

Liberate production from taxation! Liberate the earth from monopoly! Liberate humanity from poverty!

INTERMOUNTAIN SINGLE TAX ASSOCIATION

I S T A

PRESIDENT: JAMES L. BUSEY, BOX 7, MANITOU SPRINGS, COLORADO 80829

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: EARL A. HANSON, BOX 207, CEDAR CITY, UTAH 84720 586-6362

ARIZONA:

CHAIRMAN

CAROL M. GIMMI

1022 S. TREE MOSS AVE.

TUCSON, AZ 85710

SECRETARY

ELAINE G. COONS

4762 E. MORELAND

PHOENIX, AZ 85008

NEVADA:

CHAIRMAN

EDWIN PINSON

393 E. RAWHIDE

LAS VEGAS, NV 89120

September 27, 1990

To: Lt. Governor W. Val Oveson, Conference Chairman
Blueprint for Utah's Economic Future
September 27, 1990 at St. George, Utah

Statement for Intermountain Single Tax Association

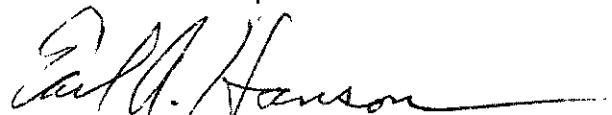
Unless tax reform is given top priority in Utah the Blueprint goals appear to be too remote. While the removal of the sales tax from food, as well as other sales taxes, is most desirable, it should be unthinkable that the mess of the current property tax should not first be corrected. This can not be done without amending the State Constitution.

The constitution now mandates that the property tax on land values and on improvements shall be at the same rate. For both economic and moral reasons the land value tax rate should be, for urban land values, much higher than it is, while the improvement tax should be gradually reduced and removed.

The Legislature has devised such a smorgasbord of property classes for taxation that the State Supreme Court, as well as voters and taxpayers, is troubled. Unless confusion is desired, variations should not be worked into taxes through assessment tampering. Understanding is much less difficult if assessment values of 100% of market values are used, with desired variations specified in the rates of taxation.

Redevelopment Agencies add a level of bureaucracy to government that would be unnecessary if the urban land value tax would be substantially higher than it is today. The speculative withholding of land from the market would be unprofitable. RDA's today acquire sites at market prices (too high to encourage development) and through write-down subsidies, make the land available to developers.

The relief from an oppressive property tax sought by non-profit hospitals is not different from the relief needed by for-profit hospitals or other business. If all hospitals are exempted from the property tax on buildings and equipment, and pay their land value tax, there would be appropriate compensation for services received. This would save an enormous expense for assessing buildings and equipment and the tax would not be so complex that it could only be interpreted by the courts.



Earl A. Hanson, Executive Secretary
INTERMOUNTAIN SINGLE TAX ASSOCIATION
Cedar City