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7th., MARCH. 1977.

Mr. R. Clancy,  
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Dear Mr. Clancy,

Thank you for most interesting letter, dated, 21st FEBRUARY, 1977.  
It pleases me to learn that you are to publish as much of my letter to Mr. Rennie as space allows.

I am glad to read that you agree that, basically our Movement is "GROUND RENT FOR STATE REVENUE"---recognition of that all-important fact is what matters.  
"Ground rent for State Revenue" is the distilled essence of our case. It is the actual phrase that shall go into the legislation dealing with land reform. All that ~~stuff is unnecessary~~ <sup>other verbiage, e.g.,</sup> "The League for Public Revenue from Land Values," the Scottish League for Land Value Taxation" Executive Committee's recommendation at the next Annual General Meeting. Those words "Public", and "Values" will cause endless controversy and disputation, particularly "Public". "What does "Public" represent within the meaning of the Act" shall be the cockpit of the controversy. Such abstract phrases will result in the measure for LAND REFORM being kicked out of the legislating chamber. Re "Land Values" that is sophisticated twaddle. It is true in the general sense as Henry George said: "No term is of importance if we rightly understand what it means." But this does not apply in the particular sense of framing legislation. Examine "Income Tax Law" or most laws for that reason, and one will appreciate that they are evasive-proof as possible. Each and every title of those associations stemming from the "Single Tax", have got it wrong, and none would be used when it came to framing legislation. What's the use of pushing the "Single Tax" barrow if one does not know where he is nor where he is going? If that is not the set of it, what is?

At one time the Glasgow Land Reform group was active enough. Not any longer and not so today. From "AGM" to "AGM" there is next to no activity, except for some or two sparse Executive Committee meetings, as for example, to deal with my motion to change the name of our association to that of the "Scottish Movement for Ground Rent for State Revenue." That almost amounts to the sum total of one year's activity, despite the fact my brother David in Dundee, and myself on the spot, requested a meeting of the members to discuss and decide the issue. The Hon. Secretary, Ian Sillars, has not had the decency to acknowledge our letters let alone deal with that business. Had it been a spoof setup, a fifth column group, that Scottish group, could scarcely be more successful. Mr Rennie admits that extinction is not far away if the Movement is not inspired by new members, fresh ideas and more activity. Now, the "Scottish League for Land Value Taxation" languishes in the doldrums. Imagine that! Is there any sign of Radicalism in such behaviour? I don't hold that the situation is hopeless or I would drop it now. Still, there is much to be done to arrest this policy of drift and to direct the Movement on the true course of "Ground Rent for State Revenue."

From the sign of things the Dutch and the Danish Justice Party are heading the right way which is all to the good. J.J. Pot, (NETHERLANDS) agrees with my arguments.

One item from Henry George's "Social Problems" I desire to call your attention to, it is: See "The First Great Reform", Chapter XIX, Page, 179, in New Popular Edition. He said this 93 years ago, and under entirely different fiscal conditions; "Whether this would prove...the best way....is hardly at this stage worth discussing." Though Henry George goes on to advocate "taxation of land values" (his pardonable mistake) he did realise that changes were possible and that other and better ways of obtaining ground rent direct would be found. The point I am making is that many changes have happened, especially with taxes at saturation condition and that a few, at least know that "taxation of land values" is impossible. One cannot make a virtue of vice. We have been stuck with this belief in the possibility of "taxing land values" But as Bismarck stated: "Politics is the art of the possible." Researching source knowledge shall prove all I have stated as fact. And "Facts are Chiefs that wanna ding."

As an item of interest. I am contemplating visiting New York, 27th May---30th June, 1977. If you can use my services I am willing to oblige.

Again thanking you for writing me.