

Henry George Foundation of America

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August 5, 1980

Dear Fellow Trustees & Special Friends of the Foundation:

From time to time I try to keep you abreast of the activities of the Foundation. This is in addition to the news carried in our publication Equal Rights.

The paperwork involved in keeping our Foundation operating has been much greater than I had anticipated when I took over its active operation in February, 1978, a few months after Percy Williams, founder and executive secretary for 51 years, had passed away. Letters come in with each mail, bookkeeping has to be done, sales opportunities with cities across the nation have to be nurtured by phone and by letter, etc. To keep up with it all, I have had to hire college students; this past year I usually have had about four students come to the office (which as you know is in my home) one night a week, 3 hours a night. In addition, I had to hire a secretary to take dictation on a three-hour-a-week basis. In terms of numbers, we had quite a payroll!

But there was a lot of coming and going. The students are not always available, especially in the summertime, and then the secretary became pregnant, so now, with the permission of the Executive Board, I have hired a competent secretary, Mrs. Deborah J. Barr, who will put in about 15 hours a week. There has already been a noticeable improvement with the paperwork around here. I will still need to hire college students from time to time when the backlog begins to pile up.

I continue to cultivate sales leads. New Castle and Newark are our great hopes for this year with Uniontown and now Williamsport not too far behind. I go out to the latter city for a talk with local officials on September 12th. And the fall always presents many new opportunities.

Here are some of the activities we've been up to in 1980 so far:

- funded studies in New Castle, Easton and McKeesport (attended a citizen's meeting in the latter city with Dan Sullivan, at the request of the Mayor, to help inform and defuse popular sentiment against the precipitous rise in the land tax rate for 1980; mission evidently accomplished)

- hosted Newark city councilmen and officials on their visit to Pittsburgh (trustee Jack Kelly did likewise in Scranton)

- funded the expenses of activists Bill Newcomb and Nadine Stoner (both HGFA trustees)

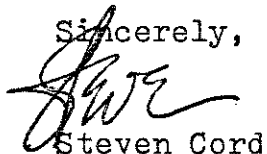
- funded and manned booths at the Pa. League of Cities Convention, Pa. State Assn. of Boroughs, and will do likewise at the Natl. League of Cities convention in Atlanta this coming November (I am likely to be a speaker at a session there).

And the Foundation has done many other things that don't immediately come to mind.

Let me give you a special reminder about the annual convention of Henry George Groups: it takes place in New York City from August 28 to September 1st. An interesting program is on tap, and most of us will be getting our first look at the new quarters of the Henry George School at 5 E. 44th St., the site of the convention happenings. Of special importance to us is that the Annual Meeting of our Foundation will be held on August 30th. Everyone is invited to attend and to speak. The agenda is open. The Trustees will elect seven new trustees. See the enclosed list of hotels. Please act as soon as possible to get the reservations you want. Hope to see you all there.

Meanwhile, send along your ideas, advice and just plain ruminations.

Sincerely,



Steven Cord