

HENRY GEORGE INSTITUTE

The Henry George Institute - in cooperation with the Henry George School, Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, Council of Georgist Organizations and Henry George Foundation of America - has undertaken a mailing to an inactive list of about 2500 names in an old Henry George School file, dating mostly from the 1960's. A letter to these people invited them to write for up-to-date information on the Georgist movement. It was expected that a list 20 years old would have a very high percentage of obsolescence, but a surprising number of responses have been received, and we are glad to make contact again with old friends.

Ballots for this year's HGI election will be sent to members about May 1, and since little interest has been shown in recent proportional representation proposals, it will be an election under present HGI By-laws. Our Australian colleagues are interested in P.R., but for some reason it has not caught on in the U.S.

The Institute has just completed a modernized revision of the course in Applied Economics. This is a 10-lesson course using Henry George's Protection or Free Trade and Social Problems as texts, with up-dated supplements. Graduates of the Institute's course in Fundamental Economics (based on Progress and Poverty) are being invited to pursue their study with this second course. The basic course in P&P was revised in 1983, and continues to be offered by correspondence via advertisements in various periodicals. Here are comments of some recent graduates:

"I find Progress and Poverty to be a book I shall refer to constantly for the rest of my life, as the area it deals with has always been of primary interest to me. The course itself, moreover, has been intellectually stimulating, especially the excellent supplements. As with other great works of literature, Progress and Poverty is a book - or goldmine - whose wealth is never really exhausted; one finds new truths and revelations and applications with each reading." - Joseph A. Jordan

"An extremely important course, if one wants to thoroughly learn the problems that baffle the world. Despite that the book was written more than 100 years ago, its clear explorations relate to economic problems of today. What strikes me the most is that such a good book is hardly known in many universities and colleges. I feel that Mr. George has contributed enormously to clarify the core of why there is 'progress and poverty.' Mr. George was not only an economist but also a social scientist, a historian and philosopher." - Julio Sevilla

"I find George's analysis instructive, convincing, compelling and inspiring. I fail to understand why my economics texts in school hardly mentioned George. He offers a vision of society probably more attractive than Marx's and infinitely more realizable. Yet Marxism receives more serious consideration as an alternative to our socio-economic milieu - perhaps because its zealots have made it a threat. George presents not a threat, but a real possibility for creating a just free market society. He demonstrates that minor change - at least minor in comparison to Marxist revolution - can make a radical difference. For me, his thoughts represent an important new guide in the small steps I try to make towards helping create a more just world."

- Robert M. Arnold

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On March 31, Jack Schwartzman, editor of Fragments, arranged a dinner (at Luchow's Restaurant in New York) to honor Bob Clancy, President of the HGI, for his years of service to the Georgist movement. Over 50 persons attended, and messages were sent by many others. Gifts were presented, among them beautiful facsimiles of the first edition of Adam Smith's The Wealth of Nations and Francois Quesnay's Tableau Economique, important 'ancestors' of Henry George. Bob Clancy thanks all who participated, with special thanks to the initiator, Jack Schwartzman.