

NOT THAT BAD! By GEOFF FORSTER, Secretary, Henry George League of Victoria, Australia

I offer a few comments on Fred Auld's letter (Spring 1981 GJ) advocating political action.

Back in the 1950's, Victorian Georgists did try political action, forming a Justice Party. The efforts were unsuccessful in terms of getting candidates into Parliament, though there would have been some educational spin-off. There have also been other occasional political efforts in Australia.

Besides direct political action of this nature, attempts to influence existing political parties and individual politicians may be a more effective line of approach, especially if a Georgist group lacks sufficient manpower for a sustained, long-term political effort.

As regards the comment made to Mr. Auld that he would never see Georgist ideas implemented in his life time, may not this have been a note of realism rather than despair and cynicism? The full-orbed Georgist philosophy involves a radical reorientation of existing attitudes and assumptions, and history suggests that this is not likely to occur rapidly.

Indeed, it is a tribute to the intrinsic merits of the Georgist philosophy that many people can persist in active support for long periods, even though there may be few obvious direct results for their efforts. The personality differences implied by Mr. Auld are of course liable to occur anywhere.

Finally, may I assure readers that, in Melbourne at least, things are not as bad as Mr. Auld's letter might suggest.