

27th April 1984

Mrs Barbara Sobrielo  
Secretary  
International Union for Land Value Taxation & Free Trade  
177 Vauxhall Bridge Road  
London SW1V 1EU  
ENGLAND

Dear Barbara

I hereby give formal notice to change the name of the "International Union for Land-Value Taxation and Free Trade" to the Georgist International Union.

Moved by W.H. Pitt

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Seconded by S.G. Hart

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The reasons advanced in support of the foregoing motion are as follows:-

1. The name is too long for convenient use, and commencing with the letter 'I', a person seeking information of the Georgist Movement, would have difficulty when referring to the telephone directory.
2. The name attempts to describe the objectives of the Movement, but in this regard, there are significant objections.
  - i. The word "taxation" is controversial and could be misleading as related to our stated objectives to abolish taxation.
  - ii. The words "Free Trade" do not embrace the abolition of protective tariffs alone. True, free trade can only be achieved by the total application of our objectives.
3. The title places the importance of land reform on an equal plane with free trade, which as Georgists realise, is not the case. In fact, when the priorities of implementation are examined, it may be found that the ultimate abolition of protective tariffs is well down on the list.

Since taxation in all its forms, including customs duties, ultimately, is at the expense of rent, a reduction in tariff protection without land reform, would benefit land holders only.

4. Although the title attempts to state our objectives, despite its length, this cannot be achieved.

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Our proposals are an alternative method of public finance. There is no indication in the present title, that this is proposed, indeed socialists might attempt a measure of land-value "taxation" superimposed on all the other taxes.

This would not be inconsistent with the present title as stated.

5. A correctly stated title would need to declare for the collection of Site Rent and the Abolition of Taxation. Even stated in such a condensed form, such a title would be too long and have other disadvantages as stated.
6. The name Henry George is used extensively in the United States and in Australia, also elsewhere. The expenditure of millions of dollars, with corresponding public relations value, has been associated with the name Henry George.

We should capitalise on this expenditure to the maximum extent possible throughout the world. International affiliations being identified, would lend prestige and respect to our efforts.

7. Those who have preached Georgist doctrine under various disguises, have been no more successful than others coming out into the open, and mentioning George's name, under which the total philosophy, in addition to economic science, is embraced.
8. The use of other names such as "Municipal Reform" and "Incentive Taxation" could be used sincerely by people without any knowledge of Georgist economics etc. This would leave us vulnerable and to infiltration. In any case, such names refer to a particular phase of our work.
9. The name Henry George is universally respected. There is no longer any prejudiced opposition, if there ever was, as claimed by some of our supporters.
10. The name "Georgist" is both a caption title, and identification with a clearly defined ideology and economic proposals, it is short and suitable for telephone reference, and would help to unify and strengthen the Movement.
11. There has been dissatisfaction expressed with the present name of our Union for many years, but a short title which endeavours to express our objectives, and is capable of suitable translation into other languages, has not been found.
12. Let us decide on positive action. We cannot postpone decisions indefinitely, when daily it becomes more obvious that the economies of all Nations are in serious difficulties, which Georgist political science alone, is able to resolve.
13. The inclusion of the word "Taxation" in our title, is the worst possible public relations.

The word "Liberal", which most truly represents our philosophy, has been prostituted and is no longer available to us.

14. We believe that membership and enthusiasm would be stimulated by the adoption of "Georgist International Union" as the name under which we should face the future.

15. We continually refer to ourselves as Georgists, then let us present our Movement to the world in similar fashion. The name is easy to remember and is totally related to our objectives.

Sincerely

Bill Pitt

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Graham Hart

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