

Equal Rights

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Editor Reviews Own Book, Finds it Meritorious

Steven Cord has just published **Society at the Crossroads** (subtitled "Choosing the Right Road"). He seems to approve of it. These are the main points he makes:

❑ Moral decline is responsible for the high crime rate, extensive hard-drug use, violence in entertainment, widespread poverty, family & school dissolution, and other social dysfunctions we suffer from. This book presents literally hundreds of specific facts to support this claim.

❑ But why this moral decline? It is primarily because most Americans are assuming no ethical standard can be proven true. This moral attitude is called ethical relativism (but by its own admission it cannot be proven true because it is itself an ethical standard!).

❑ Throughout the last thousand years of western history, ethical relativism has been on the rise.

❑ The *only* ethical standard that can be proven true is equal rights, because it logically follows from the *only* provable "should" statement that can be made. The proof of equal rights is simple but important. Equal rights are rare in history (and in the world today);

they can never be taken for granted.

❑ Historically, philosophers have tried to prove equal rights *directly*, but they have all failed because this cannot be done.

❑ When we object to murder, sex & race discrimination, and robbery, are we not according to other people their equal rights to life, liberty, and property? But wouldn't a proof be more powerful than mere opinion?

❑ If a society preaches ethical relativism, shouldn't it expect all sorts of social problems? Isn't it

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We encourage and welcome your notes of support, correction, elucidation, elaboration, befuddlement, bewilderment or beautification.

Please send us your thoughts and ideas about what you have or have not read in our pages.

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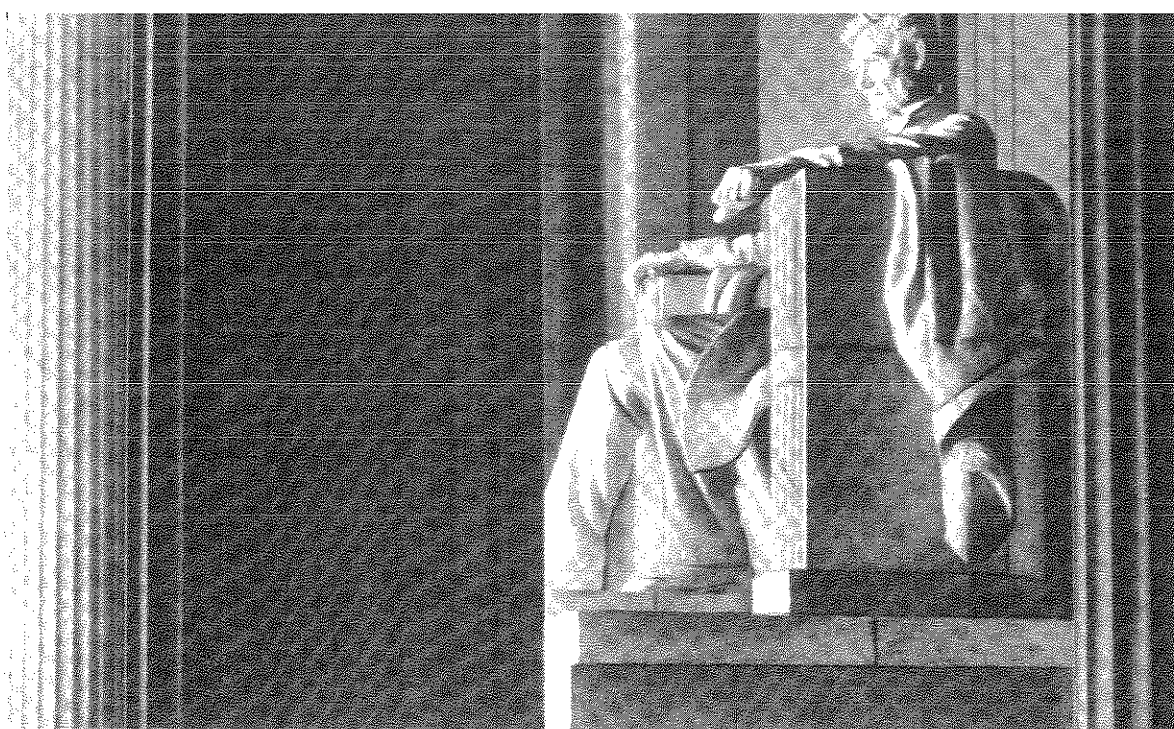
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2-Rate Victory in Virginia !

We are happy to report the city of Fairfax, Virginia can now tax buildings at a lower rate than the land on which they are located, as the result of overwhelming passage of a bill in the Virginia state legislature and signed by the governor. Rest assured that HGFA played a prominent part in this two-rate victory.

The request originated from a recommendation by a City Council-appointed task force created to study tax policy. Delegate Chapman Petersen (D), a former Fairfax councilman, sponsored the legislation.

Councilman Anthony Coughlan, who took a leading role in advocating the two-rate tax, said, "I am very pleased that the City will have the option to implement split-rate taxation. We are the first jurisdiction in the Commonwealth to have this enabling legislation." The City Council will discuss this new option at an upcoming Work Session.



PROPERTY IS THE FRUIT OF LABOR. PROPERTY IS DESIRABLE: IT IS A POSITIVE GOOD IN THE WORLD. THAT SOME SHOULD BE RICH, SHOWS THAT OTHERS MAY BECOME RICH, AND HENCE IS JUST ENCOURAGEMENT TO INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE. LET NOT HIM WHO IS HOUSELESS PULL DOWN THE HOUSE OF AN OTHER, BUT LET HIM WORK DILIGENTLY AND BUILD ONE FOR HIMSELF, THUS BY EXAMPLE ASSURING THAT HIS OWN SHALL BE SAFE FROM VIOLENCE WHEN BUILT.

....ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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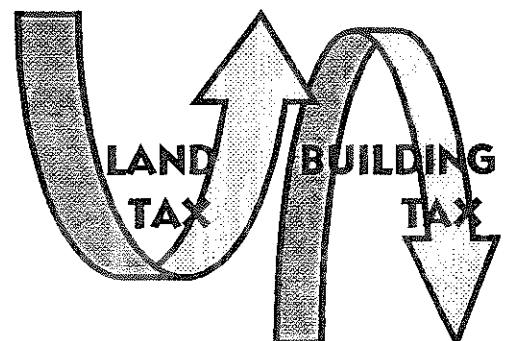
telling its citizens that there are no provable limits to their desires? If the proof offered in **Society at the Crossroads** is valid, then the book is historically important. It certainly explains why our society is coming apart.

The book completely avoids philosophical jargon. It is easy to read – yet important.

Note: it devotes more than a chapter on how land value taxation can promote job opportunities for the poor and continued prosperity for all of us.

Readers of this publication are invited to purchase the book by sending payment made to **Steven B Cord** at 1422 Chestnut St. (#413), Philadelphia, Pa. 19102. Equal Rights readers can enjoy a 20% discount off the \$22.95 price and free shipping & handling costs. Pay **only \$18.36!** (Please do not make check to HGFA or CSE. Thanks.)

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Production Mgr: Joanne Beach



From the Editor

☞ Ethical relativism asserts that no ethical statement can be proven valid, but it can never be proven valid because it is itself an ethical standard.

☞ HGFA is the only existing Georgist organization to get some LVT levied. Assessment reform is certainly possible by employed assessors, but it has not yet provided us with objective studies showing that LVT works.

☞ Stock donations offer two tax breaks: (1) by giving appreciated stock to CSE, you can escape tax on the capital gains, and (2) you can get a tax deduction for the full market value of the stock donation. Ask your lawyer, or we will provide one free.

☞ It is incumbent upon those who believe that land speculation lowers wages and interest more than technological progress raises them, and that poverty is an inevitable concomitant of progress, to provide hard facts to support their case.

☞ The first issue of this publication began in 1969, 32 years

ago. It is the house organ of the Henry George Foundation of America.

☞ "It's hard to imagine that we will get back in benefits as much as we yield in taxes." (Mike Curtis)

☞ If we do not know how to implement LVT in the near future, the Single Tax is unlikely to be implemented ever. But fortunately, this does not apply to your organization.

☞ "I propose to beg no question, to shrink from no conclusion, but to follow truth wherever it may lead. If the conclusions that we reach run counter to our prejudices, let us not flinch; if they challenge institutions that have long been deemed wise and natural, let us not turn back." - Henry George.

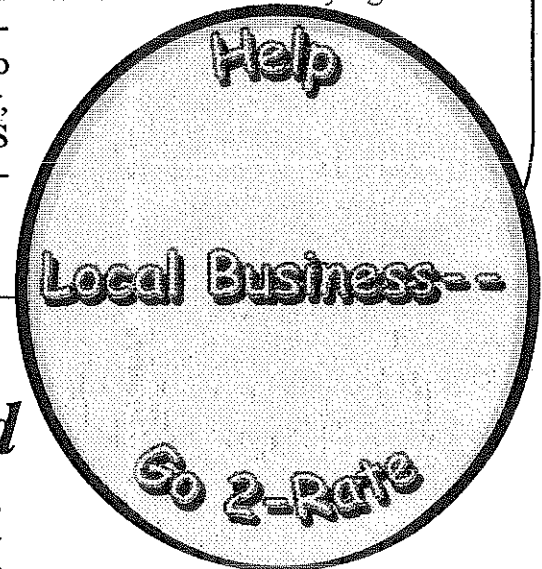
☞ When Georgist Wild-Bill McNair was surprisingly elected mayor of Pittsburgh in 1932, he required all city-hall employees to attend Henry George classes. Later, architect Bob Bowers ran an HGS extension in Pittsburgh for a number of years.

☞ If you die without a will, the state generally takes the first \$15,000, then gives half of what is left of your estate to your spouse, the rest going to your offspring. No spouse or offspring? A distant and already wealthy non-Georgist cousin could inherit.

☞ "Important principles may and must be inflexible" (Abraham Lincoln, last Public Address, sent to us by IT reader Elmer Greenlee).

☞ When we tax wealth production, we create poverty. We penalize the successful to subsidize the unsuccessful. Tax land, not production.

☞ Abraham Lincoln, referring to North and South (9/30/1862): "Both may be, and one must be, wrong. God cannot be for and against the same thing at the same time." OK - God chose rationality because it is inherently right.



Single Tax Good, Marginal-Land Analysis Bad

Henry George was 100% eloquent and incisive concerning the Single Tax, but wrong, I think, on the marginal-land analysis.

1. Technological progress has clearly increased tremendously since 1879. It has increased wages and interest far more than land speculation has decreased them.

2. Believers in the marginal-land theory must assert that wages and interest have been at or near

the subsistence level since 1879, but this clearly cannot be empirically sustained and brings not only the marginal-land analysis but also the Single Tax theory, which they assert is based on it, into disrepute.

3. Fortunately, the Single Tax can be justified on its own merits quite apart from the false marginal-land analysis.

What do you think?

~~~~~  
Many things about tomorrow,  
I don't seem to understand,  
But I know who holds tomorrow,  
And I know who holds my hand

by Helen Maxine Suthers Shaw



# How to Give to C.S.E. and Get a Guaranteed Income

Did you know that the I.R.S. allows you to donate to our sister organization, the Center for the Study of Economics (C.S.E.), to be spent on key Georgist projects -- and yet receive a guaranteed income? Your heirs can receive the same guaranteed income, if you wish.

Sounds almost too good to be true, but we did not write the income tax rules (the I.R.S. did).

In fact, it gets even better:

- ☞ You can get a sizeable charitable deduction.

- ☞ You need not incur a capital gains tax.

- ☞ You need not manage the

donation (unless you want to) - professional managers will do it for you for nothing.

- ☞ Your estate would bypass probate and pay smaller legal and other fees.

How can you do all these wonderful things? You have to set up a Charitable Remainder Trust. The paperwork on this can be daunting, so you'll need to retain an experienced and competent Certified Financial Planner, a professional you can trust to carry out your wish.

Many Georgists have left bequests to the Henry George Foundation of America, for which we are very thankful, and bequests can

do more good than no bequests at all, but a Charitable Remainder Trust is more advantageous. However, **professional assistance is a must.** Contact us to help if you want more income now.

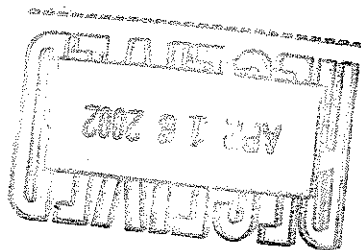
If you have won at the land speculation game, do not feel guilty; contact us. Take advantage of what the I.R.S. allows you to do. Other Georgists have done so; why not you? How can you lose?

If you want to help finance an organization, that is bringing you real-world victory after real-world victory, and at the same time increase your income now, contact us:

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