

Letter to Morgan Harris

FYI

HENRY GEORGE INSTITUTE

5 East 44th Street
New York, N.Y. 10017

March 20, 1985

Dear Morgan:

I see you have been quoting from my last letter to you in Interstudent letters in promoting the tax relief approach among Georgists. Here are a few of my reactions:

1. No contest! If you are winning people over with the tax relief approach, that's great. We are in agreement on the goal.
2. I have noticed that when Land Value Taxation is spoken of or reported in the media, it is usually understood to involve a shift of taxation to the land - so it does get seen as a tax relief. The term "Single Tax" is even more explicit.
3. I am of the opinion that a name is not of the utmost importance. There seems to be a never-ending quest amongst us to find the perfect name or word, as though to say to it, "Go, little Word, go forth and convert the world." I don't think it's that easy.
4. The issue is not just how should or should not public revenue be raised. Tax relief is, you'll recall, Henry George's Insufficient Remedy No. 1 (see pp. 300-303 of P&P). With a great reduction in taxation - a good thing in itself - rent will eventually absorb the gain.
5. If the tax relief approach has such appeal, how explain why you're not on the Arthur Laffer/Howard Jarvis bandwagon with their American Tax Reduction Movement? (I know the answer. All I'm saying is that no matter what approach or name or appeal is used, it requires explanation.)

I'm sure we have more agreements than disagreements. But the latter do tend to get talked about more.

Sincerely,

Bob
Robert Clancy

3/26
Bob - very good!
Touche!
S

