

The Georgist Journal

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COMMENT

1976 (in addition to being the Bicentennial Year of the USA) is the last chance to elect Henry George to the Hall of Fame for Great Americans - at least to the present Hall of Fame. With the coming election by a board of prominent persons, it is expected that the present colonnade in the Bronx will be filled up by busts of great Americans.

We thank the many friends who have already submitted their nomination of Henry George. I spoke with the Hall of Fame's Director and he was impressed by the number of nominations of George. The amount of nominations each candidate receives will be influential - so if you have not yet sent in yours, please do so. Nominations from other countries besides the USA will be impressive, too. Soon the Henry George Institute will be sending nomination forms to members. You may wait for this, or else write to: Dr. Jerry Grundfest, Executive Director
Hall of Fame for Great Americans
2 Washington Square Village
New York, N.Y. 10012, USA

There are many aspects to Henry George that may be presented as reasons for him to be elected to the Hall of Fame. In my letter I pointed out that he has had a considerable and continuing influence in each succeeding generation up to the present. In his own day he had a great impact on thinkers and leaders, his books sold in the millions and were translated into numerous languages.

In the early 20th century his influence was pervasive in reform movements - the Progressive movement, city reform politics, public land policy, assessment and tax practices. President Wilson acknowledged his influence, in Britain the Liberal Party campaigned for his ideas, Georgist reforms were undertaken in Denmark, Australia and other countries.

In the following generation, several organizations were founded devoted to the promotion of Georgist ideas, including the Henry George Foundation of America, the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, the Henry George School of Social Science and the Lincoln Foundation; in England the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade was formed, in Denmark the Justice Party, and other organizations in various countries.

In the present generation, a new wave of Georgist influence is taking place. George's emphasis on the land is reappearing in a number of ways - land reform movements, the environmental movement, land use concerns. In these days of urban crisis his ideas on taxation are being given a new look by legislators and economists. A wave of real property assessment reform has begun. The energy crisis is causing more attention to George's warning against monopoly of land and natural resources.

It is only fitting that this neglected thinker and leader be honored by his election to the Hall of Fame. Let us make it possible.

(See also letter, page 9.)

RC

The Georgist Journal, Rm. 462-A, 55 W. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036, USA.
Robert Clancy, Editor. Readers are invited to submit suitable articles, letters, etc., for publication.