

# Equal Rights

To The Earth's Resources

Winter 1985-86

## Two 1986 Georgist Conferences

Vancouver - Canadian city of wonderful weather and beautiful flowers. Celebrating its Centennial in 1986 with a World Transportation Exposition (EXPO '86). And last but not least - the site of two Georgist conferences.

The International Union for Land-Value Taxation & Free Trade (IULVT & FT) is holding its conference from May 18-24. The conference site will be the University of British Columbia. Cost: C\$26 per day plus 7% provincial hotel tax. The U.S. dollar equivalent is somewhat less than C\$26.

If you intend to go, cast a die now and notify Mary Rawson, Conference Arrangements Committee, 1406

Woodland Drive, Vancouver, B.C. V5L 3S6 604-251-2908. Ms. Rawson would appreciate knowing as soon as possible of how many would be in attendance. Please help her.

The second conference is the American Council of Georgist Organizations which is booked for two nights, May 24-25 at the Empress Hotel in Victoria. This is the usual U.S. Annual National Conference. Contact Mark Sullivan at 5 East 44th Street, New York, NY 10017 (212-697-9880).

International conference years are gala events for Georgists, especially when the national and international conferences coincide. See you in Vancouver.

## Mutual Fund Race: Gold vs Peace

One of our long-time members recently sold her home for a handsome advance over what she had paid for it many years ago. Feeling that most of this capital gain was in fact a land speculation profit, and feeling Georgistically uneasy over that, she donated \$5,000 to the Center for the Study of Economics. Knowing of her interest in peace, we invested the money in the no-load Pax World Fund (just before the recent stock market rise!). This fund invests only in companies which meet its high criteria based on whether they are furthering peace and justice.

It is interesting to note that many of our previous large donors have been Georgists who wanted to share their land-speculation profits with us.

We also have been the beneficiary of two other Georgists - Howard and Alvina Thompson. They are particularly concerned about inflation and how it might reduce HGFA/CSE's purchasing power over the years, and so at their suggestion we invested their \$500 donation in Oppenheimer Gold Fund.

Georgists particularly concerned about corporate social responsibility are invited to add to the Pax World Fund, and those concerned about long-term inflation are invited to add to the Oppenheimer Gold Fund.

## Recent LVT "Impact" Studies Available

The CSE is proud of its recently completed LVT "impact" studies, made by request, for the city of Wilmington, Del., and for surround-

ing New Castle County, Del. Copies of these reports are available at \$1.00 each from CSE, and should be useful as guides for reader's own localities.

## Bequests Keep the Movement Moving!

One of the easiest ways to continue your support of our vital programs is through a bequest. Over the years, bequests both large and small have been an important source of funds for the Foundation.

You may bequeath a specific piece of property (a stock, jewelry, a bond, or real estate, for example), an amount of money, or percentage of your estate.

A "residuary bequest" may simply state that the Henry George Foundation of America is to receive the remainder of your estate after all specific bequests have been made.

A "contingent bequest" may also be used to provide for distribution of property in the event one or more of your named beneficiaries does not survive you.

Suggested bequest wording:

### General Bequest

"I give, devise, and bequeath to the Henry George Foundation of America (580 N. Sixth St., Indiana, PA 15701) in the sum of ----- dollars (or describe real property) to be used for its general purposes."

We hope this information will be of help to you.

## Two New Books by George Lugg

George Lugg, one of our staunchest supporters, has authored two attractive books which should be of special interest to the rest of our members.

The first is NEEDS FOR GOOD LIVING, a 17-page beautifully printed pamphlet. Mr. Lugg pleads for enlightened not self-interest, a common theme but particularly well-stated here. Then follows an argument for equal access to the resources of nature (EARN). The third section deals with the sting of interest: did you know that one dollar compounded at 10% interest ends up as \$13,780.66 at the end of 100 years? Writes Mr. Lugg: "Interest costs are

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## Equal Rights

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

### New Article on "Free Acres"

Georgists today know about Arden and Fairhope, but not too many are aware that there is a third Georgist enclave - Free Acres, New Jersey. Fortunately for us, there is now an excellent article on the history of this community of 85 souls one hour's car-ride from New York City. Martin Bierbaum, Ph.D and resident of Free Acres, is the author.

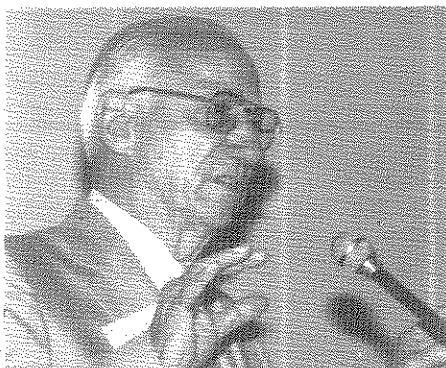
A brief history of Free Acres will be given here to whet the reader's appetite. Bolton Hall was the community's founder and benefactor. He was the son of a prominent Presbyterian minister and a well-known lawyer. He campaigned vigorously (while still a law student) for Henry George in the 1886 mayoralty campaign and was a confirmed Georgist until his death in 1938.

In 1910, Hall bought land (somewhat less than 160 acres) in the Bukeley Heights, N.J. area and established Free Acres. He deeded the land to the Free Acres Association with the restriction that the Association was to rent out portions of the total land area to homeowners, with the rent being irrespective of the improvement value. The land rents were to be applied by the Association to pay for local real estate taxes and to fund some communal activities.

In the beginning, Free Acres attracted artists and libertarian-anarchists. It was characterized by participatory democracy, intellectual discussion, many wooded acres and rudimentary homes. Later residents built more substantial homes and were also less familiar with the Single Tax.

Dr. Bierbaum's article on the history of Free Acres is available to the readers of Equal Rights at cost - \$5. CSE is helping Dr. Bierbaum to find a publisher for his article. It is scholarly yet reads easily.

## Seen at the 1985 CGO Conference in St. Louis



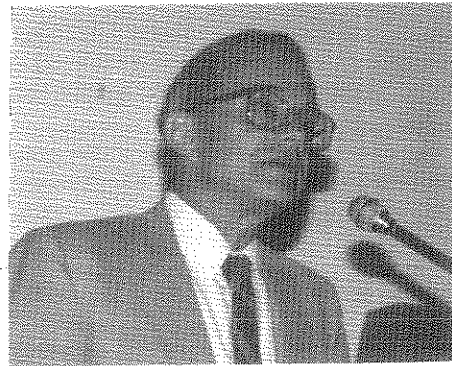
Stanley Fredericksen  
Conference Host



Irene Hickman  
at CGO Conference



Elizabeth Brown  
1985 Incentive  
Award Recipient



Steven Cord  
Pres. HGFA/CSE/CG

### 1887 P & P Discovered

Georgist Roger W. Borsodi, son of the noted Georgist and agronomist, who is himself a business economist, recently bought a box of books in Hagerstown, MD, one of which is an original 1887 edition of **Progress & Poverty**, bound in half. Roger Borsodi writes: "Do any of your friends want this book? It is in good condition."

Any reader responding should write to headquarters and we will forward all letters to Mr. Borsodi.

P.S.: If we current-day Georgists succeed in popularizing and spreading Henry George's idea books like this will leap in monetary value. Their true value will remain unaffected.

### Lenin a Georgist??

The following thought has been ascribed to V.I. Lenin following the Russian Revolution by Raymond Robbins, writing in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat of January 27, 1934: "The proper application of the Georgian taxation of land values is a tax upon the mentality of a people not ten percent of whom can read. They can't understand it. They can only understand socialism at present. Some day with a higher average of intelligence, we may adopt the taxation of land values and enjoy economic freedom, but not now" (brought to our attention by HGFA member Walter Swanton of Avon, N.Y.).

# New Type Georgist Membership Organization Patterned After Successful Movers and Shakers

TO UNITE the energies of Georgists in an effective power structure, foresighted thinkers and planners have launched The Henry George Association, COMMON GROUND. This is a membership organization to give Georgists the opportunity to apply their understanding of economics in the "real world" instead of just discussing theory.

Although this kind of organization is new to the Henry George movement, its design and function is similar to such successful leaders as the Audubon Society, Sierra Club, Greenpeace, National Education Association, et al.

## GROUND SWELL

ground swell. An unexpected, sudden gathering of  
force, as of public opinion  
— American Heritage Dictionary

Vol. 1, No.1

January 1986

Two years of preparation included introducing it -- under its working title, "Action For Tax Relief," at the Henry George Conference at Pawling in 1984, where a number joined. Planning and development continued throughout the year, including a change of name, and at the St. Louis Conference in 1985, by-laws were adopted and a Board of Directors elected, with Steven Cord as President, Tom Sherrard, Vice-President, Marion Sapiro, Secretary, and Ed Dodson, Treasurer.

Sharing offices with the Center for the Study of Economics and the Henry George Foundation of America, America, at the end of March the address of COMMON GROUND will be 10329 Log Raft Court, Columbia, MD 21044, phone: (301) 997-9232. Until then, the address will be 580 N. Sixth St., Indiana, PA 15701, phone: (412) 465-7119.

A West Coast Office will be staffed by Director of Development, Morgan Harris, 3959 Shedd Terrace, Culver City, CA 90232, phone: (213) 838-0838.

## Membership Meeting May 24 in Vancouver

Common Ground members will meet during the annual Henry George Conference, May 24-26, 1986, at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C.

### Business

It is anticipated that revisions of the temporary by-laws will be made, officers and directors elected, and other business conducted.

If you have by-law provisions you would like to have considered, please send a copy to Steve Cord by April 22, so they can be xeroxed for distribution at the meeting.

### Reports

There will be progress reports from Steven Cord, President, and Morgan Harris, Director of Development. Betsy Dana, Registrar, will report on the Georgist Registry. Jeff Smith, Membership Coordinator, will report on the program for members. Mary Davis, Chapter Coordinator, will report on chapter development.

### Exciting Discussions

Following the organization meeting in St. Louis, this will be the first meeting of Common Ground as a "going concern," after not quite a year of operations.

If you are not yet a member of Common Ground, fill out the Application Form on page 3 so you can participate and vote.

## First Project: The Georgist Registry

WHEN someone asks, "How many Georgists are there?" we have to admit we don't know. This is embarrassing. It belittles Henry George and the Henry George movement.

It is said that over 100,000 individuals have studied at the Henry George School(s), but we don't know where they are. We've lost them.

To deal with these problems, Common Ground's first project is The Georgist Registry, a permanent listing of all Georgists willing to sit up and be counted.

Of the \$25 dues paid to join Common Ground by a new member, \$15 goes to the Georgist Registry. This pays for recording his/her name, and the balance is placed in trust, the income from which is used to send a copy of The Georgist Registry Annual Report each spring.

If a person doesn't want to be a member of an activist Georgist association, he can enroll in the Registry directly upon payment of a one-time-only fee of \$25.

Great credit is due Elizabeth Dana, who developed this project for us, and who serves as Registrar. Address of The Georgist Registry is P.O. Box 19718, Portland, OR 97219.

## Chapter Networking

In addition to being a membership association of individuals, Common Ground will be an organization of chapters.

We are fortunate that Mary Davis has accepted appointment as Chapter Coordinator, and is already in the process of getting enthusiastic leaders to serve with her on the Chapter Development Committee. Plans call for inviting existing local Henry George groups to affiliate, and at the same time to initiate and encourage new chapters.

### Meet in Vancouver

At the Vancouver Conference, Mary Davis plans to have committee members meet with her and with individuals who are working to develop new chapters.

Common Ground can serve as quartermaster, supplying chapters with such things as: literature, brochures, labels, bumper banners, posters, books and pamphlets. It will send out programs, plans, schedules, ideas for special days, ideas for activities together with instructions on how to have successful pot luck parties, garage sales, public programs, other activities.

**The Taxpayers Guide to Successful Tax Revolt**, a 270 page paperback

[Cont'd on page 4]

# The Origins of COMMON GROUND - The Henry George Association

AT THE 1979 Henry George Conference in San Francisco

I remember hearing Mary Davis make a stirring call for a membership organization of Georgists.

Nothing happened. In New York a year

later, she renewed that call.

Then she wrote this letter . . . . .

In the Winter 1982 issue of Equal

Rights, Bill Newcomb told of offering a

free booklet to viewers of a TV Show and

said the responses were the largest in the

history of that station. He wrote:

"To whom should I send that marvelous

list of enquiries? What agency in the entire

movement is set up to follow thru with real

marketing know-how to make Georgists from those

prospects? . . . also how to get these people actively

engaged in forming local political clubs?"

In 1983, Colin Bonner drew up a 17-page outline

for a membership organization, in which he said, "If we

are not prepared to tackle a massive worldwide problem

with massive worldwide forces, we might just as well resign

ourselves to a peaceable life enlightened with mutual admiration

of each other's perspicacity, and intellectual nit-picking."

THE HENRY GEORGE MOVEMENT NEEDS  
AN ACTIVIST MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION  
by Mary Davis

Throughout all the forty years that I have been a Georgist, I have felt the need for a membership organization. I give people pamphlets, copies of articles, or lend them a book. When I talk with them, many of them are ready to join. They ask me, "Have you a membership application?"

What am I to answer? If I tell them we don't have any members, they ask, "How do you hope they can join, they ask, 'How do you hope to maintain a movement without an organization?' I am a member of Common Cause, Public Citizen, World Future Society, YWCA, Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, and the League of Women Voters. These organizations have clout in socio-economic civic matters. Each of them has a strong membership organization and a strong program. Their members are continually informed about what's happening everywhere in the country, and what can be done in the way of education and political action.

Surely Henry George's solutions deserve an equal presentation and an equal hearing. They deserve professional direction, professional fund raising, and continuous membership recruitment. A more comprehensive and institutionalized rangment will put on our movement a stamp of stability, resolution, and unity which it has not had in the past. During my forty years I could have benefited from the prestige and the confidence that being part of a world-wide organization would have given me. Let's establish now the organization we have so long needed. It will make my job easier. Yours, too.

Finally the message got thru. In the Fall of 1983 I sent

out a 16-page memo to a number of Georgists seriously

proposing that we create the organization Mary Davis,

Bill Newcomb, and Colin Bonner had been calling for:

This was not to be "just another HG organization,"

spreading the word - and never reaping a harvest.

This was to be an activist membership organization,

patterned after the Sierra Club, the Audubon Society,

Handgun Control, NAACP, and hundreds of others who

had the kind of programs that get results.

After dozens and dozens and dozens of letters and memos,

xeroxed and sent to some forty-four Georgists, the

organization was launched at Holiday Hills, Pawling

1984 Georgist Conferences. Fifty-eight people joined

there and during the year, prior to the St. Louis

Conference at which By-Laws were adopted, and a

Board of Directors and officers elected.

THE HENRY GEORGE  
ASSOCIATION

Action

FOR TAX RELIEF

Calver City, CA 90024  
(212) 634-1634

This was our first

letterhead. We used

this name until after

the Pawling Conference

of 1984. The name

Common Ground

came out of a meeting

of Commissioners in

Los Angeles, February

16-17-18, 1985.

The product belongs to the producer.  
The income you earn is yours.  
No one else has a right to any of it.  
The state has no right to any of it.  
By collecting the public revenue it creates (ground rent) as taxes, the state will have enough to pay for all the government deemed.  
This will create jobs and full employment.  
Freedom from taxes on earned income means prosperity for everybody.



## Origins...

Telegrams from people who could not attend the Holiday Hills Conference, Pawling:

**"AFTER HAS OUR FULL ENDORSEMENT AND SUPPORT. WE URGE ALL GEORGISTS TO JOIN AND HELP BUILD A NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION WHICH WILL SUPPORT EXISTING PROJECTS AND LAUNCH NEW ONES. LET'S DO IT!"**

-- Marion and Stanley Sapiro

**"CONGRATULATIONS ON NATIONAL GEORGIST LOBBYING ORGANIZATION WHICH IF SUCCESSFUL WILL BE GREATEST THING SINCE PHYSIOCRATS, HENRY GEORGE, OSCAR GEORGE."**

-- Jim Busey

**"PLEASE BE SUCCESSFUL IN YOUR EFFORTS TO FORM ONE SINGLE, HIGHLY VISIBLE, IDENTIFIABLE, AND EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND FREEDOM FROM MONOPOLY. THOSE OF US IN PUBLIC OFFICE AND THE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN DESPERATE NEED OF THE HIGHER STANDARD OF LIVING AND ECONOMIC STABILITY THAT CAN RESULT ARE COUNTING ON YOU. YOU CAN COUNT ME IN."**

Dr. Bill Filante, California State Assemblyman

## Ten Thousand Members

## is a Good Start

### "Forget a New Organization"

From the beginning Common Ground met opposition within the Georgist movement, some covert, some open. One letter from an old timer read:

"Where's the beef? I'm already a Georgist; why do you send me 7 pages? -- Sister Davis is wrong. What is urgently needed are new converts. -- forget a new organization."

### "What About Our Name?"

One member sent in a review of a book called **Common Ground**, thinking this was an objection to using that name for this organization.

In our society there are frequently many uses of the same name.

When Jeff Smith proposed this name at a meeting of Commissioners, it received immediate acclaim. No one imagined he had originated it. Most people probably recognized the phrase as a popular cliché.

It usually means a shared understanding. For Georgists it expresses -- or implies -- also our belief that the earth/the ground is the common heritage of mankind.

So how do we distinguish this

IN VIEW of the considerable impact Georgists make despite their scattered forces and small numbers, what miracles might they bring about if ten thousand Georgists were united in a well run organization?

And why not? The Schools have graduated a hundred thousand students in the past fifty years. Is there any reason to think we can't get the next ten thousand to join **Common Ground**?

### Graduate to Common Ground.

When students finish studying with the School, many of them would like to apply the understanding they have gained. Now there is an organization through which they can do that. From now on, at the end of every Henry George class, the students can be given an invitation to become a member of **Common Ground** and start working to achieve the kind of world they have learned is possible.

### New Members.

We have set a modest goal of 500 members for 1986, but with effort and dedication we may exceed this several times over. Our Membership Coordinator is Jeff Smith, who would like nothing better than to be kept busy adding names of new members.

### Services for Members.

Frank Nelson and Ed Dodson, editors of the quarterly, **Equal Rights**, have agreed to publish at least four times a year, and to include news of **Common Ground**.

Alternate months members will receive announcements, letters, a copy of the **Georgist Annual** each Spring, new brochures, and other items to keep them up-to-date.

Activities for members will include participation in a variety of chapter programs and the opportunity to lobby by mail, phone, and telegram to achieve major projects on both the national and the community level.

organization from books, organizations, restaurants, etc. called **Common Ground**? By the phrase: **The Henry George Association/COMMON GROUND**.

## Common Ground The Henry George Association MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- I accept Henry George's challenge.
- I'm glad we now have a membership organization, **COMMON GROUND**, thru which individuals can actively work for the kind of world he envisioned.
- Please count me in as a member. Here's my \$25 dues for the year and for enrollment in the Georgist Registry with a lifetime subscription to the **Georgist Annual**.
- To help make the program even more effective, I'm enclosing an additional contribution of ( ) \$100 ( ) \$75 ( ) \$50 ( ) \$25

● NAME ..... PHONE ( ) .....  
ADDRESS .....  
.....  
..... ZIP .....

- Make your check payable to **HGFA/COMMON GROUND**, 580 N. 6th St., Indiana, PA 15701. If you need a tax deduction, make check to **CSE/COMMON GROUND**.

## What Distinguishes Common Ground?

Common Ground is not "just another Georgist organization." It is different. It is needed.

### Advertising vs. Publicity.

The function of advertising is to make sales. The function of publicity is to create goodwill. Common Ground is out to make sales.

Therefore -- and this is probably its most important distinction -- Common Ground will undertake only projects which provide for a harvest -- in laws to receive earned incomes of taxes, and collect taxes from unearned incomes -- or a harvest in money, or in members or supporters.

Its projects will include direct mail advertising, whose results can be checked. It will not spend energy and money merely to "spread the word", and "hope" this is doing some good. Those who contribute to Common Ground can know that their money is not being used to merely scatter seed widely and wildly with no provision for a return.

### "Off Your Duff."

Heretofore, our Georgist organizations have published newsletters and journals, and although some have national memberships, they have not provided activities for their members to engage in.

Whereas, for Common Grounders "activity" is the name of the game. Jane Nerpel said it, "You don't accomplish anything by screaming. You've got to get off your duff."

Common Ground projects will be carried on by members, by chapters, and by the headquarters office. Its first project has been the Georgist Registry, the second is a survey of Georgists sent out by B.E.E., and the third is the Common Ground campaign for a Henry George postage stamp. This latter is publicity -- a postage stamp will bring no harvest, it will not make sales, but it is an important opportunity which will raise the morale of the Henry George movement worldwide. Therefore, we are making an exception to our policy.

If you have an idea for a project in which we can enlist the cooperation and support of non-Georgists, please send it in.

## Foundation Representation

One of the functions of Common Ground is to knit together the Henry George movement. Toward this end the original plans provided for a seat on the Board of Directors for a representative from each of the major foundations.

This provision was omitted from the by-laws adopted at St. Louis, so it will be presented as an amendment to the meeting in Vancouver as follows:

**ARTICLE V. Section 1. Board of Directors.** The Board of Directors shall have a maximum of 27 members. Seven seats on the Board shall be held for representatives elected by the foundations: Basic Economic Education, the Fairhope Corporation, the Henry George Foundation of America, the Henry George School, the Lincoln Foundation, the Lincoln Institute for Tax Reform, and the Schalkenbach Foundation.

Nine Directors are to be elected by the nine chapters having the largest membership in Common Ground.

Eleven Directors are to be elected by the membership at large. **Section 4. Term of Office.** The term of office for all Directors is one year.

### Chapters [Cont'd from page 1]

will be presented to each chapter.

The central office will make available to chapters slide film shows and video tapes, together with tips on how to present them, how to get audiences, etc. It will send out publicity material and instructions on how to get publicity on radio, TV, and in newspapers.

## Help Stamp Out Poverty

Fred Foldvary has agreed to be chairman of a Common Ground committee to work for a Henry George first class stamp in 1989, the 150th anniversary of George's birth.

Fred has been working for such a stamp, but so far the committee that selects subjects for stamps has rejected this proposal. It is expected that a more extensive and more intensive campaign will get an affirmative nod.

The campaign depends largely on the lobbying by mail efforts of great numbers of Georgists. Your letter can make a difference. Please address your request to:

Mrs. Fran Feldman  
Citizens Stamp  
Advisory Committee  
U.S. Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20260

### Write Now.

Make your letter short - less than one page. Give one or two reasons why you think Henry George has made a significant difference in American life. If you can send a carbon or a xerox to Fred Foldvary, please do so. P.O. Box 26345, San Francisco, CA 94126.

If you are willing to make a small contribution toward the success of this campaign -- \$10 or \$15 -- please enclose your check made out to HGFA/COMMON GROUND.

Chapter networking can be one of the most powerful ways of furthering the adoption of Henry George's program.

## GROUND SWELL

580 N. Sixth Street  
Indiana, PA 15701

Non-Profit Organization  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 58

TIME VALUE

## Readers Forum

### More on Federal LVT Constitutionality

Lawrence Clark Sr. of Medfield, Mass. expresses doubts about the constitutionality of a Federal lvt. He may have overlooked the following.

1. Expensing and accelerated depreciation are tantamount (respectively) to complete and partial tax exemption of the income from the depreciable capital to which they are applied. Land is not eligible for either. By this means there is already an element of lvt in income taxation, both corporate and personal, federal and state. In application it is badly flawed, due to non-uniformity, to de facto depreciation of land, to double depreciation, and so on: but the legal concept is there.

2. Taxation of "imputed income" from owner-occupied residences is seriously considered in recent "reform" proposals, with no question of its constitutionality.

3. The Supreme Court has declared that Congress can tax and define "capital gains" (read unearned increments of land value) in any manner that it pleases. The fault is with Congress which has not picked up the ball; not with the 16th Amendment.

4. The 16th Amendment was passed at a time when Georgists were highly active and influential in tax and political matters. There is reason to believe that many of them supported it, in the belief that it could be used as a vehicle for federal land taxation. This is a vacuum of intellectual and politico-economic history which some diligent researchers need to enter. The courts, in interpreting the meaning of terms and intent of legislation, give some weight to arguments published by advocates.

But our major problem lies with elected officials, and the strange, self-destructive propensity of median Americans to vote for people with bloated budgets which they have to know are raised by selling out majority interests to special privileges. When someone figures out a solution to that one, much else will

### The Washington Post Land Goes Begging

The editorial about "empty jobs and unemployed people" ["Suburban Jobs for D.C. Workers," Sept. 4] should have dealt with "empty lots and unemployed people."

Would it not be better all around to adopt tax incentives to encourage people to develop prime vacant land—and I don't mean raising cabbages on some of it, as at 14th and Belmont streets. Wouldn't this be better than busing the unemployed to the overbuilt Maryland and Virginia suburbs?

The vast vacant and underused land in the city deprives people of jobs and housing. Is it really necessary to wait for some big-time developer to build another ugly office block or low-cost housing on prime inner-city land after demanding concessions from the city, as on 8th street?

Mayor Barry ought to go to Pittsburgh, recently named the nation's No. 1 city, and find out what is going on there instead of helping developers continue to overbuild in the suburbs and on the farmland beyond.

E.S. CAPON  
Sandy Spring

### 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

### Labor - Tribune [IL] 10/3/85 More on Taxes

As long as there is an income tax, favors will be sold to the highest bidder. While Mr. Wilhelm desires to correct these injustices, and his motives are laudable, he offers no solution to the problem, but to plug some loopholes. As long as we have an income tax, Congress will create and close loopholes at an ever accelerating rate, and extoll the virtues of their actions.

The only true reform that can be accomplished is by the repeal of our 16th Amendment. This can be done painlessly through attrition in 10 years, substituting a single site value tax.

TOM LEHMANN  
Alton, IL

fall in place.

Mason Gaffney  
3040 Tyler Street  
Riverside, CA 92503

### Farmer Williams Writes!

Below are extracts of some letters which strong HGFA supporter Woodrow Williams has gotten published in his local newspapers. All HGFA/CSE/CG members should follow Mr. William's example and send off letters to editors. They often get published and it is a nice feeling to see your ideas in print.

\* \* \*

The greatest dis-incentive to development remains the high price of land. It is said the land is high priced because "they ain't makin' it any more." But why should "they?" There must be a surplus of it, with a million vacant land lots in Ohio (eight million nationwide). And why is farm land so high priced? It has dropped some due to low farm product prices, but is still quite high. But there is no scarcity of farm land! The government is paying farmers to leave a large percentage of it idle, now!

Farm organization leaders have been in the forefront in pushing for reduced "property" taxes, but never distinguish between the land, itself, and the improvements upon it. And these farm leaders have also pushed for the subsidies which have priced our farmers out of the world market. Now the high priced dollar has worsened our export condition, and the only answer is more subsidies -- even to government purchase for export at a loss to keep prices at "parity." European Common Market has done this for some time -- but the result has been to push land prices higher, with no permanent benefit to the actual farmers.

\* \* \*

The announcement by GM of expanding their plant in Cleveland, plus the possibility of a new steel plant in Toledo should console Ohio a bit after losing its bid for the new Saturn plant. But both stories should call our attention to what industry seems to desire from prospective sites. And this seems to be tax abatement, whether the industry is large, or small.

But the tax abatement scheme, along with so-called "enterprise zones" seem to be temporary measures, with prospects for taxing these benefactors later.

## "Choosing a Slogan"

In "Choosing a Slogan," I have a new one: SPF, for Site Protection Fee. It was mentioned that some libertarian Georgists don't want to hear about taxes. SPF is a non-tax alternative to LVT. It tells what the Georgist idea is: that those who hold sites should pay a fee if they want their sites protected, which includes recognition of land titles, enforcement of "rent" from tenants, police and other services, public works, and national defense.

Those who feel that TRI - Tax Reduction of/for Improvements - doesn't tell enough of the story can add SPF to their repertoire. When people object to LVT because they oppose any taxes or don't like the idea, then say, "Fine, what about a Site Protection Fee."

Fred Foldvary  
1920 Cedar St.  
Berkeley, CA 94709

### Books [Cont'd from page 1]

at least 20% of the total dollars we spend." He sees interest on money as a prime cause of inflation.

This latter point about interest is dealt with more extensively in Mr. Lugg's second book *THE INTEREST GAME* (102 pages, also beautifully printed). The book is guaranteed to provoke the reader into different and deep channels of thought.

Here is a quotation from one of these books: "We see all plants and animals living joyously the very best they can. They are part of the universe. So are we! We should be happy and grateful even though, in all probability, we too have only one life to live. Is it not our rare good fortune to be alive - to be able to enjoy the endless beauty and mystery of the universe and to marvel at it all?" These books are available at the special prices of \$1 and \$2 respectively. Write to Equal Rights, 580 N. Sixth Street, Indiana, Pennsylvania 15701.

Uncle Same controls most of the land with oil and gas potential. Every month the feds run a lottery to divvy up the rights. For a \$10 entry fee, you could be one of the thousand monthly winners - and you **might** strike it rich.

## Last Year for Goblet

Like most organizations, most of our contribution income comes from the minority of \$50-plus contributors. So we have thought to reward their confidence in us by sending them a very handsome goblet. It contains the slogan (coined by Oscar Geiger) and insignia used by the Single Tax Party in 1920. We envisioned it not only as a significant way to say "Thank You," but also as a way to enable our supporters to spread the word among their friends. The goblet, we have found, is a conversation starter and a thought engenderer.

But we've been doing it for four years now, long enough to allow our long-time supporters to collect a full four-piece set. But enough is sufficient and next year we will be looking for a new Major-Contribution Gift. Any suggestions?

Incidentally, our other HGFA/CSE/CG annual contributors have been receiving more modest but nonetheless effective (we think) membership gifts - pens, bumper stickers and now a Memo Pad with motto devised by our very own creative Colin Bonner.

Think of the gift as just that - a gift, a thank-you - but also think of them as conversation starters and thought engenderers, and use them as such.

**"Definition of liberty: to do as you please with yourself and your labors' products."**

**Abe Lincoln --**

**SOUTH AFRICA WILL PROPOSE next year that blacks be allowed to own land.**

## Equal Rights

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

MR. NORMAN A. SCOTT  
CITE 1, BOX 411  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN.

Address Correction Requested

## NJ Beach Access

Thank you for writing to me about beach access in New Jersey.

No recent New Jersey ordinance prevents access to the wet sand beach. Although the public frequently thinks of beaches as "public lands," only the area below the mean high water mark, the "wet sand beach," is legally public domain in New Jersey. The wet sand beach belongs to the State unless the State has conveyed a riparian grant for that land. Even when sold by the State, these wet sand, riparian lands remain impressed with the Public Trust and must be open to the public for purposes of navigation, commerce, recreation, and fishing according to the New Jersey Supreme Court decision.

The practical implication of this doctrine is that even where a dry sand beach area is privately-owned and the public excluded, the landowner cannot exclude the public from the area below the mean high water line.

Thomas H. Kean  
Governor

## Protectionism Costly

Assertions that "unfair" foreign competition is costing American workers their jobs have created recent momentum toward protectionist trade measures. . . . . the advent of a "tight" labor market in the near future, and which could make the currently proposed measures designed to preserve jobs in uncompetitive industries even more costly than protectionism's critics usually suppose.

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