

HENRY GEORGE INSTITUTE

The HGI Annual Dinner was held September 25 at the Hotel Lexington in New York. Robert Clancy, President, reviewed events of the past year which included settling into new quarters at 5 E. 44th St., the 10th anniversary of the Institute (celebrated with a dinner meeting in February), increasing advertising of the correspondence course in Progress and Poverty, a special book sale, and collaboration with other groups, notably the Council of Georgist Organizations as well as the International Union. He outlined plans for the coming year which include revision of the basic course, revival of advanced courses, and updating the manual, "The Application of Land Value Taxation" issued in 1970; also continued collaboration with the Council, the IU and other groups.

Theme of talks at the dinner was "Libertarianism and Georgism" with four guest speakers. Oscar B. Johannsen (Director, Robert Schalkenbach Foundation) addressed himself to the main theme, pointing out that "libertarianism" as a movement is fairly recent, seeking individual liberty, and especially freedom from government restraints. Henry George's ultimate goal was the fulfillment of the individual and so there is much in common, although libertarians in general do not see the land question as George saw it. However, there are many areas of agreement and there should be continuing Georgist contact with the libertarian movement.

Jack Schwartzman (editor of Fragments) spoke on Henry David Thoreau and Henry George (a paper he also presented at the Annual Georgist Conference, as reported in the Summer GJ). He pointed out similarities and differences between the two thinkers. For instance, Thoreau deplored material progress but George accepted it. But the two men agreed on the evils of land speculation and unjust taxation and on the ideal of the dignity of the individual.

Mark A. Sullivan (editor of The Storm!) spoke on Benjamin Tucker and Henry George. A contemporary of George, Tucker was a leading anarchist thinker whom Mr. Sullivan considers one of the major influences on his own thinking. However, he believes that Tucker was mistaken in his criticism of George's single tax, believing that rent, privately or publicly collected, was an evil, and urging that "occupation and use" was the only valid basis for landed property. Followers of Tucker included several who were also in George's camp, notably Bolton Hall, Steven T. Byington and Alex Horr. These men argued in favor of the single tax but Tucker was never convinced. However, his anarchist ideals are not incompatible with Georgist ideals.

Charles H. Hamilton spoke on Frank Chodorov and Henry George. Mr. Hamilton is editor of a recent book, Fugitive Essays, a collection of Chodorov's writings for which he wrote a long preface.\* Chodorov had been politically active in the single tax movement, later became Director of the Henry George School. He founded a revived version of The Freeman and edited it from 1937 to 1942. He was greatly influenced by Albert Jay Nock. After disagreements, Chodorov left the School and founded the paper analysis. He became associated with various libertarian groups and helped to start the Intercollegiate Society of Individualists. Although he did not renounce the single tax, he put it in the background and emphasized opposition to the encroachments of government.

Among guests at the dinner was Prof. Lowell Harriss who told of a coming conference on the Politics of Food and Agriculture, co-sponsored by the Academy of Political Science of which he is Executive Director, and Columbia University where he is professor of economics.

\*Fugitive Essays is available from Liberty Press, 7440 N. Shadeland, Indianapolis, Ind. 46250. \$9.00 clothbound, \$4.00 paperback.