

# Center for the Study of Economics

## NEW ADDRESS

2000 Century Plaza (#238)

Columbia, MD 21044

October, 1988

My dear fellow Georgist,

When Autumn leaves start flying, we here at HGFA/CSE/CG-USA draw up our list of activities for the past year and prepare our Annual Contributions Letter.

During this past year, we hurried, we scurried, we harangued, and you'll find the results on the enclosed list of Activities. If you contributed last year, you helped make possible those achievements. We presume you are satisfied. Your contribution this year will make possible a new list of achievements. If you don't contribute, the list will be shorter.

We are proudest, we must tell you, of the FIVE REAL-WORLD VICTORIES on the list. Without the efforts of HGFA/CSE/CG-USA, no victories would have occurred.

If you can't visit cities or if you don't have the time to prepare ads, organize local membership-chapters, do research or write articles - then we'll do these things for you. Your contributions ensure that we will be working for you. If you do your part, we'll do ours.

But let's not rest upon past accomplishments. Coming up soon is the PHILADELPHIA PROJECT. We have just been informed that Mayor Wilson Goode has publicly announced he is making land value taxation an integral part of his future budgets. So we intend to mount a Major Education-and-Research Effort to obtain such a shift for next year (remember, Philadelphia is America's fifth largest city, the birthplace of Henry George, and the locale for next year's International Georgist conference). This could be the Big Breakthrough we have long been waiting for.

Major victories like this, as well as the hiring of a new Executive Assistant (Hanno Beck, Phi Beta Kappa from Brown University), will send us deeply into the red, unless our contributors come through for us more than ever. This may be our Moment of Truth.

If you contribute to the Center for the Study of Economics, your contribution would be tax-deductible. If you prefer not to limit your contribution to educational and research expenses only, then make our your check to HGFA, which has civic-league status. If you want to renew your CG-USA membership, please use the enclosed form and feel free to contribute beyond the basic amount to help establish membership chapters throughout the world.

If you think our contributors this past year got their money's worth, then contribute accordingly today, extra if you like<sup>to</sup> the Philadelphia Project. We're on the Verge of Great things, so join us. We need your help. Send in the enclosed envelope today.

Fraternally,



Steven Cord

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What Your Contributions Made Possible for HGFA/CSE/CG  
JANUARY-OCTOBER 1988

● Aliquippa, Pa. - did study and testified before Council (1/12/88). This was also done in other cities. Aliquippa soon afterward became the 8th city in Pa. to adopt two-rate - 81 mills land, 5-only on buildings. This is a big shift. We are now engaged in a legal defense of the two-rate shift. First indications: a genuine construction spurt is already developing.

● Four cities expanded their two-rate property tax, shifting more of their property taxes off buildings onto land. These cities are Harrisburg, Washington, Duquesne and New Castle (1/88).

● Harrisburg - citizens' protest erupted after a 68% tax increase was announced - I testified at public hearing, prevented LVT rollback (1/87). More recently, I have been appointed by city Council to a Tax Study Commission and hope to see to it that the Commission supports two-rate in its report (the 1982 Commission did not, and that held us back considerably in Harrisburg).

● Radio Talk-Show Interviews by telephone, 4-5 across the country (from Bdcst. Interv. Svce.)

● Public Finance Resource Sourcebook (Tax Foundation) - Incentive Taxation mentioned here; we have gotten 2 referrals.

● Government Finance Review - May 23, 1988 issue - article.

● Letters-to-the-editor - many published

● Bluebird Letter (Elmer Greenlee) and Ladybug (Mary Lehmann) - reprinted IT article; also many local speeches.

● Booklet "4 Pathways to LVT" describes the technical details for transmitting a land-and-building property tax into a two-rate and eventually a land-only tax.

● Booklet "How to Form a Common Ground Membership Chapter"

● Ontario study by Mal McCarthy - provided data (also to other Georgists similarly engaged)

● Australian Research - arranged Lincoln Institute financing for a prestigious Penn State U. professor to do research on Australian LVT.

● Howard County (MD) Council - testified 4/27/88.

● Democratic Platform Committee - testified before Md. State Committee for federal-LVT. Also submitted written testimony to Natl. Dem Comm.

● Rome, N.Y. gala lunch - 83 local leaders present, C.S.E.-financed. Mayor Spossey (Wash.) spoke. Al Hartheimer will try to get action.

● Detroit City Council - testified (1/88). There's less politics in small towns.

● National Economic Commission - visited, testified, written to - re federal LVT.

● Senator Paul Sarbanes (D-MD) - Attended his 4/22 public meeting, spoke at length to his Executive Asst. about federal LVT.

● Letters-to-the-editors and articles - many sent to us by HGFA/CSE/CG members.

● Michael McManus syndicated column (7/88). We supplied him with data. Many replies received.

● Changing Times (Kiplinger) Magazine (7/88) - mentioned LVT prominently. We supplied data.

● Article in Public Management (7/88), thanks mainly to Wayne Plylar, member & Asst. City Mgr., Spartanburg, S.C.

● Article (full-page) in Columbia Monday Morning newspaper (also in the much larger Flier - unusual duplication) - 7/88.

● Philippine News - article on new type of land reform (7/88).

● Ran 4-session course at local Senior Center in an effort to establish CG chapter. Mediocre results.

● Aliquippa signs (3) arranged by CSE trustee Fred Karn, Jr.: "Build in Aliquippa - Low Taxes on Buildings."