

PUBLIC REVENUE EDUCATION COUNCIL

EDUCATION•NON-POLITICAL•NON-PROFIT/SUITE 201/111 CHURCH ST./ST. LOUIS, MO. 63135-2458/314•524-6650 OR 314•521-2514

December 15, 1985

Dear Valued Friend of PREC:

Happy Holiday Greetings -- and a special resounding "HAPPY NEW YEAR" to you and yours, from all of us at PREC! My, how time does fly! Here we are again, winding up another eventful year of activity on the Site Value Taxation front, and ready to "take off" on what we plan to be a successful 1986 project to get Missouri established as the next SVT State. We hope this report of 1985 activities here will show you some progress, and persuade you that your continued -- maybe enhanced -- financial support for PREC will be worthwhile for you, as it certainly will be a tremendous "lift" for us. Real progress was made in 1985 -- our "push" is ready to start in January, in the Missouri General Assembly. WE NEED YOU!

Here are some '85 highlights, which your very tangible support helped make possible:

1. 1/7/85 -- PREC slide series, "HOW YOU CAN ACHIEVE ECONOMIC FREEDOM"* presented to three Lindbergh High School classes in Economics, followed by showing of SVT movie, "FOR THE LAND IS MINE". Excellent impact! One outstanding student was so impressed, he met with several of us (including Repr. Walt Mueller) to draft a bill which he, as a student representative to a Missouri-wide "Student General Assembly" in our State Capitol, would introduce, establishing a Site Value Taxation plan for Missouri.
2. 1/11/85 -- PREC participated in Chicago meeting/seminar of the "BETTER CITIES COMMITTEE OF ILLINOIS", showing "A TALE OF FIVE CITIES" to a group of 45 participants, of whom only 15 were Georgists! Good impact. Good panel discussion. Some converts made, including some Chicago officials.
3. 1/23/85 -- PREC member-Director, Dr. Irene Hickman (Kirkville) phoned -- has interested Mr. Steve Reiser, Kirkville auto dealer, and official in Kirkville "J.C.'s", in the Site Value concept. "A TALE OF FIVE CITIES" piqued his interest -- he shows promise of expanding our concept through the J.C.'s across the State.
4. 1/28/85 -- PREC's Stan and Neal Frederiksen presented oral and written testimony before the St. Louis Area Catholic Bishops open forum, espousing the Site Value theme, this meeting being to draw public comment and discussion of the National Catholic Bishops' Pastoral Letter on the U.S. Economy (first draft). We submitted a full written statement, and attached a copy of the outstanding letter which Jack Kelly (Scranton) has earlier dispatched to the National Catholic Bishops Conference in Washington. This meeting was moderated by St. Louis Archbishop May, Bishop O'Donnell and Monseignor John Shocklee. Following the formal presentations, we visited personally with all three. Msgr. Shocklee told us, "Right on! You were talking Henry George economics! You know, the philosophies and principles of Henry George are gaining more validity every day!" It developed that Msgr. Shocklee was a long-time close friend of our late Noah Alper.
5. 1/23/85 -- PREC meeting -- preliminary discussions of work and plans for the CGO Conference which will definitely be held in St. Louis in July, 1985.

* NOTE - PREC Slide Series, with complete text, now available at our cost - \$25.00. Your order will be most welcome, and handled expeditiously. (Set includes 28 slides in all).

6. 2/2/85 - - Repr. Walt Mueller - - reports (a) his SVT bill for Missouri Gen'l Assembly is ready - - he has 14 co-sponsors in the House; (b) No action before now because of deep confusion about recent re-assessment legislation (this is still in deep trouble); (c) Walt to seek an audience with Governor Ascroft, to gain his support; (d) Walt also seeking key people on the Senate side to sponsor SVT bill there; (e) at least one State Senator pretty much anti-SVT - - Walt working to get him on our side.
7. 2/3/85 - - Jim Frederiksen (Chicago) (a) working with Ill. Senator Bob Kustra - - showed him "A TALE OF FIVE CITIES" - - possibility of showing the film in Springfield, Ill; (b) in touch with Governor Thompson's Chicago office, to get the Governor or his designate to view the film; (c) invited John L. Kelly (Peoria) to Chicago, to see the film, (d) has generated great interest in Dan O'Brien, Cook County Commissioner - - Dan much interested, especially because appraisal/assessment in Cook County is in a real mess.
8. 2/5/85 ff. - - starting work with Bob Clancy (mostly phone) to develop logistics of July CGO Conference, now set for Washington University, St. Louis - - got agreement signed with Wash. U. housing & food people.
9. 2/8/85 - - Dir. Tom Lehmann and Stan Frederiksen participated in "Town Meeting", held at U. of Ill. - Edwardsville, Ill., hosted by Ill. Senator, Paul Simon. Prodded Simon, from the floor, to look for the answers to public revenue problems in the Site Value concept. Also wrote him.
10. 2/13/85 - - Presented PREC slide series to three economics classes at Bethalto, Ill. High School, under Barbara Orr and Amy Paschedag - - good impact.
11. 2/14/85 - - Again at Bethalto High School, for three presentations of movie, "FOR THE LAND IS MINE", as follow-up to the slide presentations previous day. very good response - - amplified what was said day before - - real "glimmering" of understanding among the students.
12. 2/22/85 - - Meeting in Walt Mueller's office to "orchestrate" testimony by pro-SVT people at upcoming (2/26) House Committee hearings in Jefferson City - - much "homework" to be done.
13. 2/23/85 - 2/25/85 - - Long L.D. talks with Walt Rybeck, Steve Cord and others for "ammunition" for 2/26 House hearings.
14. 2/26/85 - - SVT Hearing before House Committee on Property Equalization and Classification, Repr. David Rauch presiding. Walt Mueller introduced HJR # 33 (essentially for a Constitutional Amendment to enable SVT in Missouri, on a local option basis.) Witnesses - - Prof's. Walter Johnson, Edw. Metzen, - - Joe Casey, Stan Frederiksen, Beth (Mrs. Harry Gunnison) Brown. Impact seems to have been very good.
15. 3/3/85 - 3/28/85 - - Various meetings - - showings of "A TALE OF FIVE CITIES" - - lining up speakers for CGO Conference - - working to make "believers" in SVT out of "on the fence" Missouri legislators, etc. - - work with key U. of Mo. professors to educate some legislators about SVT.
16. Walt Mueller reports HJR # 33 is on House Calendar for upcoming debate.

17. Steve Reiser presentations of "A TALE OF FIVE CITIES" in the Kirksville area. (4/14/85)
18. 4/23/85 - - Family gave Stan a personal copy of "A TALE OF FIVE CITIES" as a birthday present! Super! PREC now has two copies.
19. 5/5/85 - - much long distance calling to help educate and influence doubting Missouri legislators - - Walt Rybeck (example) made some calls for us.
20. 5/8/85 - - Working with Ed Dodson to plan Common Ground conference on day before CGO Conference in July. Details set, and phoned to Ed.
21. 5/10/85 - - Walt Mueller called - - GOOD NEWS! The House Committee had, earlier, moved HJR # 33 forward to the House floor for debate - - Walt said the entire House had JUST PASSED HJR # 33 BY A VOTE OF 129 TO 15! Now we begin to bring in the best witnesses we can find, from around the Country, to testify before the Senate Committee - - likely the week of May 20. PREC to help sponsor any and all who may need financial help to get here.
22. Phone from Walt Mueller - - HJR # 33 on Senate Calendar for hearing 8:00 P.M. Tuesday evening, May 21. Potential witnesses for us - - Messrs. Poelker, Curtis, Brazelton, Metzen, Johnson, Bill Robinson, Walt Rybeck, Steve Cord and others to be contacted. (Date - - 5/15/85)
23. HJR # 33 Senate hearings - Jefferson City. Giving testimony were Beth Brown, Prof. 's Ed Metzen and Walter Johnson, Walt Mueller, Steve Cord (from Pittsburgh), Walt Rybeck (from Kensington, Md.), and the Hon. Tom Curtis. (Note - - this was before a Senate committee - - and it DID pass, meaning it would go to the Senate floor for debate). (Date 5/21/85)
24. 5/21/85 - 6/27/85 - - Ltr. from Walt Mueller - - HJR # 33, due for debate on the Senate floor, "didn't make it", because of a Senate filibuster on a completely different bill concerning the upcoming Missouri lottery! Foiled again! (Zounds!). Back to "square one".
25. 6/27/85 - 7/17/85 - - multitude of details re CGO Conference.
26. 7/17/85 - 7/21/85 - - CGO Conference, Washington University, St. Louis. Drew almost 100 people - - 118 participated in Conference Banquet. See Georgist Journal for excellent summary of proceedings. St. Louis Mayor Schoemehl sent Jack Keane with a Proclamation of July 15-21 as "HENRY GEORGE WEEK IN ST. LOUIS". All sessions well presented and orderly - - very educational and stimulating. Good reports from almost all sectors. Primary focus was primarily upon Missouri activities - - much effort to impress Missouri officials - - almost all PREC officers and directors participated - - speakers included Msgr. Schocklee and four Economics professors from the three major University of Missouri campuses - - banquet speakers were The Hon. Tom Curtis, The Hon. John Poelker, and the Hon. Walt Mueller - - Beth Brown received a Missouri House resolution (framed) commending her for her outstanding service - - plaques were awarded to four Missouri Representatives and two Senators, for their great help to Walt Mueller in his SVT push during the recent spring. We thank you all for the rare privilege of being able to host this conference in St. Louis. We were able to get some significant coverage in several St. Louis area newspapers, and an important one in Kansas City.

27. 7/21/85 - - Emanating from the Conference was a letter from the Conferees to President Reagan, officially asking him and his staff to look into Site Value Taxation as a very important option in his current effort to achieve "tax reform" nationally.
28. 9/12/85 - - PREC Meeting - - important, because Joe Casey had announced he's moving to Fairfax, Virginia, and we'd have to consider this, in view of the fact that he's our president. It was agreed Joe will continue as president of PREC, temporarily, being our "arm" in the East - - until circumstances may make it advisable to re-think this position, and elect a new president.
29. Director Neal Frederiksen announced he's joined "ACORN", an activist organization, in which he sees their efforts at improving our economy to be an excellent area in which to further our SVT ideals, which are certainly in line with the overall objectives of ACORN.
30. 9/20/85 ff. - - Correspondence with Morgan Harris, relative to COMMON GROUND, and how we can help him, Steve Cord and Ed Dodson, in building this new organization. We do have some "expertise" in the fund-raising area, in that one of our directors, Lou Basso, is a professional in this field, heading up the development department for a large St. Louis organization. Lou already has given Morgan excellent input upon which to build for the future.
31. 9/27/85 - - Received invitation from State Repr. David Rauch, co-Chairman (along with Senator Henry Panathiere) of the "Missouri Joint House-Senate Committee on Ad Valorem Real Property Taxation", to make presentations on SVT to six upcoming hearings at different locations across our State by this Committee. Fourteen members make up this Committee. Dave Rauch had told me, at the CGO Conference, that our SVT idea was of such interest that he wanted our input, when the Committee should make its study. Efforts started at once, to have ~~someone~~ testify pro-SVT at each of the six locations. The dates - - 10/8, 10/9, 10/29, 10/30, 11/4 and 11/18-19, 1985. Started at once to "gather the troops" to make this a good effort.
32. 10/8/85 - - hearings started - - PREC and friends participation as follows:

10/8 - - Cape Girardeau, Mo. - -	Walt Mueller testified.
10/9 - - St. Louis, Mo.	Stan Frederiksen "
10/29 - - Springfield, Mo.	No SVT witness could attend and testify.
10/30 - - Kansas City, Mo.	Chuck Byrne (submitted Written testimony)
11/4 - - Kirksville, Mo.	Irene Hickman testified - - presented the entire movie, "A TALE OF FIVE CITIES"
11/18 -- Jefferson City -	Beth Brown, Repr. Chris Kelly, Mr. Charles Atkins (Columbia businessman) and Dr. Herbert Schoöling, (Retired Chancellor of the Uni- versity of Missouri - Columbia) testified.
33. 10/29/85 - - Walt Mueller phoned - - some Committee members had gotten, at their request, a copy of the Pennsylvania Economy League (PRL) report of March, 1985, which said, in effect, that in their study of the impact of the Pittsburgh "two-tier", or "graded" tax (the Site Value Taxation concept) they had found its impact negligible. Actually, what the Committee people got was only the "Executive Summary". We tackled it, paragraph by paragraph, and found it to be not only wrong, in reporting "little or no impact" made by Pittsburgh's graded tax, but actually a resounding endorsement of what

the Site Value Tax really does. We wrote up a complete critique of the PEL Executive Summary, and sent it to Walt Mueller, who had it printed into numerous copies, and sent our critique to all the members of the Joint Committee. (A copy of the critique is available to anyone who wants it. Steve Cord (Pittsburgh) and Chuck Metalitz (Chicago) have made their own excellent critiques, working from the complete 71 page report, and will be happy to send copies, as you may request.

34. 11/29/85 - - Walt Mueller phoned - - Good news! He has obtained the promise of State Senators Harry Wiggins and Henry Panethiere to co-sponsor his new SVT Bill in the Senate, in January, while he (Walt) and some other representatives introduce the new bill into the House. (Note - - Henry Panethiere smiles broadly when we testify - - and proudly announces that he first learned about Site Value Taxation and Henry George as a student of Dr. Harry Gunnison Brown, in the Economics Department of the University of Missouri, years ago!)
35. 12/10/85 - - Hosted a dinner with a key St. Louis City official and his wife, and discussed Site Value Taxation in depth, as a great option that the City of St. Louis should have available as a major source of public revenue. This gentleman very close to St. Louis Mayor Schoemehl, just might be able to set up a meeting, at which we can make a presentation of SVT to the Mayor, and seek his support in Jefferson City. After all, the Metropolitan St. Louis area (the city and surrounding counties) contain just about half of the entire population of the State of Missouri! Just having SVT as an option (whether it were ever to be invoked or not) would be a great piece of leverage for the St. Louis Mayor. (We keep emphasizing that all we seek, at present, is an SVT enabling amendment to our Missouri Constitution.)

To help with our push, as you have so generously in the past, will you (a) send your enrollment/contribution, using the form below. "Upping" your amount this year would be an extra "plus", in view of our expected greater 1986 needs for our planned legislative push. And (b) include your request for literature (partial list below - - all at no charge).

Thanks for your great help. We'll use your input to establish Site Value here, but also to work for a better future for you. We'll be ever so grateful. (As you know, all of us here engage in SVT as a "labor of love". None of us is paid - - at all! Your every cent of investment here goes to rent, postage, L.D. phone calls, etc.)

Remember our comment in last year's letter? That every person is a Georgist - - ! Our mission in life is to make him (or her) realize that! What a challenge!

Most cordially - - and "HAPPY HOLIDAYS!"

Stanley A. Frederiksen, Executive Director

PREC - Stan Frederiksen - Suite 201, 111 Church St., St. Louis, Mo. 63135 Date _____
 Dear Stan: Sure! Keep pushing for SVT! And please accept my 1985 membership, as follows:
 Life Ass'te - - - - \$1,000 - up \$ _____ Encourag. Ass'te - \$10.00 - up \$ _____
 Sustain. Ass'te - - \$ 500 - up \$ _____ Basic Membership - \$ 5.00 \$ _____
 Partic. Ass'te - - \$ 100 - up \$ _____ Total Enclosed - - - - - \$ _____

And please send copies of PREC-available literature - - partial list below -- write in others

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> THE FOUNDATION OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM (Alper) | <input type="checkbox"/> FATHER MCGLYNN AND THE LAND QUESTION (McGlynn) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ARE PROPERTY TAXES OBSOLETE? (Alper) | <input type="checkbox"/> A DILEMMA OF CONTEMPORARY KEYNESISM (H.G. Brown) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WRONG SOURCE PUBLIC REVENUE (PRE) | <input type="checkbox"/> IS IT TIME TO REFORM THE PROPERTY TAX (Alper) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HOW TO REDUCE GOV'T SPENDING/INCREASE PROD. | <input type="checkbox"/> HOW COLLEGE TEXTBOOKS TREAT LVT (Eliz. R. Brown) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Use other side, if necessary) |

(Don't forget your name and address!)