

from  
California

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Emeritus

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Residence: 531 West Pine Road  
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Dear Erwin Knoll:

On several occasions during the years I was managing the above Foundation I tried in several letters to explain that the social problems/articles you were publishing, whether they involved Central and South American countries or whether they concerned matters on the home front -- which brought on Reaganomics -- most these problems could be traced to the increasing land monopoly festering the USA.

Peter Meyer wrote a 16-page article for Harper's about four years on this increasing monopolization that should have alerted you; the recent shift from property taxes to sales and user-taxes on the local level, quietly instituted by big landowners in states all over America, should have alerted you; the astronomical cost of housing, reflected in the ungodly price of land under those houses, should have alerted you; the shift from single-family homes to condominiums should have alerted you.

I asked Nadine Stoner (1118 Central Avenue, Beloit, Wisc. 53511) to visit you with literature, and she did. As we honored her by making her a trustee of the Henry George Foundation, I am sure she made a good presentation, because she has been in close contact with the Governor and legislators of your state. And until William Coyne of PA became a Congressman, your own Henry Reuss was the only land value taxpayer in the Congress. I am sorry he is retiring.

Here are a few things which are happening that you might have reported:

Five cities in PA now have more land value tax than improvement tax, and in a state heavily hit by Reaganomics, these cities enjoy more building permits than neighboring cities, and mayors of these neighboring cities now want to make the change.

The enclosed resolution was submitted by over 300 Unitarians to their annual Assembly. It lost narrowly because there was inadequate time to educate the ministers.

Land value taxation has been in existence in many cities and states in Australia for a long time. Have any of your writers ever seen slums in Australia?

A CBS producer is looking into the thesis.

A Philadelphia banker is exploring the idea of a newsletter. consultation service from the land value tax viewpoint. The former Vice-chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, Frederick Schultz, also formerly with the Barhart chain of banks, also former Speaker of the Florida House, tried to get former Governor Reuben Askew to promote land value taxation, but it was too late in Askew's term. Meanwhile the current governor is a big landowner and succeeded in raising the sales tax to 5c -- and is now stuck with a 200 million short fall in revenue owing to Florida's recession.

These are a few straws in the wind. My subscription has run out, but I will be glad to re-subscribe when The Progressive shows it is ready to take on landlordism

Sincerely