

**The**

**SPECIAL  
CENTENNIAL  
REPORT**

# **Henry George News**

Volume 43 — #9

October-November, 1979

## **CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS IN THREE CITIES**



**Mike Wallace, Dick Cavett and Agnes De Mille**

### **AGNES DE MILLE HOSTS LIBRARY GALA**

**by Louise R. Pulini**

Agnes George de Mille was honorary hostess at a reception commemorating the 100th anniversary of the publication of her grandfather's classic, **Progress & Poverty**, held in the Trustee's Room of the Main Building of the New York Public Library, on September 26, 1979.

Miss de Mille, a celebrated dancer and choreographer, spoke of the "coming of age" of George's ideas. She pointed out that the current tax problems we face were first forecasted by George. Miss de Mille's remarks were delivered before an audience of over two hundred, many of whom were alumni of the New York School, and admirers of Miss de Mille.

The ceremonies included the reading, by Robert Clancy, of a proclamation signed by Mayor Edward Koch. Mr. Clancy, who is director of the Henry George Institute, drafted the text. Letters from Gov. Hugh Carey, and Paul Nix, President of the Henry George School in New York, were read by Phillip Finkelstein. Mr. Finkelstein thanked everyone for attending "this glorious tribute to masterpiece, and the man we honor." Mr. Finkelstein also encouraged the participants to support the philosophy of Henry George by becoming actively involved in Georgist organizations in the area. He then introduced prominent guests who

**(cont'd on Page Seven)**

### **CONVENTION REPORT FROM SAN FRANCISCO**

Almost 300 persons from eleven nations and eight American states gathered in San Francisco, from August 20-26, 1979, to commemorate the centennial of **Progress & Poverty**.

More than 100 speakers, legislators, educators, conservationists, reformers, authors, and tax critics addressed the key problems that George wrote about in his books. The activities were held in the Jack Tar Hotel, where many of the participants stayed.

**(cont'd on Page Seven)**

### **ALL-DAY PHILA CONFERENCE HELD AT GEORGIST BIRTHPLACE **by Jack Daniels****

The high-domed, Parthenon-like setting of the First Bank of the United States was the ideal atmosphere for the banquet, which highlighted a full day of Georgist activities in Philadelphia on September 15th. Congressman Henry S. Reuss, chairman of the House Banking Committee noted that "today we have inflation, energy problems, and the beginning of a recession. Every one of these problems can be met in a meaningful way by a system such as Henry

**(cont'd on Page Seven)**

# **The Henry George News**

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## **"the sensible tax"**

**Remarks by Rep. Henry S. Reuss (D.-Wisc.), Chairman of the House Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs, at Progress & Poverty Centennial Banquet, on September 15, 1979, in Philadelphia.**

In my duties as Chairman of the City - Urban Affairs part of the Banking Committee, I, a number of years ago, became concerned at the way our system of taxation was helping to ruin our great American cities, and then, somewhat late in life, I came upon the works of Henry George, and the beautiful simplicity of his analysis and the obvious rightness of his conclusions piqued my imagination. And so, it is, that I followed very closely the progress made in Pittsburgh and what the province of Alberta has done; what happens in New Hampshire and upstate New York, and in those few places, where the writ of Henry George runs the day. It's ironic, that Henry George, in his day, was the most widely read and listened to American of that generation. His ideas have come down to us through a devoted group of followers who keep him alive.

Today, the need for the thinking of Henry George is greater than it was 100 years ago when **Progress & Poverty** was written. The land, and the great geological deposits beneath it have fallen into the hands of fewer and fewer people, and so the speculative value in those lands are now the worst single element of our whole inflationary index, which is why I have boldly asked the keepers of our national statistics if they wouldn't please include land-value in the wholesale and in the consumer price index.

It's ironic that in a day when we have more need than ever of Henry George, we, despite the wonderful things that have been done in Pittsburgh and some of the other places that I have mentioned, haven't yet come to achieve that which he preached. After all, even the single tax phrase of Henry George didn't completely convey the doctrine he had in mind, and certainly, its modern counterpart, site-value taxation, doesn't send me very, or tell me very much about what we are talking about. Maybe one of the troubles of our approach is that we keep talking about a tax, and as subtle students of Proposition 13 and other tax measures in recent years have remarked, taxes aren't very popular. So, to say "a tax", whether it's a single, double, triple, or site-value, just doesn't sound very good.

If you look at what needs to be done with the sensible tax, which will put an adequate tax on land and the fruits of the soil, and thus be able to moderate the tax on improvements that mankind has placed upon land, the homeowner's property, the industrialist's factory, or the financier's office building; if we change the tilt as few of our cities have begun to do, so that you down tax improvements and up-tax land, then some progress would really be made.

Now, if you look at our problems today, they're inflation, energy, and the beginning of a recession. Every one of those problems can be met in a meaningful way by a system such as Henry George preached. If we didn't give the keys of the kingdom to the land speculator, we wouldn't have the system of scatterland and splatterland, which makes a fiscal mockery of our metropolitan areas. We wouldn't see our downtowns degraded by unnecessary, rubble-strewn wastelands, with occasional pornography shops to festoon the landscape. If we taxed idle land in a proper way, and if we relieve improvements of the shackles we've placed on them by asking land to bear its fair share of the burden, then jobs by the thousands would be made in this country, and we wouldn't have the terrifying spectacle of 40% minority teenage unemployment in our cities and a national unemployment problem that is one of the scandals of the industrialized world.

Finally, if we had a rational system of sorting out that which we ought to tax, and that which we ought not to tax, we could be the greatest savers of energy; because if you have compact development, just as sure as heat rises, you're going to achieve energy saving. Just as sure as housing that is built so as to utilize land successfully would shield you from the cold north winds, you're going to save energy there, too, and in a hundred other ways.

So, let us devote our efforts, in the next hundred years, to perhaps see if we can't get a more popular set of vestments with which to describe and clothe our great philosophical movement.

# George In The News...

## "A TAX TREATISE THAT SHOOK THE WORLD"

by Don Wegars

(S. F. Chronicle — August 21st, 1979)

"It's time to get our act together," Paul Nix admitted yesterday, opening the centennial celebration of the publication of Henry George's **"Progress & Poverty."**

There were 100 or so people on hand for the meeting in the Jack Tar Hotel, but they represented 11 nations and more than a dozen U.S. states, and they were still engaged — as hundreds of thousands before them had been — in trying to translate into action the "single tax" economic philosophy with which George rocked the world from San Francisco in 1879.

George wrote the book in a house on Rincon Hill while he was official state gas meter inspector. It became a worldwide best seller — more popular at the time than *"Das Kapital"* — and almost catapulted the rather obscure printer-journalist into the governorship of New York.

It is, Nix said yesterday, "A visionary work that gives us an idea of what the good life might be like."

Basically, George believed that increasing wealth brought increasing poverty because those who own the land get rich at the expense of those who work the land. The simplified solution is to tax the land only and not tax the buildings on it or the products made from it.

"What he really wanted to do," Nix said, "was eliminate poverty by shifting taxes away from the products of human endeavor."

Nix, president of the Henry George School of New York, suggested that the simplicity of the idea in **"Progress and Poverty"** leads to some problems.

"Different Georgists reach different conclusions," he said, "because it is so comprehensive that it's difficult to grasp entirely."

The schedule for the week-long centennial also suggests the extent of the problems involved in working with George's economic idea.

Titles of talks include "Who Owns What Where?", "Site Value Rating in South Africa," "Justification of Public Property in a Free Society" and "Progressive Utilization Theory."

Those grappling with the questions include members of parliament from Denmark, Australia and New Zealand, state legislators; educators; professors — a cross-section of people who study economics.

There is, for example, Philip Finkelstein, deputy city administrator of New York City in the Lindsay administration (1966 to 1973).

"I was there during the days when 'urban' wasn't a dirty word," he said yesterday.

The Georgist movement, he said, "is not a mass movement — although maybe that's the trouble — but it is influential through the people who pick up ideas from it. We don't go marching with banners very often."

Georgists say they do not just fall into the traditional right-left political stereotype, and Finkelstein agrees.

"The argument of socialism versus free enterprise kind of evaporates with Georgism," he said.

Robert Scrofani, former president of San Francisco Tomorrow and a host from the San Francisco Henry George School, said the old J.C. Penny building at Fifth and Market Streets is an example of how non-Georgist economics tend to be non-productive.

The tax on the land itself hasn't increased recently because the building is unoccupied, and in disrepair.

"But if the land were taxed at its true value," he said, "there'd be a building there with people in it, working, because the landlord would have to pay taxes."

George came to his theories in a self-taught fashion after years on sailing ships, in the gold fields of California and Canada, and as a printer and journalist.

He was managing editor of *The Chronicle* for a time, and started the San Francisco Daily Evening Post.

He is also credited with bringing the secret ballot to the United States after he was defeated by Tammany Hall forces in a close election for mayor of New York City in 1886.

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## HEARING TO COVER LAND TAX

Rep. Henry S. Reuss (Dem. Wisc.), chairman of the House Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs, and of its subcommittee on the city, and Rep. Bob Eckhardt, chairman of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, have issued a statement that "energy conservation makes sense because it helps fight both inflation and recession. What is needed is a set of strategies that emphasizes energy efficiency along with innovative job-creating uses of existing resources".

They said that their two subcommittees, joined by other interested subcommittees, would hold a series of hearings on promising anti-inflation, energy-conserving strategies, beginning this month.

Land Taxation is part of the agenda of the hearing scheduled for early December on "Rationalizing Urban Growth". Topics to be covered at the hearing are:

"Returning to more compact urban growth is imperative in an energy-short society. Sprawl in the suburbs and wastelands in the cities squander energy, feed inflation, and lose jobs. Can better zoning, land taxation, and planning policies avoid leap-frog development and urban blight while saving energy, creating jobs, and restoring local fiscal strength?"

(Press Release—Congr. Reuss' office)



## EDITORIAL:

The centennial celebrations are over, at least the big ones in San Francisco, Philadelphia, and New York. Each city lent its own distinction to the events, from the week-long festivities by the bay, to the historic sites in Philadelphia, to the excitement of a New York gala. Yet, in all their varied ways, the celebrations had much in common as well.

There was, alongside the festivity, a realistic appraisal of a world with little to celebrate. Many noted sadly that the century since publication of **Progress & Poverty** produced hardly any of the reforms George advocates. At the same time, the pervasive mood among Georgists everywhere was more hopeful than despairing. Perhaps that is simply a characteristic of followers of a positive and hopeful philosophy, rather than the tragic gloom that inspires so much radical despair. It could also be that there are genuine signs of greater receptivity to our ideas in the independent actions of individual citizens and groups as well as within the councils of the politically powerful.

Whatever the reason, it was clear that Georgists are ready to end their isolation, both from each other, and from everybody else. There was the desire, made explicit in the call for a unified organization, and a national headquarters: to find the broad common ground on which Georgists of different stripes might agree. There was a desire, implicit in the range of participants and their views, to reach out to the

wider world of thought and action, for amplification of our influence and relevance. We will no longer be content to talk to ourselves or listen to our own stars. We would also be happy to be identified with the author whose masterwork we celebrate. Call us Georgists, or as some would prefer, neo-Georgists, but we will not hide our views behind another banner.

It is on the basis of these strongly felt and fundamentally positive sentiments that we have determined to renew publications of our own organ under our own name. If the "Henry George News" has not been as distinguished a publication as we would like, we will try to make it so, but we won't change its name. The people and organizations who work with us desire and need this organ in which to report their activities, express their views, exchange information and news, and exercise all the vital functions of communication. There are significant developments at the local, state, national, and international levels, and we want to report on them. There are exciting personalities, both newcomers and veterans in our organizations, and we'd like you to meet them through our pages. There are new ideas as well as some old ones newly applied—ideas about how to get the message across in the classroom, in the media, in public policy areas, and in any other forum that counts.

The next hundred years begin now.

Philip Finkelstein

Anne G. Witte, Editor — **People and Taxes**  
(Public Citizen's Tax Ref. Res. Group)

Anne Witte's disquisitions on Henry George and the land tax, on pages six and seven of the June issue, could have benefited from some of the insights of the imaginary professor she interviews on pages four and five of the same issue. The piece on Henry George raises almost every objection defenders of the status quo have traditionally raised. What a surprise it is to read these objections in an organ presumably devoted to tax reform.

First of all, Georgists do not view a world shaped entirely by taxes. Tax issues are only one small part of the George thesis. Nor, as you correctly note, is the "single tax" the issue for Georgists, although the strident call for taxes on all personal property often makes "People and Taxes" sound like single taxers of a different sort.

The fact is we now do have taxation of land values as a part of the property tax, but it is inadequate, inequitable,

and mostly stupid in its economic application and consequences. Land value taxers are not for "unbridled development"; in fact, good land taxation requires sound land use and would help reinforce it. Speculation goes hand in hand with undertaxation and poor land use. Of course, taxes alone will not solve problems of underdevelopment or environmental preservation, but sound tax policy can help us towards those goals while the current property tax works against them.

As for the problem of assessments, that is one strictly of the assessor's own making. Income is not a standard for land value, as the professor properly notes on the previous page: "There is no intrinsic cost of land — its price is set strictly by supply and demand". The problem with assessment is that most assessors simply don't bother with the current land markets in their jurisdictions. Finally you castigate the tax on land as failing to tax wealth, when only a page before the "professor" points out that "in absolute terms very wealthy individuals still control more real

estate wealth than less wealthy individuals. So to throw out the real estate tax is, as we put it, throwing out the baby with the bath water".

Will the real Anne Witte and the real tax reformers please stand up?

Sincerely,  
Philip Finkelstein

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### Land Assessment: Key to a Better Property Tax

(excerpted from the keynote address delivered by Philip Finkelstein to the annual conference of the New York State Assessor's Association at Grosinger's Hotel, on Sept. 17th, 1979)

It would be a major advance in equity, economy, efficiency, and effective tax reform if we simply reversed the incidence of the property tax from its preponderant reliance on improvements to a tax that was based mostly on the value of the land itself.

The poor, and even the middle class, own very little valuable land. Most of  
(cont'd on Page Eight)

# SCHOOL NOTES

Toronto

## AIRPORT LAND USE IS METRO ISSUE

One of the more controversial land development issues shaping up in Metro Toronto concerns the large but underused Downsview Airport. Although the area comprises some 1500 acres, only 264 have been publicly discussed regarding possible future usages. Currently, the De Havilland Manufacturing Company uses the airport for test take-offs and landings of five planes, when the airport could easily take larger planes, like the DC-10.

As owner, the Federal Government pays grants in lieu of taxes to the city of North York (Metro Toronto) tax department. These fall short of the estimated revenue that could be generated even with the present tax system if the land were rezoned and redeveloped for alternative uses. Unfortunately, the government seems to have no intention of releasing the land, fearing complicated clashes over redevelopment procedures, and cites an archaic 19th century law that obliges the government to maintain an operational "militia" base within twenty miles of a major city center (presumably designed for a day's march so the Redcoats could quell a native uprising?)

The School of Economic Science is taking the position that, logically, the land should be leased by the government and taxed by the city according to its incremental land value, and zoned according to a pre-designed plan. This directly follows a plan indicated by the Dutch Georgist J. J. Pot, for use in newly developed communities in the Netherlands. Although it is not in total accord with private sale and ownership plans favored by some Georgist planners, nevertheless, it does alleviate the problems and delays that might be caused by the added complications of private sales and developments.

The School intends to support and promote ways to bring this land into production, while realizing the highest, best, and most favored methods of usage. We intend to publish a position paper, promote local dialogue via Tim Fielding's talk show on a community network, and involve senior secondary school and university economics and urban studies students in our investigative feasibility studies. Tim Fielding and Mike Foster have sent letters to the editors of the **Toronto Star**, in March, 1979, in which they suggested schemes of redevelopment which would yield a more equitable tax return and better land use for the community.

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## Santa Domingo

### HURRICANE DAVID HITS HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL

The Henry George School in Santa Domingo, the Dominican Republic, is resuming classes at its downtown headquarters, which sustained severe damage due to Hurricane David.

Lucy de Silfa, founder-director of the school, reported, after restoration of communications with the island, that students and staff are all pitching in with repairs. High winds have blown off doors and heavy rains poured through the second-story offices and classrooms "like a river", she said. The school is located in the old colonial section of downtown Santa Domingo, in a Spanish-style building, surrounding a courtyard. Efforts have been underway to restore the landmark building, but now much of the capital city is still trying to recover from the worst natural disaster in its modern history.

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## 1980 CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN NEW YORK

"The Appletons in New York brought out the first regular market edition in January, 1880."

Henry George, Jr.

How fitting that New York City will be the host for the Joint Georgist Conference to be held in July, 1980. Just as San Francisco was an excellent choice for the Centennial Conference, we expect New York will be a popular choice for an international gathering of Georgists.

By Spring, 1980, The Henry George School of New York will be located at 5 E. 55th Street, with modern facilities available, such as a full-size auditorium, library, and bookstore, on one of the busiest streets in midtown Manhattan. There is no better way to "break-in" our new school than to hold the conference there. Since the school will be close to Grand Central, and Port Authority, the accessibility factor will be important in attracting a large group of people.

We are currently in the planning stages, and would welcome ideas, comments, and suggestions from our readers, so we can schedule accordingly. What should the main theme of the conference be? Who would make good keynote speakers for the luncheons and banquets? What issues should receive the most time on the agendas? What activities should be scheduled daily?

We will publish selected letters as they come in. Help make this event as successful as San Francisco, '79. Please address all correspondence to:

"The Henry George News"  
50 East 69th Street  
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Attn: Louise R. Pulini

# PROFILE OF AGNES DE MILLE

## *Agnes de Mille Recalls Henry George 'Presence'*

by Thomas Lask

Henry George, the political economist whose famous study, "Progress and Poverty" is 100 years old this year, may have been a prophet of a new order to many of his readers, but to his grandchild, the distinguished dancer and choreographer Agnes de Mille, he was more than an illustrious ancestor; he was a palpable presence though he died before she was born.

"He was an enormous presence," Miss de Mille said, reminiscing in her Greenwich Village apartment the other afternoon. "My mother was flaming with it. Mother taught Georgists. Every political economist who was in the city stopped in for tea. Karl Marx's daughter came. They stood like two she tigers — these daughters — facing each other.

"I was taken to my first Single Tax convention about the time of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in 1915 in San Francisco when I was a little girl, and had to listen to a lot of speeches. The next convention was in Denmark, and there were more speeches in Danish and other foreign languages."

### **'Land Belongs to the People'**

Miss de Mille's mother, Anna George de Mille, Henry George's youngest daughter, later wrote a life of her father, whose single-tax idea called for collecting all tax revenue from a levy on the value of land and other natural resources.

Miss de Mille said she never imposed her views on anyone, having let even her son Jonathan, a professor of history, come to the book on his own. She is of course acquainted with Georgist doctrine, which she summarized as: "Land and all natural resources belong to the people. What each person makes should belong to him." She quoted an aphorism from her grandfather: "He who makes should have. He who saves should enjoy." Labor would not be taxed, Miss de Mille said, but where there is natural monopoly, the benefits should

accrue to the people.

She added that some of Henry George's teachings were having practical results in such places as Alberta, Canada, which is trying to control the exploitation of its natural resources; in the declaration last August by the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations that the oil companies be nationalized, and in the attitude of some urban-renewal people in their view of land.

"Progress and Poverty" is a book that in the words of Rexford Tugwell, the New Deal economist, offered "a simple program of reform to the harrassed world" in "inspired style" and "with passionate eloquence." And it persuaded incipient Fabians such as George Bernard Shaw and

Sidney Webb to socialist positions. For the centenary the New York Public Library is having a special showing: a sampling of its Henry George collection, one of the most extensive in the country.

### **Letters Are On Display**

New York, incidentally, is not the only city to celebrate the centennial. Miss de Mille had just returned from Philadelphia, which arranged a dinner and assorted speeches, all for which Miss de Mille donated to it some family heirlooms, including embroidered pictures and the four-poster mahogany bed in which her grandfather was born.

The exhibition at the Public Library includes letters to and from Henry  
(cont'd on Page Eight)

### **From the Preface to the Centennial Edition of Progress & Poverty**

Henry George was a lucid voice, direct and bold, that pointed out basic truths, that cut through the confusion which developed like rot. Each age has known such diseases and each age has gone down for lack of understanding. It is not valid to say that our times are more complex than ages past and therefore the solution must be more complex. The problems are, on the whole, the same. The fact that we now have electricity and computers does not in any way controvert the fact that we can succumb to the injustices that toppled Rome.

To avert such a calamity, to eliminate involuntary poverty and unemployment, and to enable each individual to attain his maximum potential, George wrote this extraordinary treatise a hundred years ago. His ideas stand: he who makes should have; he who saves should enjoy; what the community produces belongs to the community for communal uses; and God's earth, all of it, is

the right of the people who inhabit the earth. In the words of Thomas Jefferson, "The earth belongs in usufruct to the living."

This is simple and this is unanswerable. The ramifications may not be simple but they do not alter the fundamental logic.

There never has been a time in our history when we have needed so sorely to hear good sense, to learn to define terms exactly, to draw reasonable conclusions. We needs must, or perish. As George said, "The truth that I have tried to make clear will not find easy acceptance. If that could be, it would have been accepted long ago. If that could be, it would never have been obscured."

We are on the brink. It is possible to have another Dark Ages. But in George there is a voice of hope.

Agnes George de Mille  
New York, January, 1979



## CONVENTION REPORT (cont'd)

Paul Nix, President of the Henry George School in New York, opened the proceedings by calling **Progress & Poverty** "a visionary work, which gives us an idea of what the good life is like". It was obvious from the first speech to the last, that the essence of the conference was to spark interaction, discussion, and action among the conferees. Conversations outlasted session coffee breaks and question and answer periods continued long after formal speeches were presented.

Special events highlighted each day of the convention, beginning with a reception hosted by the San Francisco school, in the Garden Room of the Hotel. Dr. Otto Butz, President of the Golden Gate University spoke at a luncheon where he gave a thoughtful but humorous talk on the sources (or lack of them) of wisdom in the academic and business communities. A reception held in the rotunda of San Francisco's historic City Hall was sponsored by the San Francisco Public Library Commission and the California Historical Society. John Molinari, President of the local Board of Supervisors, and Mrs. Carl Stern, President of the S.F. Library Commission, greeted the celebrants, and Pam Brooks, a local entertainer, closed the program with a selection of songs. A civic luncheon was held at the legendary Palace Hotel, where Henry George is reputed to still owe a bill. John Henning, who spoke at the luncheon, is a key executive of the California AFL-CIO, and a former ambassador to New Zealand. Henning praised the work of Rolland O'Regan, who is a leading advocate of L.V.T. in New Zealand.

The final two days of the conference began with a breakfast meeting which featured Author David Hapgood, and Assemblyman William Filante. Mr. Hapgood who wrote **The Screwing of the Average Man** and profiled George in **American Heritage**, confided that he went back and read **Progress & Poverty** after two Georgists wrote him thoughtful responses to his book. Filante, who represents two counties in the California Legislature, gave pointers on how he gets the word out on LVT to the executive department of the state government, particularly to the Dept. of Water Resources. The "main event" of the convention was

held on Saturday night, when 300 people attended a banquet chaired by Dr. Val Jaros, with George Tideman, former executive Vice-President of the S.F. school, as keynote speaker. John Monroe, received the annual banquet award for his contributions to the cause, and Michael Curtis, of Arden Delaware, received the new member award.

Most of all, the convention reflected the diversity and common goals of Georgists from around the world. A compendium of all of the talks from the Conference is available from the Henry George School in San Francisco.

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## PHILADELPHIA CONFERENCE (cont'd)

George preached", in his keynote speech before the audience of eighty-five.

The festivities included the appearance of Agnes de Mille, who was the hostess for the banquet, and who accepted the "Henry George Month Proclamation", from Councilwoman Beatrice Chernock. The main speaker was Councilman William Coyne of Pittsburgh, who is largely responsible for the new property tax ratio, in that city. He noted that results of the 4:1 land to improvement tax ratio will prove encouraging for the substance and well-being of the urban center, even though its effects have not been measured.

Georgists from seven states attended the day-long workshops held at the school, which is the birthplace of Henry George. Phil Finkelstein opened the activities by stating, "We are entering the mainstream of public policy, where our ideas and their pertinence are becoming ever clearer to a growing number of people, including those who are able to work towards change."

A political action workshop featured Steven Cord, Professor of History at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and author of **The Catalyst**, who proudly cited the contribution of the Henry George Foundation in the enactment of the 4:1 land tax ratio in Pittsburgh. Cathy Covell Orloff, Michael Curtis, and Penny Colgan spoke of training new teachers for the Henry George Schools, and demonstrated economic models and role-playing games, which have proved useful.

Reflections on the San Francisco conference were provided by Jack Himmelstein, Jack Schwartzmann, and Jack Daniels, who all seemed impressed with the large turnout and diversity of the Georgists there.

The final workshop concerned Georgist perspectives on the energy crisis and a discussion of the land question in Alberta, presented by Richard Biddle.

The culmination of the day's activities was a walking tour of "the Philadelphia that Henry George knew", led by Programming Committee Chairman Donald Hurford, and Director of the Henry George School in Philadelphia, with Agnes de Mille in attendance.

(A reprint of Reuss's speech  
is included in this issue)

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## AGNES DE MILLE HOSTS (cont'd)

included Mike Wallace of the CBS news program, **60 Minutes**, Dick Cavett, Kitty Carlisle Hart, Sylvia Porter, the news columnist and author, Robert Whitehead, a Broadway producer, and Heywood Hale Broun. Senator Jacob Javits (R.-N.Y.), arrived after the ceremonies had concluded.

During the ceremony, Miss de Mille told of a dinner party in Winnipeg last year, where she met "an impressive young man who was conversant in the Georgist philosophy", and he turned out to be a Canadian M.P., Lloyd Axworthy who attended the library reception, at the personal request of Miss de Mille. Mr. Axworthy spoke of spreading the ideas of Henry George throughout Canada, which presently has two active and vital schools, in Alberta and Toronto.

John P. Baker, director of the library's conservation section, closed the program by inviting the audience to peruse the exhibit, located in front of the Economics Room on the Second Floor. The display features the original manuscript of **Progress & Poverty**. The extensive George collection, located in the Economics Room, was donated to the library by Miss de Mille and her mother, Anna George.

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#### LAND ASSESSMENT (from Page Four)

the "real estate" value on which the majority of the Americans pay tax is in the value of their houses, and not in the value of their houses, and not in their small, residentially zoned lots. The wealthy, on the other hand, own much more, and more valuable land. Whether it is the vast acreage of natural resources, or expensive urban commercial locations, the wealthy have long known that the land is the best form of wealth to beat both inflation and taxes. Even the homes of the wealthy typically have a higher proportion of land value, either in large estates or luxury locations. By shifting the burden of the property tax to land and off improvements, the wealthy are automatically taxed more, and the less wealthy taxed less. Most significantly, we soften the worst blow of the property tax, the burden on the ordinary homeowner, who has most of his value in his house and not in the land parcel.

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#### AGNES DE MILLE (from Page Six)

George, the hand-written manuscript of "Progress and Poverty", a copy of the first edition of it and a copy of its centennial edition and a bust of the author. The selections call up the young man, who went to sea as a young man, as well as the newspaper editor, the candidate for public office in California and New York and the crusading figure he later became.

In one letter, dated 1856, he writes that he is "at the mouth of the Hoogley river," about 100 miles from Calcutta. In another, written two years later, he describes a "tedious" voyage of five months from Philadelphia to San Francisco. But after only a short time ashore, he thought San Francisco "a dashing place" and "rather faster than Philadelphia."

"Progress and Poverty" had a slow start, but within a few years, it was

translated into a dozen languages, and more than two million copies were sold. Miss de Mille cherishes the memory of a postcard that George Bernard Shaw sent to her mother, in which he said that hearing Henry George talk turned an intellectual snob into a man. And she recalled, too, that the hero of Tolstoy's "Resurrection," Nekhludoff goes into exile in Siberia with a copy of "Progress and Poverty" under his arm.

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#### AGNES DE MILLE

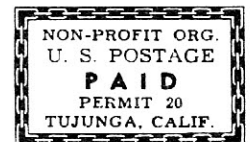
Agnes George de Mille is the granddaughter of Henry George. She is famous in her own right as a choreographer and the founder of the Agnes De Mille Heritage Dance Theatre, and she is a recipient of the Handel Medallion, New York's highest award for achievement in the arts. She is the author of eight books.

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