

Henry George Foundation of America
Center for the Study of Economics
COMMON GROUND

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June 19, 1987

Dear Fellow Georgists,

Just a brief note about three important matters:

(1) Enclosed is a list of our activities for the past year (three pink sheets). We trust that our contributors will be pleased that their contributions are being well spent, and we hope that the non-1986-87-contributors receiving this letter will be motivated to support the Cause when the appropriate time comes.

(2) The 1987 Georgist Conference will be held July 22-26 at Point Loma College overlooking the Pacific Ocean at San Diego. Call 619-560-5263 or write us for registration information. Don't delay.

(3) Also enclosed is the Official Ballot for one of our organizations, COMMON GROUND. Only members can vote - if you have not yet paid your dues for this year, you may enclose at least that amount with your ballot. If there are two qualified voters at one address, then both can vote. Please put your name and address on the enclosed envelope in the upper lefthand corner, but be assured that your ballot will be treated with complete secrecy; no one but our office secretary will see how you voted. It will also be possible to vote at the San Diego meeting. But it is best to vote now, using the enclosed envelope.

Yours for real justice,


Steven Cord

SC:jg
Enclosures

COMMON GROUND Secret Ballot

These members have been nominated for the COMMON GROUND Board of Directors. You should vote for five (5) of them. If there is another CG member in your household, that person should also vote:

- o John Burger
- o Joseph Casey
- o Betsy Dana
- o Evelyn Friend
- o Alanna Hartzog
- o Richard Noyes
- o Donald Pinson
- o Nicholaus Tideman
- o Robert Tideman
- o Sam Venturella

If there are two CG members in your household, then the second member should sign here _____.

Remember to put your name and address in the upper left-hand corner of the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

WHAT OUR CONTRIBUTORS HAVE ENABLED US TO DO, 6/86-6/87

- Scranton victory - the mayor proposed an increase in the property tax rate on both land and buildings - we proposed an increase on land only. After much contact with city councillors, we prevailed!

- Incentive Taxation is now computer-mailed. Equal Rights is now 18 years old. Indispensable.

- Evidence for Land Value Taxation published - looks impressive; useful compilation of studies showing LVT really works. Send \$3 for a copy.

- "Ethics of Land Reform: A Trialogue Between Adam Smith, Karl Marx and Henry George" translated into Spanish for use in the Dominican Republic. Available for \$3.

- Advertising campaign prepared for the "Washington Monthly," - promising results so far.

CONSULTING OPPORTUNITIES

- Personal visits, literally dozens, to city, state, national and UN officials spreading the word.

- Lock Haven, Pa. - presentation at City Council's behest (3/9/87). We have a strong supporter there.

- Pittston, Carbondale, Hazelton, Wilkes-Barre, and at least a dozen more in Pa. Also Rome and Albany in NYS.

- Titusville, Pa. study by Prof. Ki R. Shim of the University of Pittsburgh.

- Greenville, S.C. - speech to local leaders (11/18/86), arranged by HGFA member Sterling Smith. State constitution amendment prepared upon request.

- Phoenix City Council requested LVT impact study. Maintaining contact.

- New York City Tax Study Commission - solid contact made with executive director; I will testify.

- N.J. State Tax Study Commission - testified, and then consulted with the legislature's chief policy advisor.

- West Virginia - invited to testify before state legislature. Working closely with one senator on the wording of a new law.

- Sen. Sarbane's Executive Asst. (MD) - consulted with her and got some advice on how to proceed with Congress.

- UN Capital Development Fund - Karl Falk suggested I contact Hui Sun, dep. ex. dir. here, and Sun referred me to a few good LDC contacts in the UN and World Bank.

- Howard County (MD) Council - testified (it seems scarier to do on home turf, for some reason!).

● Rep. Ben Cardin (MD) - consulted with him re Congress - he gave me some heads for our forthcoming Congressional push.

MEDIA CONTACTS

● TV Interview, "Indiana Today," WIUP - VCR tape cassette now available for Georgists to distribute to their own local public-access TV station.

● BBC Radio - on the spurt in new construction in Pa.'s 7 cities. We arranged a tour for the visiting crew and spoke on their show.

● Mike McManus column (nationally syndicated) on Pa. LVT. About a dozen inquiries result.

● Sam Spatter - gave information to this Pbg. Post-Gazette columnist in defense of LVT (attacked by ex-county commissioner). Letter-to-editor published in Pbg. Press.

● Pennsylvanian article, co-authored by Gary Dodson, on LVT. This magazine goes to 17,000 local officials in Pa.

● Sylvia Porter's Personal Finance Magazine, 4/87 - gave facts for a brief favorable mention for article on the residential real estate market.

● A.I.E.R. Bulletin (1987) - endorses Incentive Taxation. Article here results in about a dozen inquiries.

● Business Tax Report (Silver Spring MD - called for information - article resulted (haven't seen it yet)).

● Kansas City Star - telephoned interview, article resulted on Walter Mueller bill.

● American Heritage Magazine (10/86) article on George's 1886 campaign - we brokered it, but other Georgists were probably involved.

● Government Financial Review - reprinted Incentive Taxation article on land-rent being 24% of the national income.

● MD Public Access Cable TV - show "Issues & Answers" (we helped make it). Other Georgists could do likewise in their locality.

● Land & Liberty - about six articles submitted for publication.

● Article in I.U.P. Symposium (1/87) entitled "Equal Rights Demands Land Value Taxation."

STUDIES & PUBLICATIONS

● New Castle study 8/86 - shows spurt in new construction following LVT - more than in comparable neighboring cities. Help avert rescission by narrow margin.

● N.Y.S. Tax Commission - we issued a counter-study critiquing the study (negative in tone) issued by the Commission.

● Pittsburgh Wage Tax Study - show this tax hits average person harder than a land value tax which would raise the same revenue. Anti-wage sentiment grows in city.

● Pamphlet prepared on "How to Shift the Property Tax Off Buildings Onto Land."

● Pamphlet prepared on "How to Get Localities to Tax Land More."

● Common Ground booklet on "How to Establish Chapters" in localities throughout the world.

● Common Ground leaflet prepared for attracting new non-Georgist members.

● Catalyst! translated into Spanish by Argentinian Georgists - used in classes as textbook.

MISC. ACTIVITIES

● Professor Nicholaus Tideman grant made so that he could make a presentation to Catholic prelates in Rome.

● Annual Georgist Awards sponsored. Given to Mildred Loomis, Lowell Harriss, Robert Clancy, Wylie Young, Ky. Fair Tax Coalition.

● Mike Curtis grant - for conducting a new land-value-only assessment in Arden, DE.

● Prédica grant. This is the new Argentinian Georgist publication.

● Evergreen Society (Johns Hopkins University organization for retired professionals) - speech

● Arden, Delaware Henry George Day - speech (Sept. 2)

● Technical advice given to Georgist activists in Montana, Illinois, Pa., NYS, Korea, Va., Guatemala, N.Z. (helped Dr. Ronald O'Reagan with his new book), Japan, and many other places.

● Correspondence - literally dozens of letters a week to prospects (seen and to be seen), Georgists, non-Georgist inquiries, etc. In terms of time spent, this is one of our chief activities.