

An Optimistic Statement about Georgists and Georgism
Growing from Four Negatives

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My observations of Georgists and the movement they work for, lead me to conclude there is a notable future ahead, if four generally negative aspects can be overcome. Because I see viable helps and steps toward their correction, I ~~believe~~ am optimistic about the future.

The four negatives will be mentioned first, with some counterbalancing positives later.

First, Georgists generally accede to the observation that "Georgists talk to themselves".

Second, when Georgists turn to the outside to talk to others about their ideals and practices, they find a woefully untrained mass. They find a ^{public} ~~public~~ in economic fundamentals ~~public~~, and also sadly below par in emotional stability. ~~As~~ Dr. Frank Goble told the San Francisco Centennial Georgist, August 20 1979, all people today are lacking in basic ethical training. But at the deeper, psychological level there is even less adequate training.

Too many modern adults want something for nothing. Such a psychological level is all right for infants, but if an adult wants something for nothing that's too bad, ~~that's too bad~~. It's not only unethical, but it's a psychological level on a par with infants. Infantile adults need re-education.

Too many modern adults want fame and power -- a behavior testing, manipulating ~~his~~ environment is all right in a child ~~that~~ who is new in experiencing the world, but if an adult wants to get power, manipulate his environment to his own advantage at disadvantage of others, that too bad; it's not only unethical but it's a psychologically immature state which needs to be, and can be ~~changed~~ re-educated.

Many adults --too many adults--are wanting to pile up wealth, get rich quick, accumulate things. That kind of sensuous, immediate goals is o.k. for adolescents for whom it is natural to be primarily sensuous, but in an adult such materialism and sensuousness, is a psychological immaturity which needs to be--and can be, re-educated.

Third; In psychological maturity, Georgists are not all at the top. We, like the mis-educated outside world, are often infantile, childish or adolescent in our feelings, wants and desires. Psychological maturing does not occur naturally and automatically as physical maturing does. Today ~~with~~ most family life, ~~ministry~~ schooling and institutional "pressures" leave us all seriously psychologically immature--wanting something for nothing, seeking fame, position and power, ~~pink~~ surrounding ourselves with things, and piling up wealth.

Third, When Georgists go out to others -- to become a mass movement -- they haven't (~~kindness~~) very good communication skills. The chief skill of Georgists, and most other "good" movements, is the lecture method. Lectures are good--up to a point -- up to the point where information is needed or asked for by a seeker. But the lecture method is not good enough to base a useful, effective movement on, or by which to achieve social change.

Fourth; Georgists haven't sufficiently engaged youth. I hesitate to call them "old" but in most Georgist groups there are good many white-haired persons. For the most part, most Georgists are middle aged or over.

Positive Improvements

For counterbalancing, more positive trends I see that that San Francisco Georgist centennial took a definite step to involve other and allied groups. ^{representatives of} ~~not~~ Here Georgists were not just talking to themselves. I noted twelve related organized groups on the program. These include the "money reformers", the New Age Caucus, the Libertarians, the Community Land Trusts, native Americans, the Sierra Club ecologists, Prout, the Chamber of Commerce, Survival Research, the School of Living and others. It would be good to continue

this--not only with such persons on the program, but with coworkers and associates in the audience, interacting in discussion.

As to psychological immaturity, that need no longer be the "norm". All the recent research on the brain, on learning, in psychology brings insight, methods and knowledge to greatly accelerate emotional maturing. All the work, training and skill in group dynamics, group process and communication are basis for emotional training and maturing of the psyche. Some particular agencies for guidance on this level include books by Dr. Abraham Maslow; ~~THEORY OF MOTIVATION~~ True and Clear Marks of Leadership ~~which is a guide to the development of leadership~~ the training in Group Dynamics, Sensitivity and General Semantics under the National Leadership Training Conference (Bethel, Maine); evolutionary psychology by Don Werkheiser and his new book, Evolving You, 6333 Mt. Ada Rd., San Deigo; the training in group process in the Movement for A New Society, in Philadelphia, and other similar groups. These books and leaders are available to the Georgist movement to advance our own maturing, and that of others.

As to communication skills, and applying it in group search, in group discussion and preparation for social action, high on the list is Friendly Shared Powers, the life work of True and Clear Marks, 2219 Grant St., Berkeley, Cal.

As for increased involvement of young people in the Georgist movement, the Centennial Celebration is to be congratulated on the number of young persons who helped organize and who not only attended but lectured and led group discussion. Appreciation goes to Alanna Hartzog, Terry Newland, Wendell Fitzgerald, Tony Meis, to Dale Becknell, Mark Satin and Dan Maziarz, ~~names~~ still to reach 30. And of course we will never fully express our appreciation for those perennial young people --VI Peterson, Morgan Harris, Bill and Helen Newcomb, and Perry Prentice! who have guided the movement for the past 50 years.

All of these four positives, I believe, counterbalance the negatives, and surely indicate the Georgism will soon come to the front ranks of social change.