SPECIAL CENTENNIAL REPORT

The Henry George News

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CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS IN THREE CITIES

Mike Wallace, Dick Cavett and Agnes De Mille

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.

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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

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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

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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 ration 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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