



Newsletter

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL

April
1976

LET'S DO A NEW CAMPAIGN!

How many readers of this Newsletter have completed a PROGRESS & POVERTY course with the Henry George School? Or have read the book on rent (on and around... principle of rescaping community-created land values by a tax on rent?

Probably most readers are not here. (This Newsletter goes to about 1,000 people around the country.) Compared to the U.S. population we are just a drop in the bucket. But we are precious drops, because we understand some economic principles that most people have never heard of. And as a UNITED FORCE of "clever thinkers" (as columnist Guy Wright calls us) we could have a not inconsiderable influence on public opinion in the U.S.

Let's make a concerted effort in this direction. The Northern California School now invited you to participate in a new letterwriting campaign starting now and running through the end of 1976.

Just think of the millions of people we can reach during the next few months if we get letters published in magazines having readerships of several tens of thousands each! And don't forget that politicians keep tabs on public opinion by watching letters from the public. If they begin to see land-value taxation mentioned favorably more frequently, they may begin to feel safe in re-ignoring it favorably themselves: (To get elected, one cannot be too far out in front of the crowd!)

You can write about any aspect of George's philosophy, as you see it. And as you've probably noticed, it ties in with so many different sides of human life. Just as stars, there's poverty; slums; the high cost of land for housing, open space, etc.; there's the overpopulation theory; corporate monopoly power resting on some form of legal privilege; tariffs; the many taxes on production that burden us now; the better cities we could have; the better society in general; transit and land values... and you can probably think of 10 more yourself!

Quite conveniently, there are magazines and journals devoted to almost every aspect of human life. You can choose from his week-lies like TIME and NEWSWEEK, or business magazines like FORTUNE, or more general ones like NEW REPUBLIC, NATIONAL REVIEW, NATIONAL OPINION. Or specialized magazines like the Sierra Club's YOUTHER, or SCIENCE-NEWS. There are union papers, church papers, history magazines, and professional journals. And how about some Geogist women writing to NS and discussing Women's Lib and Land Lib? We also can't forget the daily and Sunday newspapers being published in every city and town across the country. With all the millions of words rolling off the presses each week, let's get in a few good words about the single-tax (or whatever you want to call it.)

Your best bet is to write in response to something the paper or magazine has already printed -- some article news item, etc. Chances are then better that your letter will get printed. Keep it short and clear. Don't let us see polished writers, but we can all benefit from trying to write well. Please send the campaign form and this Newsletter to the address every letter that gets printed -- anywhere -- up thru 12/31/76. Please send us a copy of the paper or magazine with your letter in print, identifying the title and date fully.

Let's put our education to work and begin to educate others. One hour of your time may get a really important message to thousands of people, and may begin to bring changes that we cannot begin to imagine now. The campaign is kicked! (OFF.) Long live the rent!

SPRING CLASSES

Before you run to your writing desk, heres the news for April.

Our Spring classes opened the week of April 26 in 4 locations: 3 in S.F. and 1 in the East Bay. They were held at: the Hyde-Green Plant Company, S.F.; Mike Trigg's home, S.F.; the School office; and the Telegraph Ave. Co-Op in Berkeley. Teachers are: Terry Newland, Mike Trigg, Ingo Eischorn, and Cathy Covell. The total enrollment was 20.

Supplemental materials on poverty and population were added this term. We hope that, if these prove useful to students and teachers, they can be reprinted in a more permanent form.

An advanced course, The Science of Political Economy, was scheduled to begin in S.F. in May, to be led by Terry Newland.

THE DEMONSTRATIONS FINALLY HAPPENED!

After much planning and wondering what would happen if we took our educational work to the streets, we finally did it!

The first demonstration was "Pay Your Rent Day" on Monday March 1. We met in front of S.F.'s Main Library and marched across Civic Center Plaza carrying signs and singing "This Land Is Your Land -- (Is It?)" Then we walked in an orderly circle in front of City Hall for about 45 minutes during the very busy lunch hour.

Left as our own lunch hours allowed, but we had just enough people to make a creditable showing. While some of us marched and sang, others handed out a special pamphlet we had written. And Terry waved his rent money in the air, asking aloud why City Hall wasn't getting it instead of his landlord. We attracted quite a bit of attention and interest.

The second demonstration was on March 15 at the same time and location. Perhaps

because it followed so soon on the heels of the first, the turnout was too small, so we just handed out another pamphlet on taxation.

Perhaps the best was the Income Tax Demonstration on April 15 in front of the Federal Building in S.F. We scheduled this one for all day, to be able to talk with taxpayers coming in to file their IRS forms at the last minute. We had yet another pamphlet comparing the Income Tax with the Single Tax. And some great cardboard signs and literature. Our only problem that day was the wind, which by the early afternoon was whipping down Golden Gate Avenue with such ferocity that it tore our signs to shreds. Nevertheless we handed out hundreds of pamphlets and were seen by thousands of people.

One impressive thing about these experiences is the number of people who have heard of George and like his ideas. These people are not often speaking up publicly, (because few other people are) but they are definitely there. It was very heartening to hear them say things like "I'm with you all the way" and "Keep fighting!" This made us suspect that all the classes the School has been running in the Bay Area for the past 25 years have definitely had an impact.

We hope to have more such demonstrations, and we hope that more of our friends will join us. Let us know if you have ideas about how to make these as effective as possible. Perhaps you have a talent for street drama or mime? Or simply staging nice events. Come on down to the office and let's plan the next one.

MELIA RITZ

During the past 2 months, Terry Newland has concentrated the work of Community Relations on making direct contact with the public via the media. He's been very successful!...

March 25 - KPFA invited us to join a panel discussing people's movements and philosophies. (Cathy did this one.) Anita Frankel was moderator, and also on the panel was a representative from Consumer Action and one from the Socialist Party.

April 15 - A taped interview with Terry on the Single Tax vs. the Income Tax was played nationwide on "All Things Considered," a program of National Public Radio.

April 17 - Terry was the guest on a call-in talk show on KPBC radio in S.F. at 11:45 P.M.

April 22 - Terry and Shirley Rossier joined host Elmer Brunswan on an hour-long program on KPFA at noon. The format was Brunswan and Terry discussing George, interspersed with Shirley reading passages from PROGRESS & POVERTY. Then songs by Bob Dylan, including "Dear Landlord," were played.

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE PODIUM

Terry did some public speaking as well!

March 30 - He was the guest speaker at Prof. Al Sargis' Sociology class in Urban Development at S.F. City College. This lecture was arranged by Joe Husar.

Cathy Covell, Editor

April 11 - Terry spoke on "Economics and the Natural Order" to the S.F. Theosophical Society.

April 27 - Terry was invited by Dr. Joyce Shen to speak to her S.F. State College class in State & Local Finance on land-value taxation.

Terry has developed some fine visual aids for his talks. Right now we are also putting together a slide show, with the help of artist Carl Niederer. This means that the presentations are becoming more polished and (we hope) more effective. We ask your help in getting speaking engagements. Any club you belong to might be very interested in hearing about George for an evening. Let us know what you can do.

GEORGISTS ATTENDED SANTA CRUZ CONGRESS TO CONTINUE THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

This gathering of more than 100 activists from all sorts of organizations took Santa Cruz by storm the week-end of March 26-28. It was inspired by the efforts of Phil Rafalow, Bob Colonna, and many other hardworking people. Among others, Calif. Assemblyman John Vasconcellos delivered a key-note speech. We broke up into workshops on such topics as: Racism, Sexism & Aging; Economic Alternatives; Health & Welfare; The U.S. as a World Power; Abuses of Public Office; and Land Reform & Taxation. Sunday morning we reconvened to approve resolutions. Two separate resolutions calling for land-value taxation were approved by the entire Congress.

The School thanks LEAF who helped out financially and made it possible for many School graduates to travel to the Congress. The Congress wants to continue to meet and work to implement the resolutions passed. If you're interested in meeting with it, please contact Phil Rafalow, 639 Miller Ave., So.S.F., CA 94980. Phone 952-0672.

CONFERENCES TO BE HELD IN S.F. IN JULY

The University of San Francisco will be the site of the Henry George School Conference and the LEAF Conference in early July. The School Conference, which is being planned and run by the School in New York, will be held all day Friday July 2 and the morning of Saturday, July 3. The LEAF Conference begins on Saturday and runs through Monday, July 5.

Rather than scheduling the traditional economics discussion panels, the New York School has decided to make this year's Conference more of an internal meeting, to establish clear goals and methods for the School's work. The LEAF Conference will have all sorts of panels and discussions of Georgist economics.

We hope that many graduates and friends will attend both events. We need your input for our future direction. And you will surely enjoy meeting people from all over the country who are interested in George. Do come! Call the School (362-7944) for info.