

Letters from Our Readers

Free Trade is Indeed Primary

Contrary to the situation in Australia, as reported in the letter from Lionel Boorman (*GJ*, Summer '97) employment in the US has increased since NAFTA went into effect, some of these people being employed producing goods for export to Canada and Mexico. Perhaps Australia's problems are due more to strikes and government intervention in the economy than to cheaper imports.

Unfortunately we do not have real free trade as envisioned by Henry George, but government controlled and manipulated trade. Even so, the benefits are evident. Never has the American consumer had such a wide variety of products from all over the world available for purchase at reasonable prices. This has helped to keep inflation in check. Even though some of these benefits undoubtedly end up in landowners' pockets, the consumer does benefit, and we are all consumers. So the *Georgist Journal* should "persist in fostering the concept of free trade," [as Sydney Mayers urged] and not soft-pedal it as Mr. Boorman suggests.

— *David Simmons, Tuscon, Arizona*