

PUBLIC REVENUE EDUCATION COUNCIL

EDUCATIONAL • NON-POLITICAL • NON-PROFIT / RM. 339 / 906 OLIVE ST. / ST. LOUIS, MO. 63101 / 314 • 421-5630

December 15, 1982

Dear Valued Friend of P.R.E.C.:

Sincere Season's Greetings from all of us, here, making up your mid-continent Site Value Taxation education and promotional "arm", along with a heartfelt "God bless you!" from our dear President Emeritus, Noah Alper, whose motivating force is with us always, and who joins in our sincere thanks for your 1982 support, and our earnest invitation for you to assist us financially in 1983.

Much real headway was made during the past year, in working toward our goal of achieving economic freedom for all, through the pathway of Site Value Taxation. Accross our State there is an increased -- and increasing -- awareness of what Site Value Taxation means, and what it can and does do, and while we missed by just a "smidgin" getting enabling Site Value Taxation language into our Missouri Constitution, (74 votes "against" vs. 78 votes "for"), the strong base for near-future enactment of such a Constitutional amendment has been laid, and we look confidently toward winning this important step in the coming session of our General Assembly. Here are just a few of the activities, and results, we've achieved over the past 12 months, extracted from our 1982 office "log":

1. Your generous financial help has enabled strong progress for our Cause, as you'll see in the items to follow.
2. Esteemed PREC Director Vic Wasicki, a strong SVT activist who exerted his influence nation-wide, departed this life in mid-1982. Sadly missed, his untiring efforts served as models for us all, and have motivated every one of us to re-dedicate ourselves to stronger efforts.
3. Departed Director, Susan Ryan, lives on with all of us, particularly through a wonderful bequest to PREC announced recently in the probating of her will.
4. Directors Casey & Killoren developed a master-coded 1000 name mailing list (up from our earlier one of only about 300 names.)
5. Director Killoren, engaged as a special investigator and consultant, produced our new Site Value Taxation brochure, and completed and published a mini-survey of 108 St. Louis properties, selected at random, proving that under Site Value Taxation, between 70% and 75% of all St. Louis homeowners will pay lower real property taxes under the SVT system than under our present system. This has gone to our entire mailing list.
6. Directors Casey and Killoren were interviewed on St. Louis CBS affiliate Radio Station KMOX re Site Value Taxation -- taped and expected to be aired.
7. Missouri State Representative Walt Mueller, using data from Directors Casey and Killoren, was motivated, along with Repr. Tom Villa, to spon-

sor SVT legislation, via a Constitutional Amendment, early in the year. All P.R.E.C. people, individually, pushed and lobbied for this throughout the year -- to enable the separate tax rating of locations from the levies on buildings and improvements, on a local option basis. The language was defeated, after lively debate in the Missouri House, later in the year, BUT -- it lost by only 4 votes -- 74 to 78. Walt is, even now, in the process of re-introducing the language, in new form, into the new session of the General Assembly, and, with the much greater exposure and education now than formerly, we have hopes that this time it will prevail!

8. The Greater St. Louis Commerce and Growth Association, the "Civic Progress" group of companies, and other large economically and politically-minded groups, have been introduced to Site Value Taxation, and efforts continue to stimulate them to action in our behalf.
9. Multiple copies of Dan Sullivan's "PITTSBURGH'S LAND VALUE TAX" were distributed to the St. Louis Real Estate Board, at the request of their President, Mr. Walter Stradal, to whom we'd introduced it.
10. The Engineering Foundation Conference on "LAND POLICY THROUGH TAXATION" was brought to our attention in March, by Walt Rybeck and John Burger -- Conference to occur at Rindge, New Hampshire, July 11-16, 1982. Funding was sought by us to sponsor local key political leaders -- we set aside a good sum to assist Walt Mueller, or any of several other leaders to attend. Mayors of St. Louis, East St. Louis, Ill., County Supervisor (St. Louis County), the Governor of Missouri, and a number of legislators were prodded to attend. However, this being an election year, all pleaded they needed the time to campaign. However, our Honorary Director, the Hon. Thomas B. Curtis, was selected to be the keynote speaker. Joe Casey reported at length on the "meat" and fine substance of the Conference, upon his return, in late July.
11. During the year, a number of presentations were made, of our Site Value Taxation slide show, to high school Economics classes, to several political party meetings, to a number of service clubs, etc. It's one of our ways of getting the Site Value Taxation concept accross to individuals and groups to whom it is something entirely new in their thinking. (We're convinced that talking to people outside the sphere of Georgists will do more to enhance our Cause than "talking among ourselves," which we are too often prone to do.)
12. Director Joe Casey was interviewed about Site Value Taxation by a representative of United Press International, and, in addition, he presented the SVT story to a St. Louis "Town Meeting", presided over by St. Louis Mayor, Vincent Schoemehl, who seemed very interested in it.
13. Dr. Roy McIntosh, of Tarkio College, Tarkio, Missouri, invited us to participate in their Plains States Assembly, in July, at which the theme was to be "THE FARM AND THE CITY AND THEIR INTERDEPENDENCE". As the meeting overlapped the Pittsburgh Conference by a day or so, no PREC director could go, but Georgist John Morales, of Maryville, Missouri, attended, got our message accross, and distributed SVT literature.

14. Site Value Taxation correspondence is being carried on by a number of us in PREC, and our relatives and friends, with such notables as Dr. Arthur Laffer, Dr. Milton Friedman, Mr. George Gilder (author of "Wealth and Poverty") and others. Getting some of them to back our great Cause is one of our goals, especially if they'll do so publicly.
15. Copies of "LAND AND LIBERTY" are in the process of being distributed to key people, and work is afoot to get this publication into the hands of all Missouri legislators, who, also, are going to get another year's subscription of Steve Cord's "INCENTIVE TAXATION", to prepare them, once again, for the coming effort on our part to get SVT into our Missouri Constitution. Mr. Fred Harrison, Editor of "LAND AND LIBERTY" was kind enough to write and publish, in his magazine, a nice article about our PREC St. Louis "push" with Site Value Taxation. It was PREC president Al Lubin's pleasure to visit Fred Harrison in person, when Al was in England, this past summer.
16. While our Missouri Constitution dictates the same "real property tax" rate on land as that on buildings and improvements, most buildings now going up in our cities are erected with "tax abatement" -- no tax on the buildings, for some period of years. This blatantly violates the Constitutional principle that buildings must be taxed at the same rate as the land. Research, however, reveals that the Constitution of our State contains an "exception" under which the abatement is permitted.
17. Directors Frederiksen and Casey participated in the Joint Georgist Conference in Pittsburgh, July 16 - 19, 1982. Frederiksen was greatly honored by being elected a Director of the Henry George Foundation. A full report of the Conference was made and distributed to all PREC officers and directors.
18. During the year a number of "Letters to the People" on Site Value Taxation were published in some major Missouri Newspapers, authored by PREC officers and directors.
19. Copies of U. S. Congressman Bill Coyne's fine after-banquet speech at the Pittsburgh Conference, as well as the great talk by Perry Prentice at the International Conference at Utrecht, have been copied and widely distributed to key people.
20. Director Joe Casey wrote, and distributed, a multi-page comprehensive proposal to coordinate all Georgist activities throughout the Country, and sent it, for editing and critique, to major Georgist people and organizations across the land. Much fine input was gained.
21. In August, Directors Frederiksen and Casey met with Representatives (Missouri State) Walt Mueller and Sheila Lumpe at the headquarters of the CORO Foundation (a division of the Danforth Foundation) to seek their help in developing a greatly enlarged and more creditable sampling of St. Louis properties, and the potential effect upon them of Site Value Taxation. Walt Mueller initiated the contact. Two "fellows" were assigned to us by CORO, and under the direct guidance of Joe Casey, sampled some 1000 properties on a random basis. The results closely paralleled the earlier mini-sample, but brought out some new and quite exciting phenomena. Joe has been commissioned to complete and publish the study, and it will be made available, pos-

sibly in pamphlet form.

22. Kansas City Georgists have been contacted, with the objective of having them initiate, in the Jackson County area, a random real property study, such as the two in St. Louis, which confirm each other.
23. Early this month, Walt Mueller has been processing the introduction of his Site Value Taxation enabling legislation Constitutional Amendment, and we expect to hear shortly that his project is "on track". Walt has drawn the great support of Mrs. Harry Gunnison Brown, of Columbia, Missouri, and a significant number of key Economists of the University of Missouri, at both Columbia and St. Louis. In addition, he has been developing strong support within the Labor Movement in this area (which, of course, has much to gain from Site Value Taxation.)

To help us carry on with this very rewarding and productive (for the Site Value Taxation concept) activity, will you (a) send your enrollment/investment/contribution -- substantial or modest -- using the form below, and (b) include your request for SVT literature we have available. (Partial list on the coupon below). All are available at no charge.

Thanks most sincerely. Your generous help will provide a substantial part of the means to help us work toward your better future -- and everyone else's. Send your response on the convenient coupon below. You'll have our deepest gratitude.

Cordially and "HAPPY HOLIDAYS"!

Stanley A. Frederiksen,
Executive Director

PUBLIC REVENUE EDUCATION COUNCIL -- Stan Frederiksen
906 Olive Street, Room 339 -- St. Louis, Missouri 63101

Date _____

Dear Stan: You bet! Keep working toward those goals you've set for Site Value Taxation. Accept my 1983 membership, as follows:

Life Associate - \$1,000 and over \$	Encouraging Ass'te - \$10 + \$
Sustaining Ass'te - \$500 + \$	Basic Membership - \$5.00 \$
Participating Ass'te - \$100 + \$	Total Enclosed - - - - - \$

And please send copies of PREC-available SVT literature -- partial list below. (Write in others you feel we may have, or can get for you).

Title _____ Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

PARTIAL LIST OF PREC-AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS -- (check those you'd like us to send)

- ☐ THE FOUNDATION OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM (Alper)
- ☐ ARE PROPERTY TAXES OBSOLETE? (Alper)
- ☐ WRONG SOURCE PUBLIC REVENUE (PREC)
- ☐ HOW TO REDUCE GOVERNMENT SPENDING, COSTS AND TAXES, AND INCREASE PRODUCTION AT THE SAME TIME (Alper)
- ☐ FATHER MCGLYNN AND THE LAND QUESTION (Fr. Edward McGlynn)

- ☐ A DILEMMA OF CONTEMPORARY KEYNESISM (Dr. Harry Gunnison Brown)
- ☐ LAND VALUE TAXATION - A STAFF REPORT (U.S. Conf. of Mayors - 1965)
- ☐ IS IT TIME TO REFORM THE PROPERTY TAX? (Alper)
- ☐ HOW COLLEGE TEXTBOOKS TREAT LAND VALUE TAXATION (Elizabeth Read Brown)
- ☐ OTHER _____

(Use other side, if necessary)