

Suit Aims to Compel Lincoln Foundation to Live Up to Its Charter

John C. Lincoln was the founder of the Lincoln Electric Company of St. Louis, and an ardent supporter of the Georgist cause. He was a chief contributor to the Henry George School for many years, and he endowed the Lincoln Foundation to "teach and expound the ideas of Henry George as set out in *Progress and Poverty*." Today, the Lincoln Foundation is an influential body, with assets of some \$150 million. The main recipient of Lincoln's income is the Lincoln Institute for Land Policy. However, the Lincoln Institute unfortunately does little to support or promote the views of Henry George. Although it does offer an occasional course in the economics of land value taxation, and prominent Georgists have been on its faculty from time to time, the Lincoln Institute evidently does not promote Georgist political economy. Instead, it has placed itself in the mainstream of "land economics", refusing to take sides with any ideology that would be seen as compromising its "scientific" impartiality.

The Lincoln Foundation is incorporated in Arizona. A group of six Henry George advocates in Arizona is suing the Foundation to compel it "to do what its Articles of Incorporation command it to do," in the words of Stan Sapiro, the California attorney who is preparing the case. He has asked other Georgist organizations to join in the suit as cosponsors. The International Union has agreed to join in the action, as has Common Ground-USA, The Henry George Foundation of America and the Henry George Schools of Los Angeles and Northern California.

Stan Sapiro offers to answer any questions on the factual and legal background of this suit. Write to him at 24655 Royal Ridge, Laguna Miguel, CA 92677.