

HGI JOURNAL

No. 6

July 1973

HGI ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Dinner and Meeting of the Henry George Institute was held June 20 at the Roger Smith Hotel in New York. Principal speaker was Perry Prentice, newly elected member of the HGI Board of Directors.

The results of this year's HGI election were given by Mrs. Mary Camargo, member of the Nominations Committee. Elected for a three-year term on the Board besides Mr. Prentice were Neva Bianco and Frances Soriero; and William A. Camargo was re-elected. The Nominations Committee, elected to supervise next year's election, is as follows: Board members: Robert Clancy and Sydney Mayers; non-Board members: Antonio Arboleda, Roma Bianco and Lois Jessop. Outgoing Directors and Nominations Committee were thanked for having served.

Sydney Mayers served as chairman of the Annual Meeting which was attended by 34 members and friends. Robert Clancy gave a report of the year's activities, Bolivar Rodriguez reviewed the accomplishments of the Spanish Division and Joseph Jespersen's Treasurer's Report was presented. All these are covered in the Annual Report beginning on page 4 of this issue.

Mr. Prentice's talk appears on page 3. Following his remarks, Prof. C. Lowell Harriss, who was present, said that within the next five to ten years we are going to see substantial progress toward land value taxation.

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Published by Henry George
Institute, Inc., a not-
for-profit corporation,
Room 462-A, 55 W. 42 St.,
New York, N.Y. 10036.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Robert Clancy
Sydney Mayers
Neva Bianco

EDITORIAL

The important thing is
not to give up.

Working to spread the
Georgist philosophy, we
cannot but wonder some-
times if the game is worth
the candle. So hard seems
the work, so little the
results and so vast the
public inattention.

The job of spreading
the Georgist philosophy
is no easy task. Often
instead of accomplishing
the results we want it
seems to create more prob-
lems. The temptation is
to say nothing.

Yet we should speak up,
for even though we may not
immediately get the results
we want, we have dropped a
thought that may bear fruit
later.

"It is a privilege to be engaged in such a strug-
gle... It is but a part of that great, world-wide,
long continued struggle in which the just and the good
of every age have been engaged." - Henry George

Nor do we need to be
abrasive. We don't have
to make converts every
time we speak up. Just
speaking up - and keeping
up - will in time produce
results.

Henry George said there
is a satisfaction in work-
ing for the truth that can
be gained in no other way.

I have seen many people
move in and out of our
movement. I have known
some over a period of years
who have been faithful to
the philosophy and they
seem to be much happier in
their later years than
those who hopelessly or
cynically abandoned Geor-
gist ideals.

But there is more to it
than personal satisfaction.
I think we share George's
faith that the truth must
ultimately prevail, even
if we don't know when or
how. We can take pride in
the fore-knowledge that we
have picked a long-run winner.

So it is worthwhile
to stay with it both for
the present satisfaction
and the future results.
Let us never give up.

R.C.

Summary of Remarks by PERRY PRENTICE at HGI Meeting

The property tax has surfaced as a major political issue of the 1970's. Henry George used to be dismissed but important people are now ready to listen when we speak about major property tax reform.

The Temporary Advisory Commission on Housing in Kansas City, Mo. has advised that city to go over to the graded tax. I recently attended a conference in Nassau and tried to persuade the Ohio Constitutional Commission to have differential taxation. The Muskie Committee heard lots of testimony on the subject that was nonsense, but there was also some solid testimony on behalf of land value taxation.

In the forthcoming issue of Fortune there will be an important article on the subject. The Committee for Economic Development (CED) has been talked into a study of the property tax.

There are so many developments going on, one of our problems is to know what is happening. I only learned recently about Andrew Stein's amendment; and he probably does not know that Buffalo wants land value taxation in Erie County.

The property tax problem in every city is different. I gave a talk on the subject in Milwaukee and I thought it would be good for St. Louis. But I learned that the situation is quite different in the two cities - in Milwaukee the property tax is too high, in St. Louis it is too low. I thought my St. Louis talk would be good for Buffalo, but I found out about special problems there that required me to change my talk. I was then supposed to talk in Rochester and even there I found I could not use my Buffalo talk. So we have to be prepared with facts.

There is a marked change in the atmosphere when you talk land value taxation today. People used to say, "Oh, that's Henry George," as though that were the complete refutation of all you have said. Now they are listening. As Arthur Hugh Clough said in his poem, "The main is flooding in."

HGI ANNUAL REPORT, 1972-73

At last year's HGI Annual Dinner and Meeting, June 15, 1972, guest speaker was James Kee, counsel for New York State Assemblyman Andrew Stein, who told of plans to introduce a bill proposing a graded tax for New York City. Mr. Stein was re-elected and introduced a bill in the State Legislature calling for permission for the city to assess improvements at 30% of value and land at 100% for taxation. This bill is pending and more will be heard about it in the Fall.

The Henry George Institute joined with the Henry George Groups, initiated by John Tetley, Director of the New Jersey Henry George School, in a series of consultations. One was held in September, over the Labor Day weekend, in Arden and Wilmington, Delaware. Another was held April 6-8 in Fairhope, Alabama. HGI members attended them, including Robert Clancy who reported on the work of the Institute.

Classes in Progress and Poverty were held in the Fall: in Jackson Heights, taught by William Liszanckie and Robert Clancy; and in New Hyde Park, Long Island, taught by Samuel Scheck.

A correspondence course in Progress and Poverty was launched in the Spring. Lessons were sent to several applicants. and so far one student has graduated. A charge of \$2 is made for lessons and materials, and \$3 for the textbook. It is planned to increase advertising for this course.

Great results were achieved by the Spanish Division, as reported by Bolivar Rodriguez, chairman. Classes were held for three terms during the year at the Franci Xavier High School in New York. A tuition fee was charged (in the Fall term \$12, and in the Winter and Spring terms it was raised to \$15) that included text books. Students were obtained through advertising in Spanish-language dailies and other publicity. A total of 314 students enrolled for all courses in all three terms, and 232 graduated, broken down as follows: Fundamental Economics, 110; Applied Economics, 55; Economic Science, 45; Agrarian Reform (introduced in the Winter term), 22. A special certificate was a-

warded to students who had completed the full panel of four courses. Teachers of the Spanish classes included B. Rodriguez, W.A. Camargo, L. Paniague, G. Morales, E. Moya, J. Yenque, D. Gonzalez and J. Daza.

The Treasurer, Joseph Jespersen, reports as follows for the period June 15, 1972 - June 13, 1973: The beginning balance was \$4,557.67. During the year, total receipts were \$11,959.84 and total expenditures were \$6,216.12, leaving a balance of \$5,743.72.

Of the above, \$3,784.00 was received from Spanish Division tuition fees, and \$3,645.23 was disbursed for the Spanish Division. Most of the balance of receipts was from members' dues and contributions, also book sales and receipts for dinners. The balance of expenditures was for office rent, use of meeting rooms, class promotion, printing, postage, books purchased and payment for dinners.

The Institute also owns 105 shares of North European Oil Co., donated by Gaston Haxo, which yielded a dividend of \$10.50 (included in the above receipts).

On October 29, a group visit was paid to the Henry George monument in Greenwood Cemetery, on the 75th anniversary of George's death.

Members' meetings were held at Freedom House as follows: October 5, with Oscar B. Johannsen on "The Money Muddle"; November 14, with Ray Pfortner on "Zero Population Growth"; and December 12, George Hardy on "Society in Conflict." (Mr. Hardy was visiting from Australia. Another visitor was Dr. Rolland O'Regan from New Zealand.)

Miss Roma Bianco volunteered her services to attend to the HGI office for several hours a week.

A holiday social was held at the Barbizon Hotel in New York on Dec. 29. On Feb. 24, a luncheon was held at the Roger Smith Hotel on the occasion of the 100th birthday of Oscar H. Geiger, founder of the Henry George School; and Karl Otto showed slides of Fairhope.

In May, a series of three lectures was given at the Jackson Heights Public Library. Speakers were: Frank Tang on "The Future of Taiwan and China"; Ray Pfortner on "New York, Before and After"; and William A. Camargo on "Latin America in Transition."

The HGI Journal continued to be published, with articles and reports of progress. Communications were sent from time to time to members advising them of literature available and projects to be undertaken. Mr. W.E. Pereira of Los Angeles volunteered to be chairman of a Letter-Writing Committee. Many letters to editors and officials were written by members.

With this year's election, Neva Bianco, Frances Soriero and Perry Prentice are the newly elected Directors, with William A. Camargo re-elected. The Board of Directors is now as follows: - Term ending June 1974: J. Ted Gwartney, Gilbert Herman, Joseph Jespersen, Bolívar Rodriguez. Term ending June 1975: James L. Busey, Robert Clancy, Oscar B. Johansen, Sydney A. Mayers. Term ending June 1976: Neva Bianco, William A. Camargo, Perry Prentice, Frances Soriero.

Retiring Directors are Mario E. Cordero, Laurence Kobak and Dorothy Sara and appreciation is expressed for their service. The Board elected the same officers as last year: Robert Clancy, President; William A. Camargo, Vice-President; Gilbert Herman, Secretary; and Joseph Jespersen, Treasurer.

Plans for the coming year include: Attendance by Robert Clancy and other HGI members at the International Conference on Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, to be held on the Isle of Man, Sept. 8-15. Classes and correspondence courses in Progress and Poverty, and continuation of other HGI projects. Members' meetings and exploration of ways and means to advance the cause to which the Institute is dedicated.

Thanks are extended to HGI members and friends who make possible the work of the Institute. We hope to continue advancing the Georgist philosophy and movement during the coming year.

THE STORY FROM CHICAGO

By MINA OLSON

We have three Georgist organizations in Illinois, namely: the Henry George School, which conducts classes; the Better Cities Committee of Illinois, which works politically; and the Henry George Woman's Club, which meets monthly and handles the social end.

Henry Tideman, Jr., President of the Henry George School, has formed a committee of architects from the American Institute of Architects. The last class he conducted at the Central YMCA Community College was held for architects in and around Chicago.

The School does not have a building and very little money, but it has an active Board of Directors of 12 persons. In our Spring classes we had 45 registrations. We mail 3000 circulars per class, and printing and postage costs \$75 per class. All the work, except printing and mailing, is done by volunteers. We have a total School budget of \$1,000 for classes for 1973, including telephone, supplies, etc.

We have several very fine writers and speakers who are making news in our area by writing letters and articles, speaking and testifying before various professional, civic and legislative bodies.

The Better Cities Committee of Illinois was formed to promote the film "One Way to Better Cities" and to influence legislation. They have shown the film over 100 times to organizations, universities and corporations, most recently to the staff of the Assessor's Office and the North Shore Real Estate Board. William O. Ranky, Chairman of the Better Cities Committee testified before the Illinois Economic and Fiscal Commission on February 24. (Copies of his testimony before the Assessor's Committee on August 17, 1972 were distributed at the Consultation of the Henry George Groups in Arden last September.) Professor Arthur Becker of the University of Wisconsin also offered valuable testimony at the Commission.

Several other local Georgists testified, and the speaker before Mr. Ranky was a professor from the University of Illinois who said the only solution to some of our problems is land value taxation.

The Henry George Woman's Club celebrated its 34th birthday this year on April 14. Prof. Becker was guest speaker and new graduates of the School were welcomed. The Club now accepts men as associate members; in the Fall we plan to change the name to the Henry George Club.

A new periodical, The Landmarker, was launched in the Summer with Rosalie M. Schultz as editor.

(Further information on all of the above may be obtained from Mrs. Mina Olson, Henry George School, 4027 N. Francisco Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60618.)

AGNES DE MILLE HONORED

On June 21 - the evening following the Annual Meeting of the Henry George Institute, in the same room of the same hotel, a dinner was held by the "Fragments" group with Agnes de Mille, granddaughter of Henry George, as guest of honor. Jack Schwartzman presided. Several HGI members attended.

Miss de Mille, famed choreographer who has also written several books is author of the recent book, Speak to Me, Dance with Me. This autobiographical account goes back to her early struggles to get ahead in her chosen profession of the dance, mostly in London in the 1930's. It consists chiefly of letters written to her mother, Anna George de Mille, daughter of Henry George, and is a moving story of mostly heart-aches and setbacks, with some promise of the great success which was to come to her later. The Georgist movement weaves in and out of her narrative and she declares herself a believer in the Single Tax. Her book concludes with a reprint of the pamphlet by Henry George, "The Single Tax, What It Is and Why We Urge It."

LETTERS TO EDITORS FROM HGI MEMBERS

The West Australian, Oct. 23, 1972

I refer to an item headed "Australian trade surplus a record" (October 10). The item said that after adjustment for seasonal factors, the value of Australia's exports had increased from \$456.4 million in August to \$507.2 million in September, and imports had fallen from \$307.5 million to \$299.4 million.

Does not a balance of trade really mean that the value of exports equals the value of imports? In individual trading it is obvious that whatever is given by the trading person has the same value to him as what he takes for it in exchange. If this holds true fundamentally in international trading a country ought to take in, on a value basis, the same amount as that exported.

Otherwise it seems that we as a nation get poorer in goods here in exactly that value which so often is referred to as a "favourable" balance.

Mrs. Ilse Stillwell
Perth

The Baltimore Evening Sun, Jan. 27, 1973

In reference to the legislative proposals for land use, may I say this: The actual value of land is determined by its location. The closer land is to the center of a city, the higher is its productive potential and hence its value. Most land is underassessed. The same land is overpriced - its speculative value, or what is asked for it. The actual value of land is what is offered for it.

If land were taxed at 8 per cent of its actual value, slums would be unprofitable. Were you to tax land and untax all buildings (gradually, perhaps), the sprawling suburbs would implode back into the center of production, the city.

This is the natural way to solve the housing problem, the unemployment problem, the source of revenue problem and ultimately the land use problem.

D. Jean Windsor
Ellicott City

(Miss Windsor also wrote to Congressman Clarence D. Long as to whether any federal studies had been made on Henry George's theories; he replied that "no studies have been conducted specifically on Henry George's theories by the Library of Congress, the General Accounting Office or the Internal Revenue Service.")

The Middletown (Conn.) Press, Feb. 21, 1973

... To stop inflation, stimulate production. Stimulate speculation in the production of food, clothing and shelter. Instead of this, we stimulate the speculation of currency by trying to fix an arbitrary value. The speculator simply tries to outguess the result of the black market. By fixing prices, we hamper production as those who seek to buy building material know. To get food, clothing and shelter, with price fixing in effect, we create the black market. Now we pay, not only the true cost of production, but a premium for the legal risk the black market takes. In a free market, an increase in price stimulates production and eventually lowers the price.

However, there is one type of speculation which has been the cause of our economic difficulties since recorded history, and that is land speculation. Take any hamlet, town, city or state and examine what it is that creates land values. Is it not our taxes that build roads, schools, fire protection? Is it not private capital that builds homes, railroads, trucks, steamships, bus lines, etc.? Yet when it comes to taxation, whom do we tax?...

If the tax was removed from production and put on land values, society would be taking what it creates and leave to the producer what he creates.

Andrew P. Christianson
Chester

Los Angeles Herald-Examiner, March 31, 1973

Economic principles, as ascertained in the classical school - the natural factors and natural law principles - lead one to think of taxation as a matter of sources, not of taxes, as such. Taxes serve as pumps...

From the viewpoint of the citizen there are really two sources, one rent of land and the other rewards of human effort. The people's question is not which tax (which pump) to use but which source to use first; and this comes out as rent-of-land. Should people vote to overspend what rent of land in urban, suburban and rural (especially royalty rents) will provide for, they will have to tap the other sources - better with direct than with indirect (hidden or sneaky) taxes...

Noah D. Alper
St. Louis, Mo.

(Mr. Alper collaborates with Mr. W.E. Pereira of Los Angeles on letter-writing projects. Mr. Pereira has written to St. Louis' new Mayor, John H. Poelker.)

Hi-Riser, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., June 17, 1973

...The total amount of tax is important but I believe that the form or system of taxation is also very important. For instance, any tax which hampers or penalizes labor and industry should be abolished or kept as low as possible. To avoid placing a burden on production, the government should obtain more of its revenue by taxing unearned increment more heavily. The dictionary defines unearned increment as " an increase in the value of land due to no labor or outlay of the owner, but to natural causes making an increased demand for it, as increased population."

It seems to me that any one who works for a living, be he employer or employe, would be in favor of having the government collect as much unearned increment as possible before taxing any earned income. This would permit the reduction of taxes now levied on production.

Bruno Eichert

NEWS OF MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

KARL AND LENA OTTO took a trip around the world this past Spring. Among Georgist friends they visited en route were Monsignor L. G. Ligutti in Rome and Lt. Comdr. Suthon Hinjiranan in Bangkok. The Ottos also spent some time in Australia and showed their slides on Fairhope (which they showed to the HGI meeting Feb. 24) to groups in Sydney and Melbourne. Mr. Otto has been writing a book and we hope to hear more about it.

OSCAR B. JOHANNSEN is running for State Senator in New Jersey this year as an independent. It is for the 20th legislative district in Union County. Besides promoting land value taxation, Mr. Johannsen would legalize acupuncture.

CARL F. SHAW reported in our last issue as an assessor in West Virginia. He now writes: "I and my family could not live on the Tax Dept. salary, so I have returned to the U.S. Army Field Band in Fort Meade, Md. My plans now are to complete the other 10 years for retirement and then return to assessing. Meanwhile there is progress in West Virginia. The State Legislature is financing a 5-year land reappraisal of the entire eastern half of the state. Donal Shafer and George Hardman of Local Government Relations, 1606 Washington St. E., Charleston, W. Va., are supporting the reappraisal. They will need support. Please send and encourage friends to send them any and all LVT information."

JOSEPH ZASHIN presented testimony at the Arizona Senate Interior Committee hearing on a bill concerning land use planning. After criticizing aspects of the bill, he urged study of land value taxation. Mr. Zashin will present a paper on his Tax Map Plan at the International Conference on the Isle of Man.

FRANK E. NELSON's group, the Taxpayer's Lobby of Wilmington, Del., sponsored a Property Tax Forum on May 10 which was addressed among others by Lyle C. Bryant of Arlington, Va. and George Collins of Philadelphia. Legislators have requested more information.