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WILLIAM W. NEWCOMB, PRESIDENT

August 5, 1980

Dear Everett Seeley:

I am saddened that I did not get any feedback from you, Hanson, Marion Sapiro or Sherrard to my letter of May 8, concerning the closing down of LEAF, on which I voted YES. I think the paper should be closed, too. If I can't get feedback, does it mean that I offered nothing constructive, or does it mean that no one cares?

Mason Gaffney told me a long time ago that the Georgist house organs are not good editorial jobs. I tend to agree. From my point of view, their greatest shortcoming is that they do not keep Georgists informed on what the Georgist organizations are accomplishing.

In the old HENRY GEORGE NEWS under the editorship of Alice Davis, during Clancy's directorship of the New York School, we were kept fairly well informed; the newsletter put out by the San Francisco School in former days was informative. EQUAL RIGHTS, under Percy Williams, was reasonably informative. Vi Peterson's end-of-the-year report was a marvelously written condensation of the Schalkenbach's previous 12 months, in a stylistic little booklet, sent to all correspondents to invite contributions. In addition, either Vi or Prentice's secretary always sent me Prentice's annual report. Usually, the HENRY GEORGE NEWS has a few meaty items (such as Dan Sullivan's background story on LVT in Pittsburgh in the May issue), but it gives considerable space to the school branches, which is, of course, only of interest to the School people. Clancy's GEORGIST JOURNAL gives a broader spectrum on the Georgist Movement, including the obituaries. I liked the brief publication of THE GOOD SOCIETY for its more detailed reports of the NY School, and regret its discontinuance.

I have already made my complaint on NEW LEAF in my May 8 letter: Too many things unrelated to Georgism. In the July issue, an entire insert has been put in the NEW LEAF from a speech by Henry George. I presume this insert was made for some other distribution, because surely Georgists don't need any salesmanship from Henry George. I think the story on the midwestern bishops was timely and appropriate (although I had read it in my newspaper). INCENTIVE TAXATION, which is not a house organ, is making inroads outside of our movement. Does Steve Cord have something, as an editor, that the house organ editors don't have?

I am sure that the Board of LEAF did a lot of soul-searching before it announced its plebiscite. I am sure that in all of its recent Board meetings it asked the question of itself: "Why can't LEAF build a growing membership after eight years?" I wish somebody on the Board would write me a letter, and state what the Board feels is the reason for its failure to develop a viable membership.

Why did Common Cause grow to a top membership of 275,000, but has stabilized at 225,000? Why can Nader maintain a membership of over 500,000? Why can the League of Women Voters maintain a quarter million membership?

Is there an expertise in the above three organizations we don't have? We are 101 years old. CC is 10 years old; Nader's a few more than 10 years. LWV is about 50 years old. But I can say for all three organizations: In their Bulletins and Newsletters they do tell the memberships what is going on!

With four Georgist house organs, two of them quarterly, and two of them monthly, it is difficult to get an in-depth account of what is happening in the Georgist Movement. I hope the editors of the Georgist house organs will meet together at the Conference, and discuss whether I am being fair or not.

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Clancy ✓	Cord	Gaffney	Morrow
Colgan	Finkelstein	Hanson	Prentice

Sincerely,

