

Equal Rights

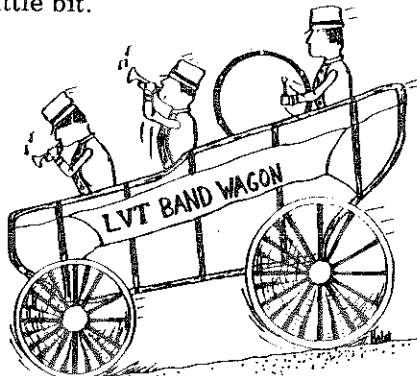
To The Earth's Resources

Winter 1982-83

Victory In Pittsburgh!

The members of the Center and the Foundation were out swinging on the political hustling this fall. We swang and we swang and finally swang a Victory - Pittsburgh increased its tax rate on land to 15.15% of assessed value while decreasing the tax rate on buildings to 2.7%.

It is nice to get new cities to adopt the two-rate property tax, but it is of perhaps even greater importance to get existing two-rate cities to move further and further in the direction we would like to see them go. Only then will we get a suitable demonstration of what the land tax can do. After all, we can't expect too much if the land tax rates exceed the building tax rate by only a little bit.



I think it is safe to say that the councilmen in Pittsburgh are on our side. They have been exposed to our blandishments by mail, phone, personal visits and through Incentive Taxation. The only opposition came from the downtown merchants and property owners and unfortunately we are liable to see more of them in the future.

It certainly is true that a building-to-land tax shift increases the taxes of downtown property owners, some of whom are retail merchants. Of course, we are not taxing retailing, only land owning, but it will be difficult to convince downtown merchants that the land tax will not be passed on to them, and if they own land, they should pay tax for it. But we will keep trying.

For further details, see the latest issue of Incentive Taxation. Members

(cont'd on page 6)

Georgists Should Use Talk Shows

by Bill Newcomb

The father of John Lawrence Monroe, former Director of the Chicago Henry George School, came to the house of my uncle circa 1925 to see if the latter could bring a few people together so that Monroe, Sr. could give a lecture on the Single Tax. I was living with my dentist uncle while attending the University of Rochester, and that is how and why I was introduced to Progress and Poverty.

Today, Mr. Monroe would have the choice of 4000 daily TV and radio talk shows. Locally he could be reaching hundreds of thousands to millions of people.

No hall to hire; no furnace to fire up; no electricity to turn on; and more recently, no public address system to set up. It's all free. On nationwide network or syndicated TV, the airplane ride, the hotel room, the meals, and transportation from airport to hotel and then to the TV station are all free.

How to get this "free ride" on TV? (or radio, hereafter referred interchangeably with TV)

We Georgists complain about our inability to get the print and TV press to give us access. Hundreds of Georgists write very, very short letters to the local newspaper, but what can you say in those short letters that is meaningful and how often edited so as to be meaningless! And what good are those short letters when most newspapers won't publish an address so that the reader can send enquiries for pamphlets or books. On TV you can usually name your project and the address.

I tried while president of Media Foundation for Land Economics to get an entry for a prominent Georgist on the DONAHUE program. I have just read "The Talk Show Book" written by Richard Mincer, Executive Producer

(cont'd on page 3)

Philip Finkelstein A Leader Passes

(the following is from the New York Times 11-23-82)

Philip Finkelstein, former deputy city administrator in the Lindsay administration and the director of the Henry George School of Social Science, died of a heart attack Saturday at his home in Valley Stream, L.I. He was 67 years old.

A specialist in urban affairs and an authority on property taxes, Mr. Finkelstein founded the Center for Local Tax Research in New York City in 1971 and was its director at the time of his death. He had also been a professor at Adelphi University since 1974.

Mr. Finkelstein joined Mayor John Lindsay's administration in January 1966 as executive assistant to Timothy W. Costello, the Deputy Mayor and City Administrator.

He was named deputy city administrator in January 1968 and served until the summer of 1973. Mr. Finkelstein said later that he had been "harassed into resigning when he refused to drop a four-year study that called for reform in the city's property-tax assessment system."

The 189-page study was published in 1975 as a book titled "Real Property Taxation in New York City." It recommended changes in land-assessment techniques that would have reflected the value of land rather than of the buildings occupying it.

Mr. Finkelstein taught political science at Brooklyn College until 1975. He also taught urban affairs at Adelphi in 1974 and 1975, and in 1976 joined the university's graduate school of social work.

Mr. Finkelstein was born in Brooklyn and graduated from Yeshiva University in 1951. He then went to Israel to study at Hebrew University.

After working for The Jerusalem Post and then serving as an United States Army public information specialist in Europe, Mr. Finkelstein returned to the United States to work for The Jersey Journal and The New York Journal-American.

He received a degree from the New York University Law School in 1961 and after practicing law for a year, he became director of public information and research for the Liberal Party, a post he held until his appointment to

(cont'd on page 6)

Equal Rights

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

OPEN LETTER TO ALL GEORGISTS:

As many of you know, Philadelphia has become a strong, active center of political activity on behalf of land value taxation. There is a growing interest among municipalities in the revenue-producing aspects of land value taxation. New Castle, McKeesport and Harrisburg evidence the success of Steve Cord, Dan Sullivan and other Incentive Tax League members. Philadelphia, the nation's fourth largest city and historic cultural center, is also in the middle of a heated battle over property tax reform, and LVT can play a major role in the City's future.

The Incentive Tax League has secured active support from several members of City Council, and most importantly from Council member James J. Tayoun, who introduced in Philadelphia's City Council a bill designed to permit differential application of rates on improvement versus land values in according with ITL recommendations.

It came as no surprise that the strength of opposing, landed interests was mobilized soon after testimony occurred on the bill before City Council's Finance Committee. Councilmember Tayoun was "advised" by key, powerful political figures to withdraw his support for the bill, and the Chamber of Commerce (similarly pressured, we believe) came out against the bill, arguing that land "extensive" businesses would be injured. As you can see, we are faced with a tremendous challenge.

Although firmly committed to LVT, Councilmember Tayoun has stressed to us that passage of this bill will require considerable planning, media exposure, additional tax studies on particular parcels and an aggressive public awareness campaign. Needless to say, responding to these proposed measures involves a substantial commitment of time, energy and resources by us all.

Your colleagues here in Philadelphia desperately need your support. Help us bring LVT to Philadelphia and thereby bring Georgist ideas onto the mainstream of urban economic policy. Please send your contribution to the Incentive Tax League at 616 S. 10th

Street, Phila., PA 19147. Let us know you are with us in this strategic battle for LVT.

Richard Biddle
Edward Dodson

Legislator of the Year Award

State Representatives Thomas Brownell (D-Quincy) and Joseph Hermann (D-N. Andover) have been named co-winners of the first annual Incentive Tax League of Massachusetts "Legislator of the Year" award. Ernest Kahn of Sharon, President of the League, said, "We were unable to decide between the two men. They both had exemplary records in pushing for meaningful reforms of the Massachusetts tax code. So, we voted to name them 'co-winners.'"

The Incentive Tax League

Massachusetts Chapter

presents the

1982

Legislator of the Year Award

to
State Representative

Thomas F. Brownell

in recognition and appreciation of
outstanding efforts to promote tax
policies that encourage productivity
and economic development in the
commonwealth.

When delivering the award, Kahn noted Hermann's sponsorship of a bill that would allow cities and towns to lower that portion of the property tax that is levied on houses and other improvements and make up the difference in revenues by raising the tax on land values, calling the bill, "just the sort of tax legislation that could dramatically improve employment levels wherever it is implemented."

Other Incentive Tax Leagues around the country would do well to follow this grand example and publicly present their own Legislator of the Year Awards!

We now hear daily that our infrastructure is virtually falling down around us and is in urgent need of repair -- bridges, roads, dams, water and sewer systems, etc. Two out of 5 bridges are in need of repair or replacement, at a cost of \$41 billion alone.

Who benefits most from these public improvements? Who should pay for their upkeep?

Brookings "Brain" Hurts Our Feelings

The lead article in the Wall Street Journal of December 15 deals with Reagan's drive to cut regulatory tape. The main theme of the article is that this effort has met with limited success.

Down a bit in the article appears the paragraph:

"Regulatory analysts outside the administration aren't so impressed. They don't think the record is that good," asserts Robert Crandall, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. "The regulatory-reform movement is somehow losing momentum. It's ending up as a kind of Henry George Society - meeting once a year to dream about what might have been. The impetus is being lost."

Hoo-ha! Crandall has not been paying attention lately to the efforts of the Henry George Society - H.G.F.A. We have been extracting Real-World Victories in the face of such attitudes and he displays.

Crandall has not yet heard of the growing number of Pennsylvania cities that have adopted a two-rate property tax - a higher rate on land coupled with a lower rate on buildings. No longer can we be called dreamers only. We are doing battle in the real-world. Maybe it is Robert Crandall, not up to the latest Henry George development who is doing the dreaming. If we can keep our momentum going, Crandall and others like him will be forced to change their tune. (Thanks go to Jesse Zeeman, for sending us the clipping.)

LVT Resolution for Unitarian-Universalists

CSE sponsors Tillman Schafer (Mass.), Bill Newcomb (Fla.) and Mrs. Harry Gunnison Brown (Mo.) are circulating an LVT Resolution for adoption at the next Unitarian-Universalist National Conference. They would like all U-U Georgists to get their local churches and districts to endorse this Resolution. For more information, please write Mitch Chanellis, Director, Henry George School, 80 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass. 02116 (617) 451-0458.

WALL STREET JOURNAL 1-28-83

For the past 20 years, the Isle of Man has operated with a flat-rate income tax . . .

There are no death or estate duties; no capital transfer or gift taxes; no wealth tax nor any other capital levies; no capital gains taxes, with the exception of a narrowly proscribed land speculation tax.

Talk Shows (cont'd from page 1)

of the DONAHUE show, and now know why I did not succeed:

1. My covering letter was too long.
2. I did not confine my recommendations to one personality.
3. I did not write out the credentials of that personality, and send his photo.
4. I did not write a short script of what the personality would be talking about.
5. I did not have a newly published book by the personality to further add to his credentials, particularly, a book with a catchy sexy title.
6. I did not have a stack of newspaper clips of that personality's appearance on local shows.

A decade ago I proposed to the local ABC station (in Orlando, Fla., 70 miles away) that it show ONE WAY TO BETTER CITIES. The station personnel viewed the film, and told me they were putting the Orange County Tax Assessor opposite me in a debate after the film. So I garnered an entire hour for LVT. After the debate, the tax assessor whispered to me: "We must change our property tax to a land value tax only. Congratulations!" Was it my persuasive powers? I'll never know.

A few months later I was listening to a program on the Orlando NBC outlet that involved housing problems. It had the usual economic garbage. I challenged the station to show ONE WAY TO BETTER CITIES -- that the film would give the proper answer. The station had only a half hour for this weekly scheduled program, so it showed a 13 minute segment of the film, and I answered good sharp questions in the final 13 minutes. I also told the TV audience that I would send the folder I was putting up in front of the camera (done with prior permission) to anyone who sent a stamped self-addressed envelope. The folder carried the quotes compiled by Perry Prentice at my suggestion called "Untaxing Homes, Uptaxing Land" published by Schalkenbach. When I later told the Local NBC man who interviewed me the number of responses I got for the folder, he said it was the largest ever sought by viewers in the history of that station.

But to whom should I send that marvelous list of enquiries? What agency in the entire movement is set up to follow through with real marketing know-how to make Georgists from those prospects? Not only to make Georgists from such TV publicity, but also to get these people actively engaged in form-

ing local political clubs?

Immediately after ONE WAY TO BETTER CITIES was released I asked Vie Peterson why the Schalkenbach Foundation's name and address had not been placed at the end of the film. Well, after a decade and a half, Schalkenbach's name and address are on the end of the film, and hundreds of thousands of enquiries should now be going to Schalkenbach. Thirty additional prints have been made, and thirty videotapes have also been made, because cable TV is hungry for visual materials.

Three years ago I proposed to Perry that Schalkenbach should start out with 100 video tapes particularly for libraries and public schools. Locally, I was quoted \$25 per video tape, in multiples of 50. Why not get the kids in school (and their economics teachers) started right, before their minds are all messed up with Gilder, Laffer, Wassinski and other supply-siders, and Gailbraith, the Keynesian?

4,000 daily TV & radio talk shows!

THE TALK SHOW EXPLOSION

But back to the talk-shows: I propose here that the films ONE WAY TO BETTER CITIES and FOR THIS LAND IS MINE have 13 minutes of highlights edited from the films for showing on 13 minutes of half hour talk show programs. Thus, the show's host or hostess can ask questions of the Georgist guest, based on what the host or hostess has seen on the film. Visuals will always give more impact to any talk-show. The talk show department of a TV station serves a basic purpose: It is the lowest cost show that any TV station can produce, it has a high rate of viewership; locally, it provides a bulletin board for coming events that is far more potent than any other bulletin -- including the print press -- and even if the coming event does not draw a sizeable crowd, the appearance of a Georgist-land value taxpayer on the talk show gives your message to thousands beyond what your hall will hold of the proposed meeting. At the proposed meeting you can show the entire film!

The number of households covered by all TV stations in the Melbourne-Orlando-Daytona Beach is 374,000 of which at noon 147,000 are viewing the shows. Now, if the Georgist could get on all eight of these stations prior to the scheduled meeting, he still would not have the "viewership" that the

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three newspapers would have in circulation, but three to five minutes of TV gives far more exposure to LVT than a one-paragraph announcement in any of the newspapers -- although even those one paragraph announcements should be sent to the newspaper!

Let me strongly suggest that when you can, take a late afternoon nap (if you keep day-time employment hours) and at 11:30 p.m. EST listen to NIGHTLINE and THE LAST WORD (1 1/2 hours) on ABC; or BARR FARMER (syndicated, local outlet CBS) Saturday at 11:30 P.M. The FARMER show really gets into nitty gritty subjects. Also, most syndicated shows are not as constrained in subject matter as the network talk shows.

The best way to get on a local or national talk-show is to have a new book.

Below are five national talk-shows that command millions of viewers:

Dick Cavett: After 14 years in commercial TV as Talk Show host, he finally went to Public TV, and is now on Cable TV.

Merv Griffin: Owns his show, and is producer-owner of other shows. As show-persons must receive a minimum of \$424.50, all guests on the Griffin show receive that sum.

Jack Parr: Was on both TODAY and TONIGHT shows. A lot more sophisticated than Cavett; Cavett educated at Yale, Parr did not even finish high school.

David Frost: Frost is British and creator of five corporations in England and another five in the USA. Frost brings more depth to his shows than counterparts -- often using remote broadcasting.

Phil Donahue: Has the largest syndicated viewership of all big time syndicated talk shows -- two hundred stations. The only show with audience participation. The only show that usually does not have show personalities on it. At least half of the shows are related to plugging the author's views who has just written a book. Transcripts of every show can be purchased for \$2.50 -- additional revenue. Donahue is now also host for half of the "The Last Word" show that runs for an hour at midnight by ABC. Donahue is similar to Frost in that he puts enormous drive into his work -- two shows at opposite ends of the day. Donahue takes an adversary position to both sides of a program's participants, bringing out the participants' and audience's intense feelings.

If the trade press won't pay for it

(cont'd on page 4)

Talk Shows (cont'd from page 3)

new book on LVT, the author and publisher's printer could be subsidized by Schalkenbach, but the publisher meets the distribution costs -- with both the publisher and Schalkenbach sharing the profits - if any. Thus the publisher-distributor gets the authors (David Hapgood and Peter Meyer, both professionals) on the talk-show circuit. A new book should be published every two years for the next decade, citing the fiscal successes as they occur in Pennsylvania and elsewhere in the future. Let me tell you a charming story from "The Talk Show Book":

A man wrote a book, and found that the publisher was not going to put on a publicity campaign. He bought all the books (printing prices) and toured the talk-show circuit. While he was at the talk-show, his wife would call several local book stores, and using different accents, ask if the book was available. Of course, it wasn't. By the time the show was over, the real orders came in, and the dealers were happy. Now, this could be a grueling job, but the author-talk-show guest built himself a following among both the dealers and the talk-show hosts, so that both welcomed him back later. If Schalkenbach would hire several "salesmen - talk show participants" they would soon have additional thousands of newly written books sold, and Georgism would be spread nationwide on both the TV outlet and in the books via book stores. A good way to get the author of a book on a talk-show: Give the book a catchy or a sexy title.

OUR PROFESSORS OF LAND ECONOMICS ARE NOT INVITED TO TALK SHOWS

Have you ever noticed that on GOOD MORNING, AMERICA, the TODAY show, MACNEAL-LEHRER REPORT, NIGHTLINE and other TV interview shows where subjects of substance are discussed, and where economists are of every stripe: left, right or independent are invited to give an opinion on the subject, particularly now during the Reagan administration, not one land economist has ever been invited?

I think one reason is that these men have not had a book for laymen published recently, which is usually an open sesame. I think another reason is that Georgist foundations have not conducted a public relations campaign for them. I believe that Robert Andelson, Steven Cord, James Busey, Mason Gaffney, James Greene, Lowell Harris, Richard Lindholm and Dick Net-

zer would be invited to the above interview shows if a public relations campaign were conducted for them. You can't tell me that Friedman, Gilder, Laffer, Wassinski and other supply side economists do not have their publicists. Or Lester Thurow or James Galbraith (son of John), Barry Bluestone, Bennett Harrison, David Smith, Barry Bosworth, Robert Reich, Gar Alperovitch and Martin Carnoy, all representing liberal thinking do not have publicists. And these men are forming think tanks to offset the conservative American Enterprise Institute and the Heritage Foundation.

TELEVISION'S ENORMOUS POWER

An Australian Georgist, Colin Bonner, who made a fortune in construction and apartment rentals in Calgary, dropped into our Media Foundation office in 1981, and made a very interesting proposal. Being a very religious man, he had studied the techniques of the electronic churches (which raise \$600 million dollars tax exempt annually.)

Bonner had particularly studied the technique of Rev. Jack Addington of San Diego, who gives sermons on TV. Addington buys the time on several radio and TV outlets throughout the U.S., where the tapes of his sermons are used. Interspersed with his sermons on TV are the "commercials" -- appeals for funds. Bonner's idea was to incorporate the Georgist message into the sermons. He told me that he would provide the seed money to get such a project started. When you think of the fact that fund raising on the electronic church occurs about every 10 minutes within a half hour broadcast, the money possibilities are tremendous.

Bonner made one point very clear: The whole project must be self-supporting. But one thing bothered me: I had learned from a survey taken by the former administrator of the Lutheran Hour that most listeners of religious programs were less than high school graduates. Could land value taxation be incorporated into these sermons? At that time I doubted it. But if Henry George could include hundreds of thousands of blue collar workers to vote for him in his first morality campaign, then it could be done!

THE ELECTRONIC MINISTRY OF THE FUNDAMENTALISTS

Bonner's dream desperately needs fulfilling, if not by him, by somebody else in the Georgist movement, because the electronic ministry has been

captured by the right-wing fundamentalists who equate God with their politics.

According to "Holy Terror", by Fle Conway and Jim Siegelman, the electronic ministers, headed by Rev. Jerry Falwell, founder of the "Moral Majority", Rev. James Robison, developer of the "Religious Round Table" and Dr. James Gordon "Pat" Robertson, founder of the "700 Club", Jimmy Swaggart and Jim Bakker are the prime leaders of the 15,000 fundamentalist ministers who joined with Terry Dolan, of NPAC, Richard Viguerie, the right wing mail order whiz, and Paul Weyrich, who got millionaire Joseph Coors, owner of the Coors brewery to finance the right wing Washington think-tank, The Heritage Foundation. -- to create with the aid of millions of dollars raised with religious TV money and millions more vested money to put a former movie actor in the White House.

They own 1400 radio stations

They control 3500 local TV and cable outlets

More than 115 million people are said to view their shows every week

If you are a reader instead of a heavy TV viewer, if you are not a born-again fundamentalist, if you are the kind who supports Common Cause, Planned Parenthood and the League of Women Voters, you are not likely to realize the impact of the right wing fundamentalist electronic church on the Bill of Rights imbedded in our Constitution.

I did not write this article to take the place of the "The Talk Show Book." I urge every Georgist who want to speed up the implementation of land value taxation to buy the book - NOW. You might prefer to get it directly from the publisher: Facts On File Publications, 460 Park Avenue, New York 10016. \$14.95.

The book is too important to wait for your library to get it, and it is a book you will want to mark up with ideas that come to you. It should be a reference book as cherished as your dictionary. It will tell you everything you need to know about talk shows: how to get on them, what to do before, during and after the interview, coping with the talk show circuit, etc.

This is a far cry from the efforts of John Lawrence Monroe's father in trying to get an audience circa 1925

Part II will appear in a future issue. Your suggestions and criticisms welcome.

Melbourne, FL

Readers' Forum

LVT PAC Man?

HGFA member Morgan Harris of Culver City, California, suggest that HGFA establish a PAC (Political Action Committee) in order to promote land value tax adoptions in real-world cities and school districts. He even encloses a donation to get such a PAC started and urges his fellow HGFA members to do likewise. Of course, contributions to HGFA have been financing our educational efforts in the political arena, heretofore, and we have won some real-world victories. But why not have a PAC also; if unions and corporations can have them, so can we.

New Group to Act

Peter Patsakos, chiropractic physician and long-time Georgist, has undertaken to form a Georgist group in Michigan which will attempt to get the state legislature to pass a local option land value tax law similar to what Pennsylvania has. He obtained a list of Michigan Georgists from HGFA headquarters. Could you do likewise?

Lending Library

Since every reader of Equal Rights is interested in ways of enlisting new recruits for the Georgist movement, I would like to share with you a method which has worked well for me -- a Georgist Lending Library.

I purchase from the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation a number of books, some of which I number Copy 1, Copy 2, etc., and others I hold in reserve. I lend the numbered copies to interested persons, keeping a record on two cards: one card for each numbered title on which I list the name of the borrower and the date the book is borrowed and another card for each borrower listing the books (and the date) borrowed. I include, as gifts, several pamphlets and photocopied sheets, and tell the borrower that I will check on the books after a reasonable time. When some readers want to purchase the books I sell them one of the clean reserved copies at cost. Several members of our board and other converts have been won by this method.

Mary Roberts Davis
La. League for LVT
Atlanta, GA

The movie GANDHI
depicts many of
George's observations

Altgeld's Statement

The following item was sent to us by long-time Georgist Verlin D. Gordon:

"I have made good use of John Altgeld's statement which was published in Bartlett's Familiar Quotations page 684: 'In writing "Progress and Poverty", he dipped his pen into the tears of the human race, and with celestial clearness wrote down what he conceived to be eternal truths. When he died, there was nowhere a soul that cried out: "There is one ironhand less to grind us, one wolf less to tear our flesh," but everywhere a feeling that a friend of the race had gone.' "

Suggestion: shouldn't we be discussing a legal suit to stop the government from selling or giving land away?

How could it sell or give away land without the permission of all those living and the coming generations?

Robert Sage
Sun, Arizona

Wilmington

News-Journal 8-10-82

Here is a statement that I think is worthy of your letters column:

"Here are two men of equal incomes -- that of the one derived from the exertion of his labor, that of the other from the rent of land. Is it just that they should equally contribute to the expenses of the State? Evidently not. The income of the one represents wealth he creates and adds to the general wealth of the State; the income of the other represent merely wealth that he takes from the general stock, returning nothing." -- Henry George, "Progress and Poverty"

Henry George, IV
Wilmington, DE

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 --

The Editor, EQUAL RIGHTS, 580 North
Sixth Street, Indiana, Pa. 15701

For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God.

Hebrews 3:4

The community, by its presence and activity, gives rental value to land, therefore the rent of land belongs to the community and not to the landowners. Labor and capital, by their combined efforts, produce the goods of the community -- known as wealth. This wealth belongs to the producers. Justice requires that the government, representing the community, collect the rent of land for community purposes and abolish the taxation of wealth.

Mrs. Tetley responds to plaque sent to her

Thank you so very much for your very nice letter. I greatly appreciate hearing from you and everyone connected with the Henry George School. Jack so loved it.

I will value and treasure the plaque commemorating Jack's contribution to the Georgist movement. It meant a very great deal to him. I do so miss the people with whom we used to come in contact with. It is very lonely for me and extremely hard to realize that Jack is gone.

I will also write to Bill Newcomb to thank him for his help in preparing the plaque.

I was hoping to be able to attend a Georgist meeting, maybe in Philadelphia or anywhere. I miss the contact with the people whom we met through the school.

I surely will find an honored place in my home for the plaque. I appreciate your kind thoughts very much. I'm sure Jack would have been thrilled with the plaque.

Sincerely, Helen G. Tetley

Colorado Springs Sun 10-29-82

A group of local residents who would like to see taxes on buildings and other improvements eliminated from the property tax structure have formed the Colorado Incentive Tax Association.

James L. Busey, professor emeritus of political science at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, said that taxing land but not buildings and other improvements would reduce land speculation and urban sprawl.

"This idea is called an incentive tax," he said.

Busey, who is general secretary of the association, said such a system inspires people to build more building and beautify their property since they won't be taxed for it.

It also provides an incentive for people holding empty land to use the land, he said.

He is not sure whether they would shoot for amending the state constitution to allow a local option to eliminate improvement taxes or to eliminate improvement taxes statewide.

Busey wrote that the group is revival of the Colorado Single Tax Association "which thrived during the first three decades of this century."

BOOK REVIEW

PROPOSITION AMERICA, by Frank F. Bille, 1982, 64 pages, available from UNTAX, P.O. Box 838, Arcadia, Cal. 91006. \$5.95, (quantity discounts).

A most readable explanation of Georgist principles and of their vital importance to the restoration of the Nation's economy and to our individual liberties.

This short book defends the American Ideal as not being an impossible dream, and exposes our present so-called "capitalistic" system as being an unnatural, un-scientific, self-destructive mixture of half-truths and fallacies which will ultimately cause the destruction of the Nation . . . and maintains that we have only two alternatives: self-destruction or redemption.

He also provides numerous Biblical references confirming both the ethical and scientific justification for our EQUAL RIGHTS to exist on this earth without having to pay another person for that privilege . . . this being the essence of the Law of Liberty, and our god-given inheritance.

Readers will automatically become members of ABC, Adam's Birthright Committee, a group of self-activated Patriots committed to the cause of Justice. UNTAX plans to issue an occasional Newsletter to buyers.

This small-sized book is not only a refresher on sound economic thought for Georgists, but would be a fine gift idea for friends and politicians.

Victory!

(cont'd from page 1)

of CSE and HGFA contributing \$50 or more get that publication free.

Our goal is to begin by trying to show that cities adopting a land tax experience a construction spurt. Certainly that seems to have happened so far. If we can publicize this fact then maybe we could splash into the Mainstream and our Cause will really take off suddenly. If we try to win the singly tax tomorrow, we will fail. However, that must be our ultimate goal.

Only if we can demonstrate our arguments with facts will we be able to achieve our ultimate goal of the Single Tax. This most recent victory in Pittsburgh keeps us moving in that direction.

We were active in many other cities and experienced many near misses. Most of these other cities are still live prospects for next year. Next year follows municipal elections and that usually is the most propitious year for us.

Finkelstein

(cont'd from page 1)

the Lindsay administration.

Mr. Finkelstein is survived by his wife, Claire; a son, Jeffrey; two daughters, Elyssa and Hope, and a sister, Pearl Klein of Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Kilgore Trout once wrote a story called *This Means You*. It was set in the Hawaiian Islands. Every bit of land on the islands was owned by about forty people, and in the story, Trout had those people decide to exercise their property rights to the full. They put up no trespassing signs on everything.

This created terrible problems for the million other people on the islands. The law of gravity required that they stick somewhere on the surface. Either that, or they could go out into the water and bob offshore.

But then the Federal Government came through with an emergency program. It gave a big balloon full of helium to every man, woman and child who didn't own property.

There was a cable with a harness on it dangling from each balloon. With the help of the balloons, Hawaiians could go on inhabiting the islands without always sticking to things other people owned. Kurt Vonnegut (1973)

BEQUESTS 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.

Equal Rights

Center for the Study of Economics
580 N. Sixth St.
Indiana, Pa. 15701

**Illinois Proclaims
Henry George Day**

WHEREAS, Henry George was nineteenth century philosopher who made a significant contribution to economic thought with his "single tax theory; and

WHEREAS, applying the laws of diminishing returns and the margin of productivity to real estate had advocated a locally levied tax on land value with the percentages remitted to governmental units equaling their total budgets, a theory which enabled all other taxes to be abolished; and

WHEREAS, his book *Progress and Poverty*, published in 1879, was extremely popular and enjoyed world wide circulation; and

WHEREAS, it explained for the lay person economic reasoning of the day and inspired an analysis and reform of the tax system from which we benefit yet today;

THEREFORE, I, James R. Thompson, Governor of the State of Illinois proclaim September 2, 1982, as HENRY GEORGE DAY in Illinois, upon the 143rd anniversary of his birth.

Bob King of Chicago has done the wonderful thing of obtaining a proclamation by the Governor of the State of Illinois that September 2, 1982 was Henry George Day in Illinois. Bob did this all on his own - why can't other CSE/HGFA members do likewise?

Don't throw away your copy of *Equal Rights* after reading it - give it away to a friend or prospect!

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