

MEDIA FOUNDATION FOR LAND ECONOMICS, INC.

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November 1, 1981

Dear Georgist Attorney:

In the some 102 years since "Progress and Poverty" was published, we Georgists as individuals or through vast sums of money spent by Georgist foundations, have tried numerous educational and promotional means to achieve LVT.

We have not tried the litigation route, yet many other social reform organizations have achieved success by that route. It is going to cost money, but I am sure that dedicated Georgist attorneys would give their time on a voluntary basis. And if BEE would put up a sum to be matched by other Georgist foundations, the filing and secretarial and travel costs could be met.

Tom Sherrard offers the following thoughts. Surely, others of you attorneys can come up with a consensus -- including choosing the state in which success is most likely:

"From time-to-time I too think about LVT thru litigation and related action. There may be opportunities to chip away and establish precedent; disqualify certain judges who themselves speculate in land (and there are plenty from Chief Justice Burger down to the lowliest JP). It may be an excellent arena "Court of Justice" to remind the world of basic concepts -- Blackstone, I understand, struggled with whether or not natural resources should be included as "property". Also, the law of trusts has special interest to Georgists. It is established that a Resulting Trust exists when title is taken in one person but the thing of value (consideration) is provided by another. Is not the community clearly and squarely the resulting beneficiary of every land titleholder? And since when have trustees not been required to account to their beneficiaries? In other words, our moralist concepts fit a legal framework like a glove fits a hand. And too, there are excellent legal opinions in courts of record to justify and uphold special assessments against land. The reasoning could be right out of "Progress and Poverty". Yes, I do believe LVT thru litigation has possibilities."

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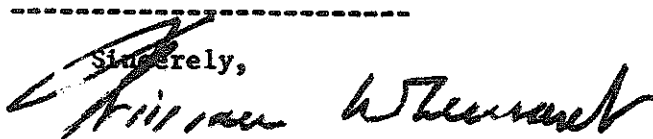
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Sincerely,



WILLIAM W. NEWCOMB -- 45 years of voluntary service, including the four years of running this Foundation.