P.S. The address of H.G. Brown's widow is: Elizabeth R. Brown, 403 S. Garth Ave., Columbia, MO 65201, USA. We'll watch out for these Brown books you want.

March 4, 1982

Dear Bill:

I'm acknowledging your letter to the Council of Georgist Organizations as I have a few other things to write you about.

Thanks for the additional remittance of $10. Enclosed is a receipt and a certificate of membership. You are our first overseas member, so that makes the Council international!

I appreciate your comments on the possibility of holding a Conference in Australia. I realize it's a big country, much of it unpopulated, but I had in mind the most populated portion: Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne. Also, it has something of a Georgist movement, and is perhaps the only country with a Georgist movement we haven't visited.

Your suggestion about a Conference on Taiwan is intriguing. I suspect it would be difficult to sell that idea. But it's worth thinking about.

Your suggestions for the draft on the Georgist philosophy and movement are interesting and cogent - and you've included a few facts we should take note of. When we're ready, we'll review this and other suggestions.

On the matter of whether Henry George made a mistake about "land value taxation." It was not a question of having his head in the clouds; he did it quite deliberately and thoughtfully. In response to a reader of his paper The Standard who objected to the term and the method, he wrote a reply which I enclose herewith. (This is taken from a handbook on land value taxation prepared by myself and a committee, now out of print, but I hope we'll get out a revision.)

In the study we made, we went rather thoroughly into the question of the effect of land value taxation on the revenue base. We believe this question is fully covered, especially in the study Julian Hickok made. Most objections to George, both his economics and proposals, have been dealt with many times, but opponents keep bringing them up. They are red herrings to delay serious consideration.

Land value taxation provides a method, at least to start the George proposal. I have never heard it explained by those who do not want to call it a tax, but simply the community collection of rent, just how it is supposed to be done. Perhaps you can explain it to me.

Under land value taxation, yes, the selling price should decline. As it did so, it would require a higher rate on the remaining price. But the point is, it can be done.

Sincerely,

Robert Clancy

6-1540

HENRY GEORGE INSTITUTE
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New York, N.Y. 10017

Pat—

W.H. Pitt
5 Solar Court
Nunawading 3131
Vic., Australia

asks about the the availability of the following books by Harry Gunnison Brown, mentioned in the book of essays recently reprinted by Schalkenbach:

The Economic Basis of Tax Reform (on p. 38)
Basic Principles of Economics (p. 92)
A Postscript and Questions (p. 154)
The Teaching of Economics (booklet, p. 157)

I suspect they are all out of print, but maybe you can dig up some information.

Mr. Pitt would also like to have the address of Mrs. H.G. Brown. I'm out of touch with her, but I think you're in touch.

Maybe Mrs. Brown knows about the above-mentioned books?

Bob