

ISTA/CGO MEETING

A meeting of Georgists took place October 23-25 in Phoenix, Arizona, at the Quality Inn Desert Sky. On October 23-24 was held the third annual meeting of the Intermountain Single Tax Association (ISTA); and on October 25 a special meeting of the Council of Georgist Organizations.

The purposes were similar: for ISTA, the development of By-laws; and for the Council, a Constitution. Both missions were accomplished. Total attendance was close to 40.

Along with this, there were programs of general interest. Steven Cord, President of the Henry George Foundation and of Common Ground, spoke on "Phoenix - the Holeiest City in America." This referred to the "holes" in Phoenix - vacant land held for speculation, up to 40% of the land, causing urban sprawl. Dr. Cord has studied the subject, aided by a grant from the Phoenix City Council, and he hopes to persuade them of the remedy of land value taxation.

Robert Clancy (President, Henry George Institute and Chairman, Council of Georgist Organizations) spoke on "The Birth and Life of the Single Tax." (See p. 5.)

Mason Gaffney (Professor of Economics at the University of California, Riverside) presented the subject of "Spending and the Single Tax." He pointed out that, in addition to promoting the adoption of the Single Tax, we should pay attention to how the revenue from the rent of land should be disbursed, what principles to follow, what social services might be provided, what distribution could be made.

The ISTA business meeting, with the assistance of Richard Noyes (President of the IULVTFT) who was asked to be speaker pro tem - adopted By-laws based on a draft prepared by Edward Rock. James L. Busey and Earl A. Hanson were re-elected as President and Secretary respectively. The area of ISTA includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. Members sign a statement agreeing with Single Tax principles but pay no dues. At latest count there were 110 members - a higher number than originally anticipated. Intermountain Frontier is the periodical issued by ISTA. For information about this write to James L. Busey, P.O. Box 7, Manitou Springs, Colorado 80829.

Another matter discussed at ISTA's business meeting was the legal battle of Don Pinson to secure fair assessments in Nevada's Clark County (which includes Las Vegas). Members were encouraged to support this effort. It was decided to hold the 1988 annual meeting of ISTA in Las Vegas at about the same time of year.

At the meeting of the Council of Georgist Organizations (co-chaired by Robert Clancy and Mark A. Sullivan, Secretary), a draft for a Constitution which had been previously distributed to members was reviewed. All suggestions were considered and a final draft emerged. This was later sent to all members for approval. With an affirmative vote, the Constitution becomes effective in 1988.

The Council has issued a new edition of its brochure, "Introduction to Georgist Philosophy and Activity." This is an attractive pamphlet of 12 pages containing an outline of the Georgist philosophy and its influence, and a listing of Georgist organizations world-wide. It is an excellent item to offer to newcomers. It is available for 25¢ in any quantity from the Council. There is also an abridged version, a self-mailing folder outlining the philosophy but without the organizational listing - these are available at 3 for 25¢ in any quantity. In the U.S. add \$1 for postage for orders up to \$10; 50¢ for each additional \$10. For other countries, postage is \$2 for up to \$10; \$1 for each additional \$10. Send orders to the Council of Georgist Organizations, 5 E. 44th St., New York, NY 10017, USA.