

Walter Rybeck

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December 21, 1982

Mr. Robert Clancy
Henry George Institute
5 East 44th Street
New York, New York 10017

2-436

Dear Bob:

Enclosed is a small amount to help with your December 29th meeting. It sounds like an excellent program and I am sorry I cannot be there with you.

If you or others are keeping some tributes to Phil Finkelstein, I would be grateful if I could add some of my thoughts to those, based on our close working relationship over several years:

Philip Finkelstein came to the Georgist movement somewhat later in life than may be typical among Georgists. Perhaps this accounted for some of his impatience and energy--to make up for lost time.

He brought to bear an unusual background in theology, law, journalism, academic research and practical politics in his work on land issues. I believe this enabled him to present many Georgist insights in a fresh light.

Phil detested militarism and social injustice with a passion. His world view of these matters was impressive, and it is a great loss that he was not able to write the book he had in mind on who owns the earth--as a corrective to some of the suicidal directions mankind is now pursuing.

When Phil was in his contemplative moods, it was an unforgettable pleasure to hear him spell out an agenda which could keep all Georgists busy for a decade or more. He recognized the need for approaching the Georgist ideals from many angles at the same time. But he was no mere dreamer. Many of us had the privilege of collaborating with Phil on specific agenda items, and we are indebted to him for much of our recent progress.

Have a good meeting and all best wishes for success, personally and otherwise, for the New Year.

Cordially,

Walt