

Henry George Newsletter

published by

Henry George School of Social Science

121 East 30th Street
New York, NY 10016
(212) 688-8020

Lancaster M. Greene
Publications Chairman

George L. Collins
Director

Mark A. Sullivan
Editor

AFFILIATES

LONG ISLAND

Stan Rubenstein, Director
P.O. Box 553
Cutchogue, NY 11935
(516) 734-7543

PHILADELPHIA

Mike Curtis, Director
413 South 10th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147
(215) 922-4278

NEW ENGLAND

Ernest Kahn, Director
114 Ames Street
Sharon, MA 02067
(617) 784-3086

CHICAGO

Sam Venturella, Director
4536 N. Ravenswood Drive
Chicago, IL 60640
(312) 561-6660

CALIFORNIA

E. Robert Scrofani, Director
1568 Schrader Street
San Francisco, CA 94117
(415) 661-6933

Harry Pollard, Director
Box 655
Tujunga, CA 91042
(818) 352-4141

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Lucy DeSilva, Director
Isabel La Católica #212
AP #758, Santo Domingo
(809) 682-9361

CANADA

School of Economic Science
Craig Cringan, Director
2267 Westman Road
Mississauga, Ontario L5K 1M7
(416) 822-4694
Gaye/Gerry Shaw, Co-Directors
3017 25th Street, S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T3E 1Y2

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

New York's winter term of classes began on Tuesday, January 23rd with an ambitious schedule of eleven ten-week courses, three Friday night forums, and two Saturday seminars covering topics ranging from basic Georgist economics to homelessness in our land and Perestroika in Eastern Europe. At the close of the first week 425 students had attended classes.

There are 255 first-time students taking initial courses in *Fundamental Economics*, *Understanding Economics*, *Classical Analysis I*, and *Progress & Poverty* (in Spanish). Ninety-nine enrolled in advanced courses, *Applied Economics*, *Classical Analysis II*, and *Third World Issues* (in Spanish) for which a class from the foregoing list is a prerequisite. *Money & Banking*, another course open to new students without prerequisite, and given in the afternoon, had fourteen students at the start. *Great Decisions 1990*, the

Foreign Policy Association's program on U.S. foreign relations offered as an advanced course, attracted twenty-five previous students.

As enrollments increased and classrooms became full, additional sections of *Fundamental Economics* and *Progress & Poverty* classes have had to be organized. The first Friday Night Forum, *The Income Tax and You*, drew an attendance of thirty-two. Some were current and past students, but the majority were attracted to the school for the first time.

Reorganization of the research library is now going on, so that the library will be separate from classrooms. Originally, two of the classrooms also served as library rooms, which inhibited the functioning of the library. Additional shelving, which will provide space for more volumes than the previous arrangement allowed, will be installed soon, enabling library services to resume in the spring.

— George L. Collins

PHILADELPHIA SCHOOL GETS MORE PRESS COVERAGE

A new major article on the Philadelphia Henry George School appeared in the January 8-14 issue of *Philadelphia Business Journal*. The story graces the front page of its real estate section with a color photograph of Director Mike Curtis in front of the bust of Henry George at the George Birthplace on 10th Street. Several associates of the School are mentioned and quoted along with Mr. Curtis, including City Councilman James Tayoun, City Finance Director Betsy Reveal, stock analyst Sam Gray, School President Edward Dodson, and Lucia Cipoloni, assistant to Mr. Curtis, who said: "I took a course [at HGS] in 1937, just out of high school.... Democracy is a wonderful thing, it's just awfully hobbled by land monopoly." According to the article, President Dodson discovered the School while researching a book he wanted to write on social theory. Mr. Dodson is now working on a liberal arts Master's degree at Temple University in addition to his work at the Philadelphia office of the Federal National Mortgage Association. It was at the HGS that he discovered that slums and inadequate hous-

ing is "largely because of the tax structure." [Note: See Mr. Dodson's Letter, also in this issue.]

Focus in the story is placed on the School's efforts to teach the ideas of Henry George and to restore his birthplace to its 19th-century style. Philadelphia's political debate over taxing land is also covered. Councilman Tayoun's proposal is to change the ratio of building to land assessment from 3.1-to-1 to 2.5- or 2-to-1. Tayoun projects that in 80% of eight out of ten districts, property assessments would drop immediately. "What goes up are the corner properties, the properties with large lawns.... where you have homes sitting on big plots of ground, they go up. The (gas) refineries go up drastically." According to the article, Tayoun's proposal failed last year because Mayor Goode tied it to a millage hike.

The immediate success or failure of educational and political efforts may be beside the point, according to the concluding remark by Mike Curtis: "It just sort of feels good working for something that's ultimately going to do some good in the world."