



December 5, 1983

Dear Bob:

I don't know what it is that raises your ire every time I get involved in some project related to Henry George -- inside or outside of the movement, as evidenced by your October 26 letter.

During the five years existence of Media Foundation for Land Economics, Inc. in Melbourne you invariably gave us short shrift by failing to credit us with achievements when other Georgist publications did. I sent a one-page paper to be read at the Goleta H G Conference, and you said in a letter to me that you must have been out of the room then! -- because you made no reference to it; but people who heard it wrote approvingly to me.

David Hapgood wrote me shortly after I started the Foundation that in future days there would be an out burst of favorable writing on the Georgist thesis, like is happening these days, but neither the Foundation nor Bill Newcomb will get the credit due.

Spectrum Videofilms, Inc. was incorporated September 9, and on the same day purchased a mbble unit with a list pprice of over \$150,000. Our cost was a lucky break! Its insurance is \$200 a month, so that will give you an idea of the technical equipment in it. We have two cameras, but must buy a third to meet the demands of our customers.

Two weeks ago a crew went to Miami to film on contract a Karate context; over Thanksgiving a beauty contest was filmed -- and many more of them are in the offing, because Ms. Curtis has had a lot of experience with them.

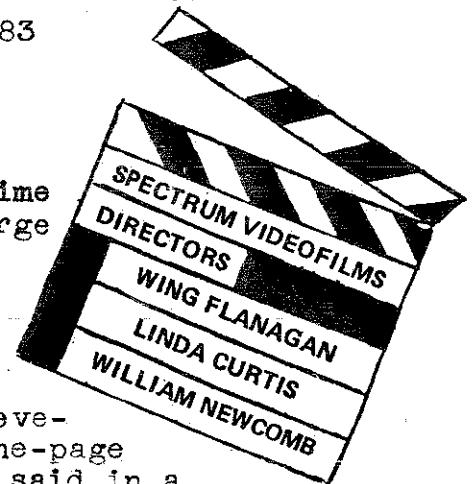
We sent out a letter to all of the churches in Brevard County, and got 20 enquiries of which approximately 10 resulted in contract. We will be doing a film job for an Extreme Right Wing local publisher, but it is money in our pockets.....

We have proposals that will take the crews to Dallas, Kissimmee, Orlando, Atlanta -- all over the Southeast. The enclosed story about Wing Flanagan, our chief cameraman-director that appeared in the National Enquirer, brought us business. Flanagan got his high school diploma without spending a day in highschool -- from the State of Florida. (Hasis 17, not 15) -- and going to college in Brevard County to better train himself in keeping our technocall equipment in top-notch condition. We have eight people on our Board, but Flanagan, Curtis and I control the stock. A very important stockholder-director is a man in Miami Beach, who as a distributor, will get our films and tapes channeled to the cable, public TV, and educational outlets.

P.O. BOX 1071  
MERRITT ISLAND,  
FLORIDA 32952

William W. Newcomb  
531 West Pine Road  
Melbourne, FL 32901

6-1536



2

Georgist individuals with savings and Georgist foundations put their monies into Certificates of Deposit, Money Market Funds, stocks and bonds. My savings are in a Trust Account that brings in 11.2% income. I decided to put a small share of that in this motion picture company, because its probable income is 35% plus -- it was a way to promote Georgism more effectively than any other media, and I could get paid for it!

I have read the stock portfolios of the foundations in the Georgist Movement. You will remember when the Boeing stock took a terrible tumble years ago, and how Schalkenbach and the HGS both suffered from it. It has since recovered, probably mostly from U.S. contracts for the perpetuation of the Military-Industrial complex. I keep hearing about the cash flow problems of the NY HGS. Why this should be so with assets of \$5,500,000 is beyond me. Why it requested a grant from the ~~Endowment for~~ Arts is beyond me. It is going to produce tapes or films at Indiana University on its courses; and Schalkenbach, after sitting on a script written years ago, is planning a new documentary.

But our first project in the Georgist realm will be for entertainment - a one-or two-hour film (running time including commercials) but 38 minutes actual time or 75 minutes actual time. The cost of the longer run is not more than \$25,000 difference, and no greater cost for the actor hired; several of them are being interviewed by Ms. Curtis's agent right now. Incidentally, the agent is a daughter of a Georgist!

I turned Media Foundation over to Steve on March 30, 1982 because:  
1) My lease was up at \$60 per month, and the landlord (who had purchased my property including 3/4 acre) wanted \$225 per month, which he gets from a woman publisher who gets her business through the "700 Club" a right-wing fundamentalist organization which is drawing millions on TV religion. 2) My creative juices were being sorely tested; 3) Helen's loss of memory in November 1981 after a minor auto accident, required more time with her; 4) I could no longer enjoy the annual H G Conferences because my hearing impairment was getting worse and worse. and not going to the conferences reduced the necessary contacts with the leaders of the Movement, on which Media Foundation depended; 5) I wanted more reflection time. I have lived in Melbourne Village 37 years, and since retiring from Media foundation, I have walked trails in Melbourne Village I had never traversed before. Twenty-seven per cent of this community is in heavily wooded parks -- with narrow walkways made only by foot prints.

Curtis, Flanagan, a black cameraman and I have a weekly Board meeting in Melbourne, where I am consulted before major expenditures are made. Other than as an investor, my only contribution to the Company is in the ongoing preparation for an ENTERTAINMENT film on Henry George. Curtis and Flanagan, Flanagan's father, a brilliant engineer with many patents, and the producer-distributor-lawyer in Miami Beach, all bring expertise to our Company.

I consider myself lucky to be part of this team; and the Georgist Movement lucky if it invests in our first project. We feel it is likely the Georgists will ask us to make follow-up motion picture projects from the results we envision from the first one.

Sincerely

Bill

None

3

Postscript:

After some 59 years (since 1925, with the Schalkenbach bequest) with hundreds upon hundreds of volunteers, many of them serving thousands of classroom hours, with less than 100 people per year going to 35 to 50 annual conferences; two high quality half-hour documentaries, two magazines that died, and four quarterly newsletters that don't get published often enough to keep the Movement's people informed -- and millions of dollars spent, what do we have to show for the above?

Five cities in Pennsylvania with minimal differences in land value taxes and improvement taxes -- but a continuing increase in land value taxes that speaks for Steve Ford's indomitable will to show city governments that land value taxation is incentive taxation.

Spectrum Videofilms, Inc. hopes to provide the Georgist Movement with tens of thousands of people with their contributions financially, and their donations of time, with the very important question:

"What can we do to help bring equal rights to mankind?"

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