

COUNCIL OF GEORGIST ORGANIZATIONS

International Headquarters: 5 East 44th St., New York NY 10017

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March 19, 1987

Floyd Morrow, President
Basic Economic Education
2200 Morley Street
San Diego, CA 92111

Dear Floyd:

We tried unsuccessfully to reach you by phone today. Yesterday we phoned and talked with Jeff and Jim. There seemed to be some disappointment on Jim's part as to the matter of Conference planning. He suggested that we clarify this with you.

As you know, an outline of the 1987 Conference was made as far back as the 1986 Conference in May. Jeff was elected Deputy Chairman of the Council with the idea that he would be the Council's "anchor man" at BEE. In July we circulated to all members the Conference outline with requests for suggestions. We sent extra questionnaires to BEE because it stands to reason that BEE would be a key factor in Conference decisions. Outside of Jeff, the only person from BEE who responded to the Questionnaire was Louis Freeman, who approved the outline.

It was disappointing not to hear from more BEE people, although we did have some phone conversations. Based on these we supposed there was general agreement. This was further confirmed when Jeff came to New York following the Nicaragua trip. All three of us worked on a tentative Conference program, showed it to some people here, and based on this, we sent out our Council Letter in February. Still we did not hear from you folks!

When we phoned Jim yesterday, he expressed disappointment with the program, told us he was Conference Coordinator and that a more "exciting" program must be planned. He sounded unimpressed when we reminded him that this is the Annual Conference of the CGO; that of course BEE as host has an important role to play; that we had not any communications from BEE about it; that we had advanced far in the planning and it is late in the game to scratch everything.

Programming has been based on input received and we did the best we could on the recommendations of CGO members. There is still some leeway in the program to accomodate changes, extra workshops (which can be concurrent if necessary), and so on. Wednesday and Saturday nights, which are the two most important ones, depend on BEE to finalize. The names listed are based on our work with Jeff in February, with the understanding that BEE could invite other speakers in addition to those listed.

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To liberate production from taxation, the earth from monopoly
and humanity from poverty

There is indeed much for BEE to do - and for the Conference Co-ordinator to do. In addition to the opening night and the Banquet, we are relying on you folks for the logistics of the Conference to make it run smoothly: accomodations, meeting rooms, audio-visual aids, meals, travel, special events, bus tour, hospitality at BEE, estimation of finances, reception of Conferees, etc., etc.

It stands to reason that we've been in touch mostly with Jeff as he is the elected Deputy Chairman of the Council. We presume that he also represents BEE. We want to do the right thing for all concerned - but without knowing what you folks have in mind, we are working in the dark. We need clearer signals from BEE, not contradictory ones.

We here are sure things can be worked out. But we all must proceed with the understanding that this is the Annual Conference of the Council of Georgist Organizations with Basic Economic Education as the host - just as we have a Georgist host in a different city each year; and that CGO decisions are democratically made with all members participating.

If there is any difficulty with this concept we need to know before we proceed further. We hope the basic premises can be agreed upon - then we can straighten out any details.

We'd much prefer to hear from you by letter, promptly, as to the above. We discovered, rather painfully, that what we thought were understandings with Jim were in fact misunderstandings. So we turn to you as the chief arbiter.

Time is marching on - so please let's have your input. We're sure we can cooperate for a great Conference!

Yours,



Robert Clancy, Chairman



Mark A. Sullivan, Secretary

cc. Jeff Smith and Jim Dorrenkott