

ROBERT HARDING ZWICKER  
149 LITTLETON RD. WESTFORD, MA. 01886  
692-2061

August 21, 1981

Mark -  
I'll see you  
about this.  
Bob

B1505

Robert Clancy, Chairman  
Council of Georgist Organizations  
5 East 44th Street  
New York, NY 10017

HAMLET HILPERT'S CONSERVATION PROJECT

Dear Bob:

No one at the RINDGE CONFERENCE picked up the real import of Hamlet Hilpert's message. His slide show was only minor news compared to the neglected big story. Slides were a means to sell his conservation project. Anyone, aware of what he accomplished, could and should have introduced him with an account of what he has done which will make a tremendous impact nationally for our cause.

Hamlet may be too modest to tell of his success with his carefully crafted RESOLUTION (copy enclosed) calling for restructuring the property tax by using SITE VALUE TAXATION. He then prevailed upon his Lewis County Conservation District Supervisors in State of Washington to recommend that the Washington Association of Conservation Districts endorse his resolution. It was done; thus receiving state-wide District endorsement.

Hamlet followed this with a presentation, including his resolution, to the National Conference of Conservation Districts in San Francisco. The National Association represents over four thousand Districts. Action was deferred to next conference agenda.

Note should be taken that District Conservation Members usually are the respected community leaders, the activists. Locally, one conservation member who has been active in many town affairs introduced at my request Hamlet's resolution and farmland letter to our local conservation district meeting (their reply enclosed). This member recently won election to our Board of Selectmen.

Hamlet's slides show "The Right Tax to Curb Urban Sprawl and Generate Urban Renewal". They show conservation members how development pressures on farmland and rural land can be lowered to save open space and agriculture land. See his farmland letter in Incentive Taxation's October bulletin.

We could ask all Rindge Conferees and others to present Hamlet's letter and resolution to their local, county, and state conservation associations to get the "ball rolling" in every state before the start of the next National Association Conference.

Georgists find so little to enthuse over in our quest for land tax reform that it is a pity to slip up on this one. The Washington Association's endorsement should be big news and cause us to be optimistic that the four thousand national districts will do likewise.

What potential for boosting our cause! What a huge block to give us clout! This is the type of horsepower we need. Let's recover the ball by asking all our friends to participate in Hamlet's project and to use his method to influence farm groups, organized environmentalists and other groups.

We need good news to raise our spirits and offset the many years of discouragement. This could be a big breakthrough. Let us make it happen!

copy to Hamlet Hilpert  
995 State Hwy 507  
Centralia, Wa, 98531

Sincerely

Bob Z

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