

# International Union for Land-Value Taxation and Free Trade

177 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 1EU, England.

Secretary: B. P. Sobrielo

President: Richard Noyes

Deputy President: Doris Norris

Telephone: 01-834 4266/4979

Treasurer: J. Mernane

17 September 1986

Dear Fellow Member,

This is the first opportunity we have had to correspond with members from headquarters since the Vancouver Conference. You will all have read about the proceedings in the Summer 86 issue of the Georgist Journal and in due course you will receive the full General Business meeting minutes. This letter is to advise you of the main points.

We should first perhaps explain that at the Executive meeting which followed the General Meeting, it was resolved that the Vancouver Conference be designated as a "Joint Conference of the International Union for Land-Value Taxation and Free Trade and the Council of Georgist Organizations". This was done to regularise the position of a number of delegates who were not International Union members. The CGO Conference followed on the heels of the International Union conference and many delegates had come to Vancouver for the period of the two conferences and attended both.

**Membership Fee:** The minimum annual membership fee remains at £5 and at the Executive meeting, the Treasurer was given authority to amend the dollar fee as necessary to allow for changes in exchange rates so that it would always equate with the sterling figure.

**Reports:** The reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were distributed at the beginning of the Business meeting and are sent to you with this letter.

**Officers:** The Officers elected were as follows:

President: Richard Noyes, USA Deputy President: Doris Norris, England

Secretary: Barbara Sobrielo, England Assistant Sec: Jessica Baker, England

Treasurer: Jose Mernane, England

**Vice Presidents:** Hector Raul Sandler, Argentina, George Jukes, Australia, Craig Cringan, Canada, Wilbur Freeland, Canada, Gary Nixon, Canada, Mary Rawson, Canada, German Lema, Colombia, Johan Kristensen, Denmark, Knud Tholstrup, Denmark, Vic Blundell, England, Vic Saldji, England, Gustav Bohnsack, Germany, Archer Torrey, Korea, Siebe Sevenster, Netherlands, Peggy Hill, New Zealand, Betty Noble, New Zealand, Ronald Rennie, Scotland, Godfrey Dunkley, South Africa, Robert Andelson, USA, Robert Clancy, USA, Oscar Johannsen, USA, George Lachner, USA, Edgar Buck, Wales.

**Executive Committee:** Julia Bastian, England, Chuck Byrne, USA, George Collins, USA, Steve Cord, USA, Syd Gilchrist, Australia, Fred Harrison, England, Graham Hart, Australia, Michael Horsman, Ireland, Jean Jukes, Australia, Mirta Lema, Colombia, George Morton, Scotland, Lyn Nichols, England, Harry Pollard, USA, Jan Pot, Netherlands, Stan Rubenstein, USA

At the Executive meeting which followed, the following were co-opted to serve on the Executive: Ed Dodson, USA, Stan Frederiksen, USA and Cecil Stowasser, Australia.

**Conference Venues:** As members already know, the next Conference will be in Philadelphia in 1989 to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Henry George. This will also be a joint conference with the Council of Georgist Organizations. George Collins, USA and Barbara Sobrielo, England, will be co-Chairmen of the Conference Arrangements Committee of this special anniversary meeting.

As is now customary - and has become advisable due to the need to book ahead for

suitable accommodation - members made suggestions for the venue for the next but one conference, and Ireland, Spain (either Barcelona or Seville), and Australia (Brisbane, Canberra or Melbourne) were put forward for consideration. At the Executive meeting it was agreed that Ireland be chosen, the year to be 1991. It was suggested at the meeting that although Ireland came out as the majority's choice, members should know that there were many in favour of Australia, so that perhaps the Australian members might get together to put forward a bid for the next but one conference after Philadelphia.

Motions: Due to the fact that there were not quite enough delegates present at the meeting to achieve a 3/4 majority vote of members registered as attending the Conference, the motions calling for change to Articles I and II of the Constitution could not succeed. However, the Chairman ruled that they be put in order to obtain the feeling of those present. Mr Blundell's motion, which in fact did not require a 3/4 majority since it did not call for change, was preceded by an additional motion put by Mr Dowe calling for its withdrawal. Mr Dowe's motion succeeded and Mr Blundell's, which was nevertheless put, failed. Mr Clancy's motion to amend the wording of the objects had a majority in favour and of the suggested alternative names, that of "International Union for Land and Liberty" received the most votes.

Graham Hart drew attention to the dissatisfaction expressed by some members at the meeting over the difficulty of making any changes, and it was agreed that the Executive should be asked to take note of this and consider whether some form of postal consensus should be explored.

One of the most interesting contributions to the meeting came in Any Other Business, when Floyd Morrow of San Diego put up a proposal to investigate establishing a Georgist Institution of Higher Learning, with the ultimate goal of founding a Georgist University. It was agreed that Floyd should be given authority to set up and chair a Commission on behalf of the International Union to pursue this.

We all enjoyed Vancouver very much and it was certainly one of our best attended conferences. The only drawback to our meetings in our view is that we can never have every member present and our association with some of you can only be by post.

We do now have some very sad news to impart. Our very dear friend, Jack Kelly, died of a heart attack in July. We shall all miss him very much. Flowers were sent on behalf of the members of the International Union with the message: "With deepest sympathy from those around the world who will miss Jack Kelly's courage and determination." Vi has written to say how moved she has been by the many messages she has received about her husband. She maintains her own interest in the Georgist Movement and hopes to be with us all in Philadelphia.

We send you our warmest good wishes.

Barbara and Joe

At the Executive meeting which followed, the following were agreed to serve on the Executive: Ed Dobson, USA; Stan Rabinowitz, USA and Cecil Stowasser, Australia.

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As a new customary - and new - income schedule due to the need to look ahead for

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CAMBRIDGE CONFERENCE ACCOUNT

Selwyn College

	E	E	E	E
Participants board	21,934.77		Receipts from participants	25,525.25
Hire of Conference hall, meeting rooms	266.00		Medical insurance	128.00
Hire of AVA equipment	284.13			
Photocopying	155.68			
Hire of shelving	40.00			
Staff gratuities	156.00			
Insurance - various	186.50			
Daily newspapers	8.05	23,031.13		25,653.25
<u>Social Events</u>				
Hire of minibus, petrol costs	277.79		Receipt for outings	856.14
Outings and parties	636.20			
Photography	52.00	965.99		856.14
<u>Miscellaneous</u>				
Exploratory visits to Cambridge	124.79		Shop takings - books souvenirs	-
Printing 2 brochures & handbook	511.92		T-shirts, tea towels, etc.	750.65
To UCTLV for staff services	700.00		Final night tombola	74.50
Postages	62.00		Medical insurance claim	13.00
Cost of books, souvenirs, etc	1322.39		Stock in hand, 11.8.84	466.65
Participant's 'welcome packs'	383.45			
Sundry expenses	365.22	3,469.77		1,304.80
Excess of income over expenditure		347.30		
		<u>27,814.19</u>		<u>27,814.19</u>
			Treasurer's appeal and donations	321.59

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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Year ended 31.3.85

Expenditure

Postage for Georgist Journal	370.00
Contribution to UCTLV for services	750.00
Contribution to Land and Liberty as agreed at Executive Mtg 7.8.84	2,000.00
Answerphone purchased for H.Q.	179.00
Cost of photography	75.00
Currency exchange adjustment	29.30
Balance c/f	<b>** 3,466.28</b>
	<u><b>£6,869.58</b></u>

Income

Balance b/f from previous year	* 17,702.02
LESS advance conference receipts	13,196.51
	<u>4,505.51</u>
Subscriptions and donations	1,322.37
Profit from 1984 Cambridge Conference	347.30
Treasurer's Appeal at Conference	321.59
Subsequent sale of photos/souvenirs	166.73
Bank interest	206.08
	<u><b>£6,869.58</b></u>

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Year ended 31.3.86

Postage: Georgist Journal	344.80
Vancouver Conf:	179.44
Contribution to UCTLV for services	524.24
Sundry expenses	500.00
Advance travel expenses for Secy. Treas.	82.02
LESS donations received	1033.57
Balance c/f	<b>*** 3,959.27</b>
	<u><b>£9,593.10</b></u>

Balance b/f from previous year	** 3,466.28
Subscriptions and donations	1,946.12
Sale of photos/souvenirs	8.17
Bank interest	154.80
Currency exchange adjustment	17.73
	<u><b>£5,593.10</b></u>

NOTES: \* £17,520.17 London  
181.85 New York (\$263.69)  
\*\* £2,883.55 London  
582.73 New York (\$815.83)  
\*\*\* £1,678.10 London  
£1,052.28 New York (\$1578.42)  
£1,228.89 Canada (C\$2440)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Once again it is a happy duty to report the very healthy state of our funds, with a balance of around £4,000 in our various banks around the world. These bank accounts reflect not only the international aspect of our Union, but also the high cost of changing money from one currency to another. Earlier this year our London bank, which had treated us very well over past years, told us that they could no longer give us preferential commissions on our foreign remittances and that in future each foreign cheque we banked in London would cost us a minimum of £5. This meant that a cheque for £10 or less would be entirely expended on bank charges, which was obviously quite unacceptable.

We now have International Union bank accounts in Vancouver - in fact right here on University Boulevard! - and in New York, so that dollars can be amassed on this side of the Atlantic and transferred to London once or twice a year - and hopefully when the \$ is better valued than it is now. The other advantage of this, of course, is that in future, North American subscriptions will not have to be calculated to allow for bank commissions, which will mean a reduction of the US subscriptions when the new Executive Committee considers subscription rates. Before the Americans become too joyful, I should mention that the rates laid down from time to time are, of course, minimum subscriptions and nobody minds if people feel moved to give more!

Since a barbecue is hardly the occasion for formality of any kind, there will be no place at this Vancouver conference for the usual Treasurer's appeal, which is always the source of a few hundred pounds extra for our funds. However, my IU purse is ever open and my account book sleepeth not in my hand! I hope you will take my presence everywhere this week as a silent appeal for donations, not only for whatever projects may be decided upon, but also as a build up to Philadelphia in 1989, and the 150th Anniversary of the birth of Henry George on 2nd September. Tentative plans are already being made for a joint CGO/IU Conference from August 26th to September 4th and we hope to make the 2nd September, which by great good fortune is a Saturday, the biggest celebration of Georgists that the world has ever known. Your ideas on how we can do this will be very welcome. Come and talk to me, or Barbara, or any other Executive Committee member if you can think of a novel, eye-catching, yet dignified way of celebrating.

At the next Executive Committee meeting, the possible disposal of some of our funds may be raised. If any of you have any thoughts on this matter - a new idea for pushing out the message that we know so well but others continue to ignore - let us know so that it can be considered.

It is a very great pleasure to work for an organisation of so many nice people. Your support, and letters and the odd cryptic message on the top of a renewal form, make my job a very happy one and I hope that I shall be able to continue this association for many more years.

*Barbara Schmitz*

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The two years that have nearly elapsed since many of us met at Cambridge have passed all too quickly in relation to the work we hoped to accomplish in the time. The London headquarters is a busy office with a range of tasks and there are times when the administration seems disproportionate to actual achievements.

With a view to tackling some of the duplication, I personally purchased a computer/word processor, and the IU Declaration of Human Rights - as amended at the Cambridge Conference - the Constitution, the membership form and the mailing list are now stored on it. Copies of the Declaration will have been enclosed with your May/June issue of Land and Liberty and I have brought some with me. Fred Harrison and Jessica Baker have identical equipment so this does give us the possibility of listing on producing material and in due course we hope to be able to purchase the same equipment for headquarters.

The membership at present stands at 329 and of these 244 subscribe to Land and Liberty as well.

At Cambridge the Executive decided to take out £2,000 worth of subscriptions to Land and Liberty and complimentary copies are now being regularly sent out but more names and addresses are needed, so do let us have your suggestions.

Since we last met we have had a number of visitors at headquarters, and I call to mind Mr and Mrs Piddie of Australia; Jack Kelly, Pennsylvania; Dave Simmons, New Jersey; Carl Niederer, Wyoming; Michael Schaefer, California; the Shaws of Calgary; Jack and Irene Hickman, Missouri and Geoff Forster and Ken Grigg from Australia.

One of the practical benefits of conferences is the opportunity afforded to discuss experiences in the promotion of land value taxation, and since the London office has not had to be involved with the detailed organisation of this conference, I feel I have some freedom this trip to engage in discussion with many of you to find out more about how you tackle school promotion and administration and the way you approach politicians, political groups, local organisations, etc., to put over land value taxation and free trade. I have come primed with some questions from IU members unable to attend this conference and I shall be concerned to return with all the answers.

I would like to make a point in this report of expressing my gratitude to Doris Norris, our retiring Assistant Secretary, who always comes up to the office whenever she is needed to help. Her long association with the International Union and her excellent memory have been invaluable to me. Jose and I know that she will always come up with a practical solution to any problem.

As Secretary also of the English Movement, the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, I am very much aware of the facilities afforded to the International Union for the small service charge made, and I am sure I can say on your behalf that we are very grateful to them.

I feel personally very fulfilled in the work we do and count myself as fortunate in being a member of the Georgist Movement.

*Barbara Schmitz*