

EDWARD JOSEPH DODSON206 PEARLCROFT ROAD
CHERRY HILL, NEW JERSEY 08034BOB - FOR YOUR
INFO.

Ed

M E M O R A N D U MPLEASE GIVE
MAKE A COPY
AS WELL.
THANKS.

TO: Distribution List

FROM: Ed Dodson

DATE: July 29, 1985

RE: Common Ground - Redraft of Constitution and By-Laws

Attached is a copy of the redrafted Constitution and By-Laws for Common Ground. I have attempted to incorporate all of the elements approved by the constitution committee. You will also find that I have integrated the "mission, objectives, strategies and tactics" format recommended by John Burger. Any additional revisions to this should be given to me as soon as possible.

The next two items to be taken care of are: (1) investigating in which state Common Ground is to be incorporated; and (2) under what category of Internal Revenue Code organizational structures Common Ground is to be registered.

A list of the charter members to date is attached, a number of whom requested they be billed for the initial annual dues. I have drafted a new membership form/receipt which I will mail out shortly. I recommend that in order to attract as many Georgists as possible to join that we keep the dues at \$25.00 for now but later raise dues for Membership to \$50. In this way Common Ground would have several categories of support, at least one that does not carry voting privileges. For example: \$10-\$24/Subscriber; \$24-\$49/Supporter; \$50 and over/Member. I believe that by using this tactic we can ensure Common Ground remains Georgist in spirit without discouraging others from contributing or joining. This is my perception and is only a recommendation to the Executive Committee.

A total of \$575 was collected in St. Louis, which I have deposited to the escrow account in my name. This brings the total on hand to approximately \$1,100. As Treasurer, I will continue to hold these funds until Common Ground's legal incorporation is completed. I would ask, then, that either Tom Sherrard or Stan Sapiro draft the minutes of the incorporating meeting.

DISTRIBUTION LIST:

Steve Cord/Mary Davis/Morgan Harriss/Jack Himmelstein/Marion Sapiro/Stan Sapiro/Tom Sherrard

EDWARD JOSEPH DODSON206 PEARLCROFT ROAD
CHERRY HILL, NEW JERSEY 08034

A D D E N D U M T O M E M O R A N D U M

TO: DISTRIBUTION LIST

FROM: ED DODSON

DATE: July 29, 1985

RE: COMMON GROUND MEMBERSHIP/GEORGIST REGISTRY

The attached "charter membership" list will, I believe, need to be expanded to include those individuals who contributed last year in Pawling and are now in the Georgist Registry. As you can see, I do not have addresses for all members. I am also guilty of several important omissions -- Steve and Morgan, for example. We will need to take action at some point to deliver funds to Betsy Dana for those who also wish their names to be added to the Registry. The Common Ground membership forms should, I guess, have a block giving the prospective member the option of having \$15 of the first year dues directed to the Registry.

I found another membership application, for Peter Applegate, Box B11-11, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315 (to be billed for dues).

Marion (I hope) has the final list of those elected to the Board of Directors of Common Ground. In doing the minutes of the incorporating meeting, please remember that one-third of the Directors are to have an initial one-year term, one-third a two-year term, and one-third a three-year term. The Executive Committee is comprised for now of Steve Cord as President, Tom Sherrard as Executive Vice President, Marion Sapiro as Secretary and myself as Treasurer. I am pretty sure that Jeff Smith and Dan Sullivan are willing to serve as appointed Vice Presidents.

Let me know if I have overlooked anything.

C O N S T I T U T I O N

COMMON GROUND
Adopted July 17, 1985

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be COMMON GROUND (henceforth referred to as "COMMON GROUND" throughout this document).

ARTICLE II: MISSION

To promote the achievement of prosperity, justice, liberty and an end to involuntary unemployment through the collection by government for public purposes the societally-created economic values attributable to land and natural resources; and

To simultaneously promote the removal of all taxation on human production (the term "human production" being defined to be the wealth produced by human labor and physical capital).

ARTICLE III: OBJECTIVES

The objectives of COMMON GROUND are:

- (a) To bring an end to the concentrated ownership of land and natural resources in all societies of the world.
- (b) To achieve the maximum amount of political and economic liberty for all individuals, as defined by the principles of justice espoused by Henry George and others of like mind and which shall be identified by the term "cooperative individualism."
- (c) To achieve the highest and best economic and social use of the earth's land and natural resources.
- (d) To achieve permanent peace and a reduction in tensions between nations by ending the monopolization not only of the earth's land and natural resources, but also the physical capital produced by human labor.

ARTICLE IV: STRATEGIES AND TACTICS

COMMON GROUND's realization of the above stated mission and objectives

shall be pursued in accordance with the strategies and tactics outlined herein (and/or as the Executive Committee shall deem appropriate):

Section 1 Strategies

- (a) To influence and mobilize legislators, public officials, opinion makers and the general public on the necessity to support and adopt remedies for those political, social and economic maladjustments listed under Article III hereof.
- (b) To sponsor and support legislators and legislation enabling government entities of all levels to derive revenues for essential public services from the societally produced value of land and natural resources.
- (c) To develop a corp of activist individuals who will work toward the mission and objectives of COMMON GROUND.

Section 2 Tactics

The followin tactics, and any others agreed upon by the Executive Committee shall be utilized to further the strategies listed under Section 1 hereof:

- (a) Develop materials and expertise in obtaining media space and air time in order to: (i) participate directly in appropriate radio and television programs; and (ii) present films and videotapes for discussion wherever the opportunity to do so can be capitalized on.
- (b) Develop and support candidates for public office who are sympathetic to and supportive of the organization's mission and objectives.
- (c) Develop model legislation, lobby directly and support other lobbyists where appropriate.
- (d) Support court actions preventing dissipation of the public right to the annual rental value of land and natural resources.
- (e) Raise money to support the activities of COMMON GROUND and any other individuals or organizations deemed to be guided by the same or similar mission.
- (f) Establish training programs to develop organizational leadership and leadership effectiveness (e.g., training in such skill areas as public relations, lobbying and

political action.

- (g) Develop a capability to provide services for members which will enable them to carry out our strategies at all levels of government involvement, research opportunities for direct action, clarify issues, provide guidelines and assist in organizing projects to exploit these opportunities.
- (h) Develop a capability to provide information, staff support and financing which will facilitate coordination of the activities of members and other groups.
- (i) Initiate and support the development of both manual and computer-based data in areas valuable to implementation of the above strategies.
- (j) Promote the development of and support chapters of the organization wherever the opportunity avails itself.
- (j) Assist and help financially support the educational programs of the Henry George School of Social Science, its extensions and affiliates.
- (k) Support the maintenance of a registry of all individuals who ascribe to the Georgist philosophy and/or are willing to be included in such a registry.
- (l) Publish an issues-oriented newspaper for general distribution to supporters.
- (m) Publish a newsletter for distribution to the membership.
- (n) Publish brochures and other literature describing the program and purposes of the organization, its objectives and strategies.
- (o) Organize, sponsor and conduct conferences, alone or in conjunction with other organizations, appropriate with the organization's strategies.

ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

Membership in COMMON GROUND shall be open to citizens of any and all nations who, by their actions, deeds and statements have demonstrated or expressed a desire to contribute to the mission and objectives of COMMON GROUND.

Section 2

Members must also be current on dues and dues are set in accordance with the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VI: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1

A Board of Directors, to be constituted by not less than nine (9) and not more than twenty-one (21) Members shall be elected by the Membership and serve in accordance with the By-Laws.

Section 2

No Director shall be eligible for appointment to a salaried position on the Executive Committee or other salaried position with COMMON GROUND.

ARTICLE VII: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

An Executive Committee of officers consisting of a President, Executive Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and serve in accordance with the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VIII: MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Section 1

COMMON GROUND's Membership shall meet annually or as otherwise provided to conduct those functions as proscribed in the By-Laws.

Section 2

The place and time of the annual meeting shall coincide with the annual Georgist conference.

Section 3

Special meetings of COMMON GROUND may be called at any time by the Board of Directors or by the President upon the written request of fifty (50) Members or fifty-one (51) percent of the Membership, whichever is greater.

Section 4

Members may vote by proxy in accordance with the procedures set forth in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE IX: QUORUM

Section 1

Fifty (50) Members or twenty-five (25%) percent of the Membership, whichever is present, shall constitute a quorum of the Membership for purposes of voting at the Annual Meeting.

Section 2

A two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X: REMUNERATION

Section 1

No part of the net income of COMMON GROUND shall inure directly or indirectly to the benefit of any Member, officer, director or individual as compensation for the performance of such duties and responsibilities as Members, officers or directors described under the By-Laws.

Section 2

Compensation to officers on the Executive Committee, or to any other salaried officers and staff must be approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 3

In the event of the dissolution of COMMON GROUND, those assets remaining shall not inure to the benefit of Members, officers, directors, or individuals but shall be transferred, assigned and set over to the COUNCIL OF GEORGIST ORGANIZATIONS, 5 East 44th Street, New York, New York 10017 (or such other legal address at the time of dissolution).

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS

Section 1

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the Membership at large of COMMON GROUND, except as stipulated under Section 1-A of this article.

Section 1-A

Any amendments to Article 1 of the By-Laws relating to the terms

of office requires a three-fourths majority vote of the Membership at large of COMMON GROUND.

Section 2

Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of COMMON GROUND at least three months before the next annual meeting. The Secretary shall immediately mail a copy of the proposed amendment to each Member. The proposal shall be introduced and voted on by ballot at the annual meeting.

B Y - L A W S

COMMON GROUND
Adopted July 17, 1985

ARTICLE I: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1

Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected for a three year term. One-third of the members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by the membership of COMMON GROUND at each annual meeting, provided that at the first Election under these By-Laws one-third of the members shall be elected for one year, one-third for two years and one-third for three years. Thereafter, expansion in the size of the Board of Directors must be made in multiples of three.

Section 2

Individuals nominated for election to the Board of Directors shall be required to submit to the Nominations Committee a brief, written autobiography detailing past and present activities in support of their candidacy. Candidates for election to the Board must be members in good standing of COMMON GROUND.

Section 3

The nomination form shall list the number of vacancies to the Board open for election. Each member shall nominate only one (1) person for each vacancy. The nominees to appear on the ballot shall be the three receiving the greatest number of nominations for each vacancy on the Board.

Section 4

Interim vacancies on the Board of Directors shall be filled through Board appointment, supported by a majority approval of the remaining Directors. Such appointments shall be for the period extending until the next annual meeting at which point an election shall be held to fill the remainder of the unexpired term.

Section 5

Ballots will be mailed to the membership at large one (1) month prior to the annual meeting. Ballots should be brought to the annual

meeting or returned by mail. Ballots will be counted and the results announced at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE II: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Section 1

An Executive Committee of Officers consisting of the President, Executive Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and will serve at the discretion of the Board.

Section 2

Duties of the Executive Committee

THE PRESIDENT:

- (a) Shall be the chief executive officer of COMMON GROUND.
- (b) Shall serve as the main representative to outside organizations, persons or groups.
- (c) As granted by the Board of Directors, may appoint committees or members to perform specific tasks.
- (d) Shall sign all orders and correspondence necessary to carry out the will of the membership.
- (e) Shall perform all other duties which may be assigned in the Constitution or by the Directors.
- (f) Shall prepare the official list of business for the next meeting and forwards the list to the Secretary.
- (g) Shall oversee submission of reports for the next meeting and presides at all membership meetings.
- (h) Shall become familiar with all of the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws.
- (i) Shall become familiar with Parliamentary Procedure.

THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT:

- (a) Shall assume the Presidency in case of the absence of the President.
- (b) May chair one or more of any committees at the request of the President.

- (c) Shall become familiar with all of the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws.
- (d) Shall become familiar with Parliamentary Procedure.

THE TREASURER:

- (a) Shall be responsible for handling COMMON GROUND's business or financial matters, including cash management and banking relationships.
- (b) Shall disburse funds to all legitimate creditors and other parties.
- (c) Shall collect funds accruing to COMMON GROUND from other organizations, individuals, or individual members in the form of assessments and contributions.
- (d) Shall maintain accurate records of all funds collected and disbursed.
- (e) Shall at any time be able to furnish a statement indicating the financial condition of COMMON GROUND.

THE SECRETARY:

- (a) Shall receive from the President the list of business to be considered at the next meeting.
- (b) Shall distribute the list of business to the members of the Board of Directors at the next meeting and, when so designated, to the membership at large.
- (c) Shall record the proceedings of the organizational meetings.
- (d) Shall bring to each meeting a copy of the Constitution, By-Laws, any standing rules and a manual on parliamentary procedure.
- (e) Shall carry on all necessary correspondence and shall submit copies thereof to other Executive Committee officers or committee chairpersons, as appropriate.
- (f) Shall record and maintain a record of meeting attendance.

ARTICLE III: ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Section 1

The President, or Executive Vice President (with consent of the President) may appoint members to fill offices of Administrative Vice President(s), Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Secretary.

Section 2

All administrative officers shall serve at the discretion of the President.

Section 3

The duties and responsibilities of such administrative officers shall include, but not be limited to, the chairing of Standing Committees and such other committees as from time to time are created by the President.

ARTICLE IV: STANDING COMMITTEES

The following Standing Committees and Chairpersons therefor shall be appointed, re-appointed or replaced by the President at any time:

- (a) Nominating Committee
- (b) Fundraising and Membership Committee
- (c) Program Committee
- (d) Finance Committee

Additional committees shall be appointed as deemed necessary by the President.

ARTICLE V: DUES

Dues for membership in COMMON GROUND shall be in an amount fixed by the Executive Committee at the beginning of each fiscal year.

ARTICLE VI: FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year shall begin on July 1.

ARTICLE VII: ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of COMMON GROUND shall coincide in time and place with the annual Georgist conference.

ARTICLE VIII: RULES OF ORDER

"Roberts Rules of Order" shall be used as parliamentary authority where it is not superseded by the Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution, may be amended without previous notice by a two-thirds majority vote at any meeting of the membership of COMMON GROUND, provided that no change in the By-Laws take effect until thirty (30) days after the change has been made.

ARTICLE X: FINANCIAL DISBURSEMENTS

The signatures of any two of the four Executive Committee officers are required for financial disbursement by check, money order or any other document. No Executive Committee officer shall be authorized to sign any check or other instrument payable to himself or herself.

C O M M O N G R O U N D
C H A R T E R M E M B E R S H I P

Atwater, Eugene
1403 Avon Park Terrace
90026

Bonner, Colin J.
P.O. Box 237
Canmore, Alberta, Canada T0L0M0

Brim, Alice

Burger, John
3750 Bayside Road
Long Lake, MN 55356

Clark, Lawrence D. Sr.
21 Emerson Road
Medfield, MS 02052

*Collins, George L.
2000 Valley Forge Circle, No. 1235
Valley Forge, PA 19406

Davis, John A.
1051 Mason Wood Drive
Atlanta, GA 30329

Davis, Mary R.
1051 Mason Wood Drive
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dawson, J. Paul

Dodson, Edward J.
206 Pearlcroft Road
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

Friend, Evelyn J.
5216 Fernwood Way
Sacramento, CA 95841

Gerard, Archie V.
4002 Marian
La Mesa, CA 92041

Grant, Evelyn

Greenhill, Maxine

Gross, Everett W.
945 Longwood Drive
Crete, NE 68333

Hanson, Earl A.
P.O. Box 207
Cedar City, UT 84720

Hathoway, W.A.

Herzberg, Morris

*Himmelstein, Jacob
137 Union Avenue
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Hope, Joseph

*Jene, Robert F.
3922 N. Pine Grove
Chicago, IL 60613

Jespersion, Joseph
225 Avoca Avenue
Massapequa Park, NY 11762

Johannsen, Oscar B.
825 Walnut Street
Roselle Park, NJ 07204

Kelly, John L.
123 S.W. Adams
Peoria, IL 61602

Levetan, Liane

Lott, Michael

McFee, Edith

*McKean, Jacquelin A.
711 Fairhope Avenue
Fairhope, AL 36532

Morrow, Floyd
7132 Belden Street
San Diego, CA 92111

*O'Brien, David
2102 E. Tern Bay Lane
Lakewood, CA 90712

Ossias, Fryda L.
115-25 Metropolitan Avenue

Kew Gardens, NY 11418

Parry, Virginia

*Pirouzan, Amir
9574 Lamar Street
Spring Valley, CA 92077

Sapiro, Marion
1566 Monte Viento Drive
Malibu, CA 90265

Sapiro, Stan
1566 Monte Viento Drive
Malibu, CA 90265

Saunders, Vernon I.
68 W. Holcroft Road
Rochester, NY 14612

Seeley, Everett

Colorado Springs, CO

*Sherrard, Tom
2230 Morley Street
San Diego, CA 92111

Simpkins, Irwin

*Stoner, Nadine
1118 Central Avenue
Beloit, WI 53511

Tierney, Mary

*Venturella, Sam
4721 N. Hermitage Avenue
Chicago, IL 60640

Ward, Adele

Williams, D.A.*
6127 Pershing Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63112

Williams, Woodrow
17500 Road U
Columbus Grove, OH 45830

Yeatman, Arthur R.
R.D.1
Cochranville, PA 19330

* STILL TO BE BILLED FOR MEMBERSHIP DUES