

Nov. 7, 1991

Dear Fellow HGS Board Members:

I have just returned from a tour of the new Russia and the three Baltic nations.

First, concerning communism. We didn't meet any communists (maybe ex-communists, they were brought up on that and it was the only way to have a successful career). We met plenty of anti-communists, but the whole subject seems irrelevant (or embarrassing) to them.

Second, food: there's none of it to buy in the stores but we didn't suffer at all in the hotels we stayed at. We heard some fear that the KGB will attempt a second coup given the food shortage, so I think our government should give food to the Muscovites to forestall a KGB coup (remember, Russia still has thousands of atomic weapons). And it's the humanitarian thing to do. We met loads of nice pro-American warm-hearted Russians.

Third, Jeff Smith Tours: Jeff was great. He handled all the logistical matters with aplomb (and with the help of a free-enterprise tourist company). I can recommend him highly.

Fourth, the Single Tax: the Russians and Baltics very warmly received the idea. Nobody raised any cockamamey objections at all. Many went out of their way to help us (which is how we got on national TV for 10-15 minutes, and why Gene Lavin & fiancée are in Kazan at this very moment).

Russia passed a land value tax law on Oct. 11th, signed by Yeltsin, and Estonia will almost certainly do so shortly (I tried to increase the rate of taxation, and buildings will not be taxed).

I evinced interest from four Russian economic research centers re HG; they want us to teach the subject to professionals, they want to have us help them assess land rent, and they want to publish HG's books (!). I think they're 100% sincere. I have been in touch with the RSF, and I suggest we provide some \$\$ for specific School-type projects. I have specific joint-venture proposals from all of them which I will show you at our next meeting.

Unfortunately, opportunity doesn't come walking down the pike labeled as such. We must seize it while we can. Never before in history has a nation suddenly changed its economy and land system. Here is our entree to Page 1. Should we stand idly by? I hope not.

See you at the next meeting. Helping these Centers do School work is on the Agenda.

Sincerely,

Steven Cord
Steven Cord

Dear Mark -

11/14
*Here's a copy for you - maybe
you don't have one*

Steve