

Erie Land Tax Association

ELTA

2217 PENINSULA DRIVE

ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA

September 15, 1965

A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO GEORGISTS EVERYWHERE

Dear Friends:

This is an emergency. It is really an act of desperation. An election is just around the corner, November 2nd, and a young Republican is running for City Council with Land Value Taxation as his main platform. His reputation and political future are in our hands. If we can elect him he can go far. If he is defeated both he and those of us pushing for LVT in Erie will suffer.

We need at least \$5,000.00 to reach the electorate and the tragic fact is that we have less than \$500.00 with which to work. We have put too much time and money into this campaign to have our gains "go down the drain".

Gilbert Tucker, President of the Economic Education League of Albany, spent \$17,000.00 in Pennsylvania before the funds were depleted. After that the Henry George Foundation of Pittsburgh picked up the ball. By 1964 their funds were exhausted. About that time I "came of age" and began to draw Social Security. This, along with a small pension, free rent for home and office, and some supply preaching, takes care of my basic needs and I am able to carry on without salary. A few Georgists across the country send us regular monthly checks. These have literally kept our work alive. But we are now faced with a big task that requires a lot more money, and SOON.

Our mailing list is not very good. We have about 1,000 names but who knows where most of them are? Georgists are divided roughly into two camps. Some are involved in educational activity and they enjoy tax exemption for their donors. We are involved in political action and must depend upon smaller gifts. We appreciate what others are doing, but in Pennsylvania we have a law and we can work toward the setting up of a test case for LVT. John Morales of Balboa, one of our regular givers, feels strongly that Georgists everywhere should rally to the support of the work in Erie. This is the only effort of its kind being made and victory here could mean a gigantic step forward for all who share our convictions. In fact, if he were writing this, he would make it much stronger and insist that for all of us "it is getting dark". Who knows how much time any of us have left? It is easy these days to give way to pessimism.

This is an amazingly difficult task. We may have all the arguments but people are slow to comprehend. They have to hear of something like this many times before they begin to give it brain room. If I were not involved emotionally in this I wouldn't tackle such a job for less than a fund of \$75,000.00. You know how people are. Certainly you know how difficult it is to open their eyes. It is just as tough here but we do have a law and that has helped tremendously. We have literally thousands who like LVT. Now is the time to press for a decision.

Can you send us a check at once? Can you see your way clear to put us into your budget? We dare not stop now. We have come too far and our gains must be consolidated. We are sending an appeal to Erie people reminding them that this is their town but most of them have no conception of how important an opportunity this is. We feel that until a demonstration is made that we must depend upon the people who understand.

P. S. The HGF in Pittsburgh provided our list and addressed the envelopes. Please send checks to ELTA--2217 Peninsula Dr. Erie, Pa.

Very cordially yours,



W. Wyllie Young, Executive Director
Erie Land Tax Association