

The Georgist Journal

Number 18

Winter 1977

COMMENT

In the Newsletter of the San Francisco Henry George School appeared the following item:

"Over Labor Day weekend, the staff and members of the School helped man an informational booth at the annual conference of the Association for Humanistic Psychology. To be honest the effort was an almost total failure in terms of serious interest generated. We figured that this group of people would be interested in at least discussing the relationship of mental health and personal growth problems to the social and economic environment but we were wrong. At a lecture scheduled for a Georgist speaker only 1 person out of the 2,200 people reported to be in attendance bothered to show. Of course there were a few other activities scheduled for the same time but it is still unbelievable that only one person would show."

Curious about this, I inquired from the School's Director, Wendell Fitzgerald, about this group. He sent literature and explained that "the Association is a group of people who are interested in establishing a more humane middle ground in things psychological... It stresses a more wholistic, organic and spiritual approach to human nature and psychology..."

The literature is encouraging. An AHP Newsletter features articles on Ecological Society, Human Rights and Humanistic Law. And we know of at least one good Georgist leader interested and active in this psychological approach - Frank Goble of the Thomas Jefferson Research Society. Seems like fertile ground for us!

Why then the "almost total failure?" It is not a question of saying the right phrases, because scarcely any one bothered to come to hear anything at all.

Lest it should seem that we have nothing but failures, I add that, following the above item in the HGS Newsletter there was a report on the School setting up an information booth at a shopping center in Sacramento. "This time we had good responses, including questions and many names asking for more information and class announcements."

Does this mean that we might have better results going out to the public - literally, the marketplace, as above - than going to special groups who are already wrapped up in their own thing?

R.C.

Contents of this issue

Organizations and Members	2	The Fairhope Danger, W.Pitt	7
Anti-Monopolism in Australia	3	Lessons of Turgot, H.McGahan	7
Report from Scotland, R.Rennie	3	Supermarkets, M.Norwalk	8
Straightening it Out, J.Hickok	4	Karl Marx Again, V.Wasicki	8
Land Value an Evil? W.Costerus	4	Hall of Fame	9
Land Question in Netherlands	5	Get Issues Discussed, G.Menninger...	9
Rent of Land, S.Sevenster	6	Henry George Institute	10

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, news, etc., for publication.

NEWS OF ORGANIZATIONS AND MEMBERS

PERCY R. WILLIAMS died on December 27, 1977, a few days short of his 91st birthday. He had been Executive Secretary of the Henry George Foundation of America since its founding in 1926. He was also for many years Assessor of Pittsburgh. We expect to have more information on the career of this outstanding Georgist leader in our next issue, as well as future prospects of the Foundation.

RALPH BORSODI died October 26, 1977 at age 90. He had been a leader of the Decentralist movement, author of several books and founder of the School of Living, which is continued by Mildred Loomis and her colleagues. His most complete statement is in his book Education and Living wherein he outlines principles of normal living including Georgist concepts. Late in life he worked on the promotion of community land trusts.

THE 1978 JOINT GEORGIST CONFERENCE OF NORTH AMERICA has been set for July 1 - 5 at Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania, it was announced by Phil Finkelstein (Director, New York Henry George School) and George Collins (Director, Philadelphia HGS). Proposals for the program are invited.

THE HENRY GEORGE LEAGUE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA (John E. Hall, Secretary) is active distributing literature, canvassing local councils and interviewing politicians. George and Jean Jukes toured South Australia as Henry George League candidates for the Senate. Although their chances were known to be small, they obtained valuable publicity and distributed 20,000 copies of a succinct Georgist manifesto.

LEAF held a conference in San Francisco December 3. A feature of the meeting was the premiere of a film, "For This Land is Mine." We understand there will be further editing of the film which seeks to impart Georgist principles, and we look forward to hearing further about it.

J. TED GWARTNEY, Assessment Commissioner of British Columbia, Canada, reports: "Work here was completed on December 1 on the assessment of one million properties, which were properly assessed at actual value. There was little complaint. Land is 55% of our \$78 billion tax base in British Columbia."

ROBERT V. ANDELSON (Professor of Philosophy at Auburn University, Alabama) was invited to speak at St. John's Church, Washington, D.C. on January 24, on "Reshaping Our Cities - an Ethical Issue." Besides religious leaders, among the sponsors was Walter Rybeck of the League of Urban Land Conservation.

WILLIAM FILANTE is running for the Republican nomination for the California State Assembly (9th Assembly District, Marin County). He is President of LEAF and a civic leader in many fields.

WAYNE S. BERRY (Spring Hill, Fla., USA) has resumed writing for the Independent Press. He had been writing a series of articles based on Progress and Poverty for this paper and this was interrupted by his illness. With his recovery, the editor has asked him to start the series all over again.

HEINZ BUHLER, HGI and IU member, is Mayor of Ausserferrera, Switzerland, a member of the International Academy of Criminology, a militia officer in the Swiss army, a Doctor of Ethnology, and a consultant on Chinese art. Georgists are versatile!

MICHAEL SILAGI, who has won his Doctor of Law degree from Munich University, has had his thesis published. It is Von Deutsch-Südwest zu Namibia and concerns the sovereignty of South Africa over the former German colony of Southwest Africa.

"ANTI-MONOPOLISM" IN AUSTRALIA

George Hardy, now on the Executive of the Henry George League in Melbourne, Australia, is seeking to introduce a renewed outlook and activity. A modern "anti-monopolist" approach, he says, is needed rather than the traditional "single tax" approach. He issues an Anti-Monopolist Newsletter which advocates these policies: Eliminate monopoly privileges (Business, Government, Trade Union, etc.). Raise revenues from Monopoly benefits (Land rent, Royalties, Licences, etc.), not from individual efforts (no income tax, payroll tax, etc.).

Mr. Hardy calls this approach "Consistent Liberalism - the third road between capitalism and socialism." He contends that libertarian principles are reconcilable with consistent liberalism. Following are a few highlights from his paper, "Public Property in Free Society":

"Freedom implies equal rights for survival.

A free society exists to promote the optimum satisfaction of its members.

A free society is formed by individuals who join and remain members voluntarily on account of their expectation that their membership enhances their chances to achieve a set of similarly valued objectives, and satisfactions in an optimal manner.

The equal right to exist can only be ensured by providing an equal share in the benefits and disadvantages of survival conditions, i.e., an equal share in "Nature", commonly described as natural resources, which belong to the whole community - the "public".

Free market exchange is not possible without equal survival rights.

Monopoly values are created by the community and they justly belong to the public to ensure equal economic rights."

REPORT FROM SCOTLAND

By RONALD J. RENNIE (Glasgow, Scotland)

The proposal to change the name of the Scottish League for Land Value Taxation was defeated in the postal ballot of the whole membership. (An alternate proposed name was League for Public Revenue from Land Values. James H. MacMurchie had proposed League for Ground Rent for State Revenue.)

It was I who proposed the present title when in 1950 along with Arthur Madsen and a few others the Glasgow and Edinburgh Leagues were amalgamated to form the Scottish League. Arthur Madsen was Secretary of the Edinburgh League before the first World War when he went to London to assist John Paul to establish the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values. I have been Secretary of the Scottish League for more than 25 years.

I first joined the movement in 1921 when I met Arthur Weller in Manchester and he introduced me to Progress and Poverty. He was full-time Secretary of the Manchester League for the Taxation of Land Values, and there were then the English League, and Leagues in Liverpool, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness. Now there are only two such organisations in Britain, the United Committee in London and the Scottish League. Nearly all our present members are former students of the School of Economic Studies. There can be little doubt that, without the School, the Scottish League would have ceased to exist.

In the Autumn Georgist Journal, Lionel Boorman criticizes me for what some one else said I had said. I wish to straighten the matter out here.

Back in 1933 I presented an analysis of land value taxation to refute the argument that it defeated itself in practice. Oscar Geiger gave it his endorsement. In 1969 I published it along with other material. I took a mathematical approach with charts to prove the law, "As the tax rate increases, approaching infinity as a limit, land value (price) decreases and approaches zero as a limit, at an infinite tax rate, and tax revenue increases and approaches the full economic rent as a limit."

It was recognized that the price of the land is the capitalization of that part of rent assured to the owner, but under inflation and speculative advance in rent, true values are indeterminate. With popular acceptance of progressively increasing tax rates, speculation would be diminished or eliminated and resultant prices of land would be more nearly true market values.

Benjamin Smith took exception to my use of the term "value (price)" in the statement of the law and claimed I was attempting to equate value and price. In discussing land value taxation it is necessary to use the term value in the broad sense and in context should be considered the base on which the tax rate is applied.

Mr. Boorman concludes his remarks with the statement that "Land value is a social evil." Actually it is the evidence or result of a social evil, the private appropriation of rent. The most equitable and practical way to stop this evil is to take rent for public use by land value taxation.

(Mr. Hickok is currently in hospital and we wish him a speedy recovery. - Ed.)

IS LAND VALUE A SOCIAL EVIL?

By W. COSTERUS (Amsterdam, Netherlands)

In the Autumn GJ, Lionel Boorman says that it is. But how can land value be a social evil when it results from such a blessed phenomenon as rent which is a social product and no evil at all? In reality the social evil exists in the fact that private landowners legally can and do appropriate this rent.

Mr. Boorman corrects himself by saying that "land value is a capitalization of the privilege to appropriate privately the publicly created rent." So I think his conclusion should be, "We must recognize that land value is the natural result of the natural phenomenon, rent - and that after public recapture of the rent, the remaining land value will lose commercial relevance (market price)."

The goal of Georgists will be reached only if we apply the Single Tax 100%. It is not the extent of shifting the tax on land values that should interest us, but the total collection by the community of all rent.

* * *

JAMES H. MACMURCHIE defends his name for our reform against the criticism by W. Costerus in the Autumn GJ and says: "Ground Rent for State Revenue has withstood the test for 100 years. There is no need to search for an unequivocal term. What is desirable is to find a citizen with power, personality and sincerity to go to the world expounding the philosophy of Henry George to the masses and driving it home that 'All it is necessary to do is to collect ground rent for the common benefit' (quoted from George's Social Problems)."

THE LAND QUESTION IN THE NETHERLANDS

By BASIL BUTTERWORTH (Hampshire, England)

Since my last report on Georgist activities in the Netherlands (GJ No. 13, Autumn 1976) the two Georgist groups have amalgamated, Stichting Grondvest (Land Chartist Foundation) and Recht en Vrijheid (Justice and Freedom). Ons Erfdeel (Our Heritage) has ceased publication, and Grondvest (Land Chartist) continues as a quarterly. Here are some points of interest from Grondvest:

Land Values in the Hague

The propaganda carried out by Grondvest for the rent of land leased by the city council to be regularly increased to correct it for inflation seems to have had some effect. The council has, however, decided to continue to make leaseholders a present of part of the value created by the community. They have decided that the rent shall be adjusted only once in five years (not annually, as proposed by Grondvest), and corrected for only half the amount of inflation. It seems to be a principle with politicians (local as well as national) always to compromise on matters of principle!

Leases and Consumer Interests

This issue of Grondvest makes a great feature of the relation between the rent paid by a leasehold shopkeeper and the prices paid by customers. It is stated that consumers pay, in the purchase price of the articles they buy, a certain percentage for site value, and get this back again in the contribution the shopkeeper pays to their municipal treasury. Grondvest goes on to work out how much the citizens of The Hague lose owing to the fact that four-fifths of the land in the city is privately held by developers, financial and insurance companies, big firms and individuals. It is concluded that it costs every family in The Hague some thousands of guilders a year. How is this possible? "A combination of individual interest, group interest, ignorance, laziness and probably also fear."

(Grondvest is probably correct in this diagnosis, but a point of theoretical criticism seems to be in order here. I suggest it is incorrect to say that the consumer pays a percentage for site value in the prices of goods. There is no reason to suppose that prices will be higher in a shop on a valuable corner site in the city than in one on a more marginal site in the suburbs. Surely, rent arises because the shop on the busy corner will sell many more articles in a given time than the other and so, although both sell the same goods at the same prices, will make much more profit. The "profit" in the marginal shop will be the wages of the shopkeeper and his assistants; in the shop on the busy corner it will be wages plus rent.)

Methods of Propaganda

Grondvest invites its readers to cooperate actively in its work. The ways it suggests for doing this are: (1) keep the committee supplied with press cuttings and news about matters connected with land - rents, local land sales, etc.; (2) support Grondvest with an annual subscription and encourage others to do the same; (3) write letters to the press; (4) pay an extra subscription - F20, instead of the minimum F12 - to become a member with a vote in elections of the committee; (5) make opportunities for Grondvest speakers to address other organizations; (6) distribute informative literature.

RENT OF LAND PHILOSOPHY

By SIEBE SEVENSTER (Bennekom, Netherlands)

(Mr. Sevenster visited the USA recently. He was in Seattle to visit his daughter, and a group of Georgists from Victoria, B.C. came to visit and discuss with him. They were Ernest A. Bryan, editor of Freefolk, and his colleagues. Following is a statement by Mr. Sevenster used as a basis for this discussion.)

In their thinking Georgists are in close relation to the rent of land. So they ought to know every item about rent, how it comes into existence and on what it depends. There are relations with nature, land, mankind and culture.

Nature: This is all man finds around him independent of his activities.

Land: The solid surface that, together with the seas, supports all life on earth.

Mankind: The human beings who need and use land.

Culture: The state of living built up and developed by human communities.

Ricardo gave, as a basic idea, his view of how rent comes into existence. The next point is that rent is part of production. There are two other points in relation to the production of rent:

a) Rent is a result of the differences in quality of land, or its favorable location; this cause has a natural character.

b) Rent is due to the community; this can be called its social aspect.

These two points look reasonable, but in the end only labor can produce rent. As Georgists, we want to give rent to labor, so the circle seems to be closed. But there is culture too, the way we operate in the community. This is an important component, but how to put it into the circle? Here we have to consider the way men live together.

It is obvious that if a man gets a piece of land by knocking down his fellow man, there is no rent at all. It is by living in peace and respecting the use of land by other individuals that mankind can exist and the rent of land is born. So the whole circle is: Mankind living in peace respects the use of land, differences in rent are due to the quality and site of land, and labor makes the rent. In other words, rent is the result, the force behind it is labor, culture is the necessary component.

Rent is part of production, and as Georgists we know the disposition of this part is not as it ought to be. We are seeking to create better conditions by rejecting this wrong disposition and finding the right one. Rent in itself is a result, so we have to reveal the real source of the wrong: that is, the present custom of respecting the use of land by individuals, but overlooking the right of the community and the right of labor.

* * *

GRUNDSKYLD (the Danish Georgist periodical) carries in its November 1977 issue an article by Knud Tholstrup on "Better Purchasing Power." To stop inflation, he says, something must be done about land value taxation (Grundskyld). In 1957 the prospect of introducing this measure was enough to stop land speculation and therewith inflation. Today there are strong voices from six parties in the Danish Parliament for doing something about the increasing land prices, and the opportunity to have land value taxation enacted is greater than ever.

In the Summer GJ editorial, it was reported that Fairhope narrowly escaped a threat to its life. I see the attack as part of a world-wide danger. Landlords are not to be underrated. They are astute and have a long heritage of knowing how to destroy threats to their privileges. It usually comes through some seemingly innocuous altering of laws. That has also been the pattern of things in Australia.

We should be prepared and pushing not only the full legislative form that total reform will require but also minor amendings of current statutes so that their procedures can be used to facilitate our plans, rather than those of the landlords. I have prepared a legislative draft and will send it to any one requesting it. Write to: W.H. Pitt, 5 Solar Court, Nunawading, Vic., Australia 3131.

LESSONS OF TURGOT

By H.T.A. McGAHAN (Matamata, New Zealand)

Turgot, the French Physiocrat, was the only single taxer to get his hands on power, during the regime of Louis XVI, and we can learn some lessons from him. Turgot wished to get government revenue through a land tax. But he also concerned himself with the reform of the government structure. Such reform is almost as important as the single tax itself. I have had thirty years experience in local government, have sat on intermediate bodies between the district and central government, and have served on a national body concerned with local government problems.

It is my belief that the central government should not be able to tax commodities or collect taxes directly from the taxpayer, as they do with income taxes. The central government should draw up its Budget for the year, then proceed to distribute it amongst the intermediate bodies, the states or provinces, and they in turn should add their provincial expenses and hand the combined sums for the district councils at the grass roots to collect from the taxpayer. Under such a system, only one form of taxation would be tolerated - what we call unimproved values. You could safely leave the district councils to collect it in any way they chose.

Most French historians that I am familiar with speak highly of Turgot and his efforts. Lord Macaulay, writing fifty years after the event, said that though he doubted whether anything that Louis XVI could have done would have averted the Revolution, he was sure that if there were such a course it was the one advocated by M. Turgot. Surely we should acquaint ourselves with the struggles of the only single taxer who had real power.

* * *

GERMAN LEMA reports that the Spanish regional newspaper Nueva Andalucia has published a series of well documented articles by Professor Mamuel Ruiz Lagos. The series begins with a description of the physiocrat movement in Spain in the 18th century, and goes on to the influence exerted by Henry George. There was an active Georgist movement in Spain in the early 20th century, a Single Tax League, two periodicals, El Impuesto Unico and La Reforma Social, and the first international Georgist conference was held in Ronda, Spain in 1913. (See also comments by James L. Busey in the Autumn GJ.)

* * *

EDITH CAPON proposes that Georgists write to President Carter's Housing Secretary, Patricia Harris, about how to rehabilitate decaying cities. The White House is allegedly looking for new ideas. We've got a great one!

As you leave San Diego and approach the surrounding countryside, you encounter eighteen elaborate shopping centers. This type of development is the characteristic economic development of our generation. It is coincidental with the rise of suburbia and the flight of the middle class from the cities.

The "inner city" has become a ghetto while the affluent have left the once proud metropolis. It is assumed that this rundown remnant will last forever - but will it?

Surveying history from Babylonian and Egyptian times, and perhaps hopscotching to the Orient - China, Angkor, India, Indonesia - we find great cities like ancient Babylon, Nineveh and Tyre which have been abandoned and lie in ruins. Not far distant are other cities, which in modern parlance started out as ancient supermarkets, affluent suburban offshoots where the more prosperous inhabitants of the dying cities fled.

Could it not be that the new colossal supermarkets and prosperous suburban towns are the phoenixes of the once mighty cities which they are replacing? Are we witnessing the death of the old and the birth of the new behemoths?

And they too in their turn shall be supplanted by the new as their inwards rot and ghettos replace healthy residential areas as the lords of the land refuse to move with the times and remain only to squeeze the blood and sustenance from once healthy communities.

KARL MARX AGAIN

By VIC WASICKI (St. Louis, Mo., USA)

William O. Ranky's interpretation of Karl Marx's Capital, Volume III (in Georgist Journal No. 11, Spring 1976, p. 7), was so interesting that I obtained a copy printed by International Publishers, Inc., 1967. In this version I cannot find the particular quotes mentioned by Mr. Ranky.*

However, I believe that Chapter 48, "The Trinity Formula" - land-rent, wages-labor, capital-interest - which follows his exposé of ground rent, best illustrates how Marx thinks. He is still hung up on surplus value. I believe the way he derives this is from the fact that of the three factors of production only labor is an active factor. Thus, he says, all production equals labor value or use value. Since labor does not receive all of the production, a surplus value is created which goes to the owners of the means of production. But he does not divide the means of production into land and capital; both, he thinks, are exploitative.

Marx does not delve into economy from a functional viewpoint but from a historical viewpoint. First, communes developed when there was little or no exploitation. Then industrial development came with its added exploitation of capital-interest.

With his surplus value theory I do not see how Marx could explain the fact that many businesses fail. Can some student of Marx tell if he ever broached the subject?

*Mr. Ranky explains that his translation from Capital was not directly from Marx's book but from a work by Dr. J.J. Pikler which evidently put together different quotes from Marx. Mr. Ranky has since researched Capital and found most of the quotes scattered throughout Volumes I and III.

HALL OF FAME

Ever since Henry George was eligible for election to the Hall of Fame for Great Americans in 1935, efforts have been made to get him elected. His closest success was that first election in 1935 when he fell just short of the necessary votes. His fortunes declined in subsequent elections, held usually every five years, despite the fact that Dwight D. Eisenhower (then President of Columbia University) voted for him in 1950. The most recent effort was in 1976 when the Henry George Institute promoted a campaign for the purpose. The Director of the Hall of Fame, Dr. Jerry Grundfest, was impressed with the number of nominations George received - but still he did not make it.

Now it seems that the Hall of Fame itself is in jeopardy. This pantheon of bronze busts of famous Americans, situated on the former campus of New York University (now Bronx Community College) has fallen on hard times. New York University has moved to lower Manhattan, the Bronx has deteriorated, the Hall does not attract the visitors it once did. The Hall of Fame's funds are depleted and its staff, including Dr. Grundfest, has been disbanded. However, there is a move afoot to save this landmark.

We worked so hard for so many years to get Henry George in. Will his fame last longer than the Hall of Fame? Might he say, with the Latin poet, "I build monuments more lasting than bronze"?

LET'S GET THE ISSUES DISCUSSED

By GEORGE MENNINGER (Chicago, Ill., USA)

This is in reply to the Guest Editorial by Bruno Eichert in the Autumn GJ. First, he asked about my success. My arguments are not based on my success but rather on George's and the Communists' success. Think about what George did. He started with nothing and within a short span of years built a movement he did not think could be stopped. Look at his speeches, books and articles; see if you can find any that do not say the land belongs to all the people. Listen to him: "The sentiment of justice is yet fundamental to the human mind, and whatever dispute arouses the passions of men, the conflict is sure to rage, not so much as to the question 'Is it wise?' as to the question 'Is it right?'" The causes of the Civil War were many, the least of which was slavery. But when it came to a battle cry, it was "die to make men free."

Look at the success of the Communists. Country after country, with as many different leaders, but one argument - give the land to the people. Why couldn't it have been us? Well, we are selling "tax reform", which doesn't inspire.

Second, Mr. Eichert asked about converts. I once had a rather good history professor who spent half an hour on George as the man who opposed unearned increment. He went on to explain how good art rising in value was unearned increment. Converts? Converts are a product of getting the issues discussed. I was set to discuss the issues in that course, but I never found out what the issues were. George never asked for converts, he asked for free and open discussion of the issues. It is still all we can ask today - get that and converts will come.

Third, I agree that most of my friends believe land should be private property. But I would go a step further and say that even if they could be convinced otherwise, most couldn't care less. Yet I do believe that there are people who are unhappy, who feel things are wrong, and who would work like the devil if we could only point the way.

HENRY GEORGE INSTITUTE

Friends of the HGI attended a holiday dinner meeting at the City University Graduate Center in New York on December 28 and heard guest speakers Steven Cord and William A. Camargo.

Dr. Cord (editor of Incentive Taxation and President of the Henry George Foundation) has been campaigning for land value taxation in the third class cities of Pennsylvania. Harrisburg has already adopted a higher rate of taxation on land than on buildings (29:16), and the latest breakthrough is Allentown, where the City Council in December approved a tax of 30 mills (per \$1000 of valuation) on land and 17 mills on buildings. A new 1978 administration leaves the matter in question, but it is still pending. Officials of Harrisburg, and Carl Madden (former President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce) are going to Allentown to testify on behalf of the measure.

Mr. Camargo (now assistant manager of the Westbury Hotel, New York) was for a year managing the new Hotel Dominicana in Santo Domingo, D.R. He spoke of intense efforts to increase tourism in the Dominican Republic, an enterprise largely dominated by Gulf and Western. Behind the attractive tourist activity, there are deep problems in the country. President Balaguer is on the way out and a political battle is shaping up between left and right, with moderates squeezed between.

Diego Gonzalez, HGI member of Dominican origin, added to this story by telling of efforts he and his colleagues are making to strengthen the moderates who are seeking to build up institutional government in the Dominican Republic, which has hitherto been dominated by personalities.

George Collins, following the Caribbean theme, gave a brief update on Jamaica, which under Michael Manley is endeavoring to resume the land value tax program begun by his late father Norman when he was Prime Minister.

Did you catch it? Last Fall there was a series on educational television depicting life in New York in the last two decades of the 19th century. It was entitled "The Best of Families." One episode was on the election of 1886 and included Henry George. The HGI assisted the TV workshop in research on George. One good line: Some one asks a Tammany leader, "Are you afraid of George because he's for reform?" His reply: "Hell, everybody's for reform. But George is crazy - he'll do something about it!" The series may be repeated - watch for it.

NOTICE TO HGI MEMBERS

A reminder: Nominations are now being made for the 1978 HGI election. A nominations mailing is not being sent; a voting ballot will be sent early in May. Nominations are being prepared by the Nominations Committee. Any HGI member may make a nomination, to be addressed to the Nominations Committee of the HGI at 55 W. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036. However, nominations must be made by mid-February.

* * *

"HENRY GEORGE'S LAND TAX: A NUTTY IDEA THAT LIVES ON." Such was the unpromising title of an article in the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, January 3, 1978. However, it gave a good outline of the ideas, featured George Collins and the Henry George Birthplace, and author Bill Keough concluded, "Maybe I'm crazy, but it sounds like good stuff to me."