. Federal debt was only \$1 billion, or \$12.40 per citizen. State and local debts were practically nonexistent. By 1920, after only 6 years of Federal Reserve shenanigans, the Federal debt had jumped to \$24 billion, or \$228 per person. In 1960, the Federal debt reached \$284 billion, or \$1,575 per person and State and local debts were mushrooming. By 1981, the Federal debt passed one trillion dollars and was growing exponentially as the Bankers tripled the interest rates. State and local debts are now more than the Federal, and with business and personal debts, total over \$6 trillion, three times the value of all land and buildings in America.

We Are Forced To Play The Game

Even if we personally borrowed nothing, local, State, and Federal governments borrow in our name, squander it, then confiscate our earnings from us and pay the Bankers back with interest.

The Constitutional Way

It takes only a little imagination to see that if Congress had been "creating" and spending or issuing into circulation the necessary increase in the money supply, there would be no national debt. Since there would be no original cost of money except printing, and no continuing cost of interest, Federal taxes would be almost nil. Money, once in circulation, would remain there and go on serving its purpose as a medium of exchange for generation after generation, just as coins do now, with NO payment to the Bankers whatsoever.

This is a brief synopsis of the booklet written in 1982, by Sheldon Emry: "Billions for the Bankers - Debts for the People."

Rebutals invited - Artie Yeatman, Cochranville, PA.

Straws in the Wind Gold & Silver Gitter

Gold bullion is being traded at \$450 per ounce as of this writing, about 9 percent higher than a month ago. Elsewhere in the precious metals markets the price advances have been much more steep. The higher grade, investment quality gold mining company shares, for example, have virtually exploded upward. And even silver, disparaged by some as having become only a pseudo-precious metal, has suddenly climbed to over \$8 per ounce. The short-run price prospects on all these types of investments are now no less unpredictable [cont'd on page 6]

Fairhope, Alabama

The University of Georgia Press (Athens, Ga.) has recently published **WOMEN OF FAIRHOPE**, by history professor Paul M. Gaston, a grandson of Ernest Gaston, founder of Fairhope. Cost: \$9.50 paperback. I can recommend this book highly.

Gaston deals in a lively literary style with three women of Fairhope: Nancy Lewis, an ex-slave who owned much of the land that The Fairhope Single Tax Corporation had to buy; Marie Howland, who came to Fairhope out of the Fourierist-Anarchist-Cooperative-Utopian movement; and Marietta Johnson, who established the Organic School of progressive education at Fairhope.

The philosophy of the early settlers in Fairhope was "Cooperative Individualism." The latter two women fit in very nicely with that. Both were ardent single taxers and the other reforms they favored supplemented nicely their single tax enthusiasm. Buy a copy. The time you spend reading it will be well worth \$9.50 (contact either us or the University of Georgia Press).

from:

"Retirement Living in the Sunbelt"

Fairhope (pop. 6,000), with its magnificent waterfront, stately municipal pier, breathtaking views, and notable artists' colony, is the crown jewel of the Eastern Shore.

The town was established by settlers from Des Moines, Iowa, who were followers of Henry George, advocate of the "single tax."

Building costs are well below the national average and, both here in neighboring Daphne, attractive tree-shaded lots are available at medium prices. With patience, you can find almost any kind of property, including condominiums and town houses, in almost any reasonable price range, and moderately priced hotels make it possible to take your time in looking around.

from:

"Where to Retire on a Small Income"

Fairhope, Pop 7,000. "After touring the country for 25 years and traveling in all of the 50 states, we chose Fairhope for retirement for the same reasons as the more than 350 other retired couples here."

Fairhope is an amazing package; in fact, it's one of the most outstanding attractive small retirement towns in the nation.

A unique feature of the town is the Single Tax Corp. Colony which owns 25% of the land and leases it on a 99-year renewable basis. Recently rated as one of the ten safest towns in the U.S., Fairhope is almost devoid of industry and commerce, has no railroad and lies well clear of the nearest Interstate Highway.



Meeting April, gift of FSTC to HGFA.



ELDERHOSTEL

80 Boylston Street, Suite 400
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

University of South Alabama/
Baldwin County Campus/Gulf
State Park Resort

Dec. 6-12, 1987 - Jan. 10-16, 1988

Historical Highlights of the Area

Study the unique political, economic and human forces which shaped this area of Alabama. Highlights include the Battle of Mobile, Fairhope's Single Tax Colony, and European and Mediterranean cultural influences.

News-Journal, Wilm., Del.

*Arden, near Wilmington: Regarded as the only village in the nation that operates as a real Henry George Single Tax enclave. It is also an example of the best kind of village planning with acres of open greens and woodlands, protected from invasion by builders but dedicated for perpetuity for use by the residents and their guests.

Flash: Gov. Castle of Delaware & Mayor Goode of Philadelphia proclaim Labor Day as "Henry George Day."

Tolstoy to George

Transcript of letter received by Henry George from Leo Tolstoy - on exhibit at New York Public Library.

Dear Sir,

The reception of your letter gave me a great joy for it is a long time that I know you and love you. Though the paths we go by are different, I do not think that we differ in the foundation of our thoughts.

I was very glad to see you mention twice in your letter the life to come.

There is nothing that widens so much the horizon, that gives such a firm support nor such a clear view of things as the consciousness that although it is but in this life we have the possibility and the duty to act, nevertheless this is not the whole of life but that bit of it only which is often to our understanding. I shall wait with great patience the appearance of your new book which will contain the so much needed criticism of the orthodox political economy. The reading of every one of your books makes clear to me things which were not so before and confirm me more and more in the truth and practicability of your system. Still more do I rejoice at the thought that I may possibly see you. My summers I invariably spend in the country near Falla.

With Sincere Affection

I am truly your friend

Leo Tolstoy

8 April, 1896

On Prayer & Doing

A contemporary theologian has written these words:

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end war;

For we know that You have made the world in a way

That man must find his own path to peace within himself and with his neighbor.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end starvation;

For you have already given us the resources with which to feed the entire world

If we would only use them wisely.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end despair,

For You have already given us the power to clear away slums and to give hope if we would only use our power justly.

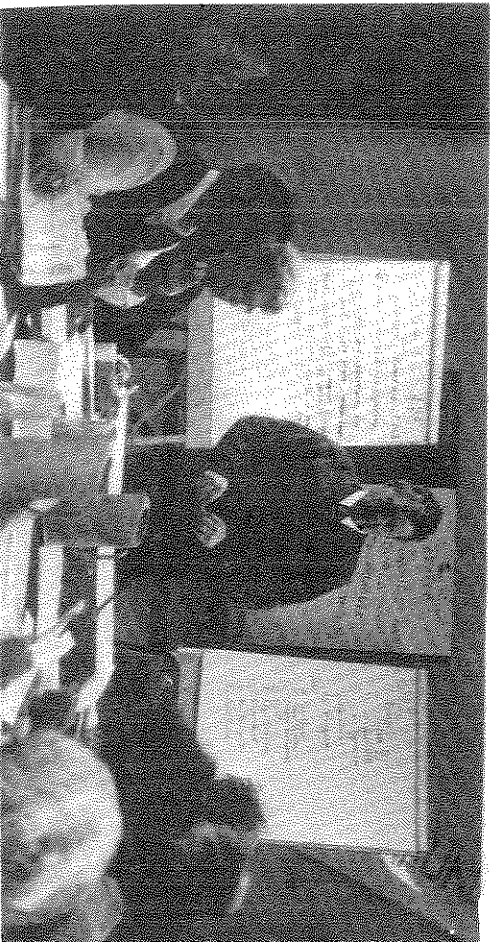
Therefore we pray to You instead, O God, For strength, determination, and will-power,

To do instead of just to pray, To become instead of merely to wish.

Jack Riemer,
Lilkrat Shabbat

COMMON GROUND

"Lower Taxes to the Ground!"



Seen at COMMON GROUND Meeting in
Atlanta 4/87:

Nadine Stoner
Floyd Morrow
Mary Davis
Dick Noyes
and others.

Julie Queen
[office ass't.]
Bob Allen
Arch Gerard
Colin Bonner
Marion Sapiro
Stanley Sapiro



John Lawrence Monroe

JLM's father was an active supporter of Henry George. During the early years of the Henry George Foundation, John was paid to lecture across the country on Georgism. Eventually, John settled in Chicago and established the Institute for Economy Inquiry and he was very successful during the 1940's and 1950's in running Georgist-economics programs for the employees of large corporations. But he wasn't the best of money managers and that venture petered out (but we are happy to report that the Chicago HGS has been revived with a grant of \$300,000 from the will of Samuel Leonard, and Sam Venturella & Co. are holding forth once more for Henry George in the Second City).

Now back to John. In Sept. 1979, the Henry George Foundation gave him the Henry George Award at the Annual

Conference. Then, alas, came December 9, 1979. On that day, his wife of long standing, Marion Tideman Monroe, died in Chicago, and John was brutally attacked by robbers in his San Francisco hotel room and although still living, he has been paralyzed and brain-damaged, now not recognizing anyone, lying in a ward in Laguna Honda Hospital, visited often by his loyal second wife Martha and recently by Lewis Fletcher Scott of Indianapolis, an old friend.

Mr. Scott, a loyal HGFA member, writes that John "is a victim of the vanguard of the Huns predicted by Henry George."

It is a sad ending to a glorious and active life!

In many areas the predicament is the same: Officials can't build prisons fast enough to accommodate the rising inmate population.

The Huns' Advance

The Justice Department reports some of the most shocking figures. Eighty-three percent of 12-year-old children in this country will be victims or intended victims of violent crimes at least once in their lifetime. One out of every 133 Americans will become a murder victim and one out of every 12 women will be the victim of a rape or attempted rape.

The National Crime Prevention Council states that violent crime is 100 times more likely to strike than pneumonia death or death in an auto accident, eight times more likely than death from heart disease, and 16 times more likely than death from cancer.

As if these figures were not enough to alarm you, there is the continuing specter of international terrorism, with 20 percent of all terrorists incidents in 1985 involving US citizens or property.

Readers' Forum

Taiwan & Washington

Two small corrections for the Summer issue. Taiwan is credited with "one of the highest economic growth rates." It has THE highest growth rate, by a good margin.

Secondly, George Washington may have bought some land before the Revolution, but his big expansion was after it, when he bought up the lots assigned to veteran soldiers, who were unwilling or unable to settle on them. Washington gave a better rate than anyone else, but even so drove very profitable bargains. Incidentally, they knew that if they sold to him, they were sure of being paid, for Washington, if somewhat grasping, was strictly dependable; after fighting under him they knew that.

Tertius Chandler

Do Switch!

In Equal Rights, Winter 1986-87, the question is asked: "Try 'Benefits Fee' rather than LTV?" It argues that "taxes discourage both production and consumption" and that a land-tax "is not a tax at all."

If you rent a house, you pay already landrent inclusive. If you buy a house, you buy the land inclusive - and you are missing the interest of the purchasing sum for the land, that is the landrent. If you buy land on mortgage, part of the amount due is landrent. A pay for value received! Value, due to nature and due to investments of the authority with peoples taxmoney in infrastructure, and also due to the activities and services of the population at large, apart from being payed for by individual wages and the like. All this, shows up as value of land. All this you pay for by buying land, a pay equivalent to services rendered by people, government and nature.

As you know, by Ricardo's Law of Rent we see that this national income can do away with the second burden apart from paying for value received (by paying for land), i.e. abolish taxation. Our message is to lift-off this burden, this unnecessary burden. For that we need a switch to insure that what we use to pay for land, representing pay for service, will not disappear any longer (to 'owners' of the Lord's gifts of nature), but be rescued for our common benefit. We need to switch that flow of "benefit fees." How to do it? Cannot you really imagine another way to do it than by.... "taxation?"

J.J. Pot
Netherlands

Write Regularly

Your Winter 86/87 issue encouraged Georgists to develop a discipline of writing, weekly or monthly, a letter seeking to further the cause....

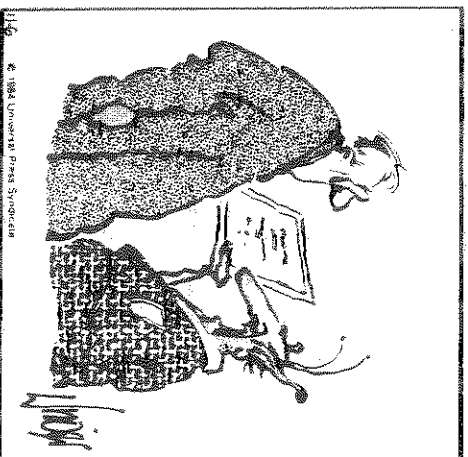
I would probably list just a few problems in the body of the letter and put the others in an enclosure. This, because I keep thinking of new problems to add e.g. apartheid-soup kitchens - Medicare and Medicaid - terrorism - etc.

For non-Georgists, the horrendous common mistake that both the West and Communist countries make...is the failure to distinguish between naturally private property (or income) and naturally public property (or income).

I always enjoy reading *Equal Rights*. You do a fine job.

Harold C. Voorhees

215 W. Lake Faith Drive
Maitland, Florida 32751



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"Sorry, pal, I just bought the planet. I want you and all your buddies off by next Friday."

Nix Hotel Tax

Taxes like the one proposed for hotels and motels would be unnecessary, and all other regressive taxes - on buildings, income and sales could be reduced or eliminated. The application of this two-rate tax system has important benefits for us all. And, as an article in *Fortune* magazine concludes, "The benefits are not only lasting, but flow to the whole community."

from:
The Baxter Bulletin, July 23, 1987
Benjamin Russell, Mountain Home

READERS-PLEASE WRITE!

We will try to print as many letters as possible within the limits of the space available. At the very least we will summarize all letters received, if addressed to-

2000 Century Plaza (238), Columbia, MD 21044.

Letter to Congressman

For transportation in Fairfax County, I suggest that a land value tax be instituted using county assessed values on land as a base, with the revenues going to provide mass transit and roads. I am talking about the property tax on land, not on buildings. This is an ideal way to fund the Springfield Metro Station. Metro will raise land values tremendously (both improved and vacant) and the tax on land values will pay for Metro. Most of the land value increase will go to commercial property and so will the burden. The tax will always be only a small portion of the land value created by the Metro station.

I did a study in St. Louis, Missouri which showed that 70% of home owners would be taxed less if the property tax was on land only, with the same total revenue.

Joseph M. Casey

Burke, VA

Georgist Registry

The latest annual report of the Georgist Registry has just been issued by Betsy Dana. It reviews the accomplishments of all the Georgist organizations in the past year and costs a mere \$3.

If you wish to be put on the GR permanent mailing list (\$15 for life), then please contact her directly. Mrs. Dana's address is: 4030 S.W. 58th Ave., Portland, Oregon 97221.

"CRUSADER" UPDATE

Listed below are additions to our roster of names of Georgists taking positive action, on a regular basis, to help further the advance of LVT: Cathy Orloff, Harold Voorhees, Robert Willis, Robert Allen, and Max Flechner.

Our Crusader list now totals 67. We welcome new enlistees and names of nominees for our roster.

Bequests Help Spread the Word

REQUESTS SOUGHT

If the work of the Center for the Study of Economics is to expand, then Georgists all over the country should give serious consideration to leaving a bequest in their wills to this organization.

Your attorney can advise and assist you on how to include C.S.E. in your will.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

C.S.E. also welcomes memorial gifts and remembrances for special occasions.

Winter 84-85

Pinson Files Suit

I do so enjoy **Equal Rights** - and especially the pictures you are beginning to run. I haven't met many Georgists so its nice to see them through you.

I filed suit against Clark Co. Nevada Assessor, Jean Dutton in August 1986 pure and simply stating and with copius facts from his own department to prove that he has illegally **UNDERAPPRAISED** vacant land-almost all vacant land at from 2 to 20 times less than **FULL CASH VALUE** which is the law. NRS 361.227.

If my facts are stright-and they are-and I can prove this in a court of law he would be removed from office for **NON FEASANCE IN OFFICE** as is the law.

The battle goes on...I have appealed to the Nevada Supreme Court and I must win before I even have the right to bring this suit again...Several Georgists, Stan Sapino, Richard Noyes and Steve Cord have contributed \$700.00 toward the appeal. Thanks fellows. If on an individual basis you can help in this righteous cause, our cause, I am most appreciative.

This inept judge delivered the "Coup DE GRAS" (French for Stab in the Back) by assessing me \$7,000.00 to pay assessor Dutton's attorney fees and court costs, **THIS..WITHOUT EVEN A HEARING... NO DAY IN COURT...WHERE WAS DUE PROCESS?** Fellow Georgists Earl Hanson, Exec. Sec. of I.S.T.A. was there, Thank God, or maybe no one would believe this nightmare.

When the Supreme Court reverses this judges opinion I will again be allowed to pursue these charges. I will...I will win...So will LYT and GEORGISM...

Don Pinson, Director
Incentive Tax League Nevada
3593 E. Hawthide Street
Las Vegas, NV 89130

Gold [cont'd from page 2]

than ever, but the mid 1980's doldrums now seem to be behind us.

General price inflation as yet remains relatively subdued, despite the signs of renewed upward price pressure since the beginning of the year, but time is rapidly running out. Federal Reserve officials have had the monetary floodgates wide open for some time, virtually guaranteeing a receleration of general price inflation sooner or later, and the dollar's slide in the foreign currency exchange markets has only aggravated the inflationary prospects for the coming period.

Excerpted from the Investment Guide
American Investment Services, Inc.

Great Barrington, MA 01230

Reform [cont'd from page 1]

5. Send a contribution to help us continue to print and mail materials.

6. Keep in touch. Let us know what you are doing.

The Taiwan Model

Since the 1950s, the Lincoln Institute has supported the Taiwan Land Reform Training Institute to train delegates from Asian nations in the implementation of land reform. The Taiwan land reform comes from the philosophy of Sun Yat Sen, influenced greatly by his reading of Henry George. While the philosophical underpinning of the Taiwan model is Sun Yat Sen and Henry George, the implementation is pragmatic and eclectic.

Sun Yat Sen recognized the peasant's hunger for land, and the Taiwanese government under Governor Cheng, undertook the following steps:

I. Rural Land Reform

All rent reduced to 37.5% of the crop (formerly tenants paid 66%.)

II. Sale of Public Lands

Sale of public lands offered at 2.5 times the value of the annual **main** crop yield (such as rice). The purchase price was to be paid in 20 semi-annual installments in 10 years.

III. "Land to the Tiller"

1. Landlords holdings limited. Holdings exceeding the limits were purchased and resold to the tenants tilling them.

2. Farmland consolidation. The cultivated lands of each farmer family, originally scattered over several different sites, were concentrated in one single rectangular shape site.

IV. Land Taxes

Taxes on land values were used in this entire period.

As you can see, the Taiwan model uses various aspects of the redistribution, limitation and land tax models. The results for Taiwan have been extraordinary in terms of production, equitable distribution of wealth, stability and progress. Taiwan is now one of the trading "tigers" of Asia.

Equal Rights

Center for the Study of Economics
2000 Century Plaza [238], Columbia, MD 21044

Calif. [cont'd from page 1]

would enable small landowners to use the land more productively than just for cattle herding. C.C. Wright allowed in his law the formation of districts to construct dams and canals cooperatively. The cost of these dams and canals were paid for by a tax on land values within areas established by local supervisors. All "trees, vines, alfalfa, growing crops and all the buildings, structures of whatever class or description" were exempted since it was felt to tax them would tax the industries.

During the next ten years over one hundred Irrigation Districts were organized, containing over four million acres of the most desirable and most intensively cultivated land in California. The land interests appealed to the courts time and time again, objecting as in 1890 that the Irrigation Districts were "Communism and confiscation under the guise of law." But in 1896 the Supreme Court ruled that this law infringed no right protected by the Constitution. (See Bradley vs. Kalbrook Irrigation Districts (1895) Vol. 164, pg. 112).

The annual assessments to pay for the irrigation works, etc., soon made it disadvantageous for absentee landlords to keep their land idle and wasteful.

There is perhaps no other state law which has been attacked as often as this one. But the results are clear. The average holding in the Modesto and Turlock Irrigation Districts, which contain 250,000 acres is about 30 acres. The transformation from big to small holdings was accomplished without regimentation or arbitrary action by a public official. The California Wright Act, by legitimate means, had achieved a revolutionary transfer of land from the few to the many. We salute it in its 100th year.

HGA member Tertius Chandler of 2500 Buena Vista, Berkeley, CA 94708 has published a book entitled, "The Tax We Need" selling for \$5. It contains hard evidence plus Georgist history and could be used to good effect by Georgist crusaders everywhere.

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 148
Columbia, MD

Address Correction Requested

YES, send me a copy of
EQUAL RIGHTS
I am interested in
learning more about
Georgism.