

HENRY GEORGE NEWSLETTER

Volume 48, Number 9

October 1984

"UNDERSTANDING ECONOMICS" BRINGS BASIC COURSE INTO THE LIVINGROOM

A new 12-part television series, "Understanding Economics", made its debut on four cable TV stations this fall.

Produced by the Henry George Schools of New York and Philadelphia, in cooperation with Indiana University of Pennsylvania, the series is the first attempt to put the basic Georgist course on television.

Each half-hour program features discussions between Stan Rubenstein and George Collins, which focus on specific aspects of the economy from a Georgist perspective, a panel discussion involving three university students, and closing remarks by Professor Steve Cord.

Each week, the course expands on material previously covered. However, each is also self-contained -- a newcomer to program six will understand most of what is covered and be able to continue. The program topics are:

1. "Money, Money, Money: Misconceptions About Wealth", examines the true nature of wealth and the fallacy of accumulated wealth.
2. "Dirt Cheap Isn't Cheap Anymore", explores patterns of land ownership and concentration, its unique role in urban and rural life.
3. "People: The Real Value Makers", which opens discussion of immutable economic laws.
4. "When Natural Allies Clash", focuses on the imagined war between labor and capital.
5. "Space Invaders: How Speculation Keeps Americans Out Of Work", describes how land speculation contributes to such problems as inflation, unemployment and recessions.
6. "Adding Up Our Losses -- The Cost Of Growth", examines the environmental crisis and inner-city poverty as a by-product of growth.
7. "Yes, Virginia, There Is A Remedy", explores the concept of a single tax on the unearned value of land.
8. "Taxing Land, Not People", applies Adam Smith's canons of taxation to a number of major taxes, including a land value tax, and assesses the results and implications of the exercise.
9. "Watching It Work", examines the record of land value taxation in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Alabama, Australia, New Zealand, etc.
10. "The New Slavery", finds land monopoly to be a major contributor to many economic crises.
11. "The Mother Of All Monopolies", views land monopoly from a historical perspective.
12. "Looking Forward: The Road To Economic Independence", views the choices we face in ensuring justice for everyone.

"Understanding Economics" was produced largely in-house. In addition to the contributions of those mentioned above, valuable help was provided by Mark Sullivan and Ed Dodson (for graphics, charts and other visual aids) and Mike Gavaghan (who prepared the 24-page study guide which will be offered free of charge to interested viewers).

Georgists who want more information about the series, and those who would like to explore getting "Understanding Economics" on the air in their areas, are invited to contact Stan Rubenstein at the New York School.

Henry George Newsletter
published by
Henry George School
of Social Science

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INTERNATIONAL GEORGIST CONFERENCE

The bi-annual conference of the International Union for Land-Value Taxation and Free Trade was held the week of August 5 at Selwyn College in Cambridge, England.

Rather than give a chronological report on conference activities, we will seek to highlight some of the major sessions and workshops and invite the reader to contact the International Union at 177 Vauxall Bridge Road, London for any further information.

A day-long workshop on "Rent As Revenue" opened the conference. The sessions were devoted to practical considerations, such as Steve Cord's demonstration of how much revenue could be had from a land tax on a national scale.

Bob Clancy examined Nobel Prize-winning economists in a session entitled, "What's in the Prize Package?"

The land policies of iron curtain societies were examined in a presentation by professor W. R. Brazleton on "Private Land Tax Policies: The Eastern European and Socialist Countries".

A major practical workshop on "Property Tax Reform: Implementation" included a screening of the new film produced by Walt Rybeck for the Center for Public Dialogue, "A Tale of Five Cities". A series of reports from the United States were given by Stan Rubenstein, Bob Scrofani, Steve Cord and George Collins, each focusing on methods and results in local attempts to foster Georgist tax reform.

Ann Haila presented a paper on the "Effects of Land Value Taxes on Land Use" -- an important cause-and effect analysis.

Professor James Busey, a noted expert on Central America, addressed "Prospects for Social Transformation of Latin America." Professor Busey suggested that a Georgist effort in Central America could very well counteract the Communist movement, as the region is ripe for solutions to pervasive poverty.

Professor Robert Andelson presented a paper on "Henry George and Economic Intervention." Professor Andelson reflected on when -- and how -- the government might intervene in the economy.

Professor C. Mooney of Long Island's Nassau Community College spoke on Henry George and John Rawls -- "A New Look At The Ideal Of Justice As Fairness".

(Continued on page four.)

SCHOOL NOTES

CABLE TELEVISION COURSE SCHEDULE

"Understanding Economics" is being shown on 12 consecutive weeks as follows:

In New York City, UE appeared on Manhattan Cable TV beginning the week of September 3. On Mondays, it can be seen on Channel D at 11:00 am. On Fridays, Channel C at 11:30 am.

In the Philadelphia area, UE is being aired on the Comcast Cable Public Access Station. Beginning the week of September 10, it can be seen every Monday, Wednesday and Friday evening at 7:00 pm on Channel 16.

Long Island Cablevision, an outlet in Suffolk County, will show the series on Channel 6 every Tuesday at 7:30 pm beginning October 2. The course is an official offering by Southold Continuing Education as part of its fall schedule.

"Understanding Economics" is also slated to appear on WIUP-TV in Indiana, Pennsylvania as part of its fall schedule. At press time, additional program details were unavailable.

SACRAMENTO

The Sacramento school is offering "Economics as if People Mattered" -- a series of round-table discussions comprising a basic Georgist course. The course will include a showing of "For The Land Is Mine", a documentary which explores the relationship of land to the other factors of production, and which was used by director Evelyn Friend to great effect last semester. Progress and Poverty is the text for this course.

PHILADELPHIA

Students in the Parkway (High School Without Walls) Program will study conditions in Appalachia in the course "Hunger and Poverty In Our World -- Case Study: Appalachia USA". The course will expose them to answers to the question, "Why is the land so rich and the people so poor?"

The course will make use of the 12-page study guide of the same name produced last year by the San Francisco and New York Schools, the CBS-TV program "Our Times with Bill Moyers" which focused on Martin County, Kentucky, and recorded songs of the region.

CLAIRTON, PA. SETTING FOR INCENTIVE TAX FIGHT

Clairton, Pa. is the focal point of an ambitious drive to abolish improvement taxes and base revenues on land values, according to Dan Sullivan, director of the Incentive Tax League of Western Pennsylvania.

Last year, the City Council initially voted to abolish all taxes on improvements and quadruple the tax rate on land. It was perceived as a backlash against the city's principle land-owner and employer, U.S. Steel, for laying off workers and shutting down factories despite concessions gained to avoid such measures. Sullivan maintains that by threatening to lay off still more workers and withhold taxes, U.S. Steel persuaded the council to defer the tax shift.

Their victory sealed, U.S. Steel increased layoffs in 1984.

Clairton's new mayor has expressed the hope of passing the land value tax next year. However, an ambitious grassroots program will be needed to offset the opposition of U.S. Steel.

The ITL has already performed a detailed computer study of LVT's probable impact and are currently enlisting residents to go door-to-door to explain the concept and to show each resident likely to benefit from the tax shift just how much his savings will be.

GEORGIST CONFERENCE IN CAMBRIDGE, ENGLAND (Continued)

A Georgist approach to the control and use of natural resources in international waters was the topic of two presentations. Professor D. R. Denman explored the Law of the Sea treaties in "Land Value Taxation in Deep Water" and John D. Allen narrowed the focus in his paper, "Tapping the Rent in the North Sea."

The place of Libertarianism in the Georgist movement and the place of Georgism in the Libertarian movement were the topics of a session featuring remarks by such Georgist/Libertarians as Dr. Oscar Johannsen, Harry Pollard and Fred Foldvary.

Dr. D. W. Pickard explored the Georgist solution from a rural perspective in a session dealing with the "Farmer's View". The application of George's ideas in farm communities and mixed urban/rural communities was examined.

In his remarks during a session entitled "Land Value Taxation and the European Community", Roger Pincham gave an overview of the practical problems inherent in getting politicians interested in accepting land value taxation.

Group meetings, executive meetings of the International Union, planning sessions for the 1986 conference in Vancouver, and a general discussion on "Where Do We Go From Here?" were held throughout the week.

Interdenominational chapel sessions were a regular morning feature at the conference, and there was ample time for individual meetings and impromptu group discussions. A trip to the royal estate of Sandringham was also included.

The conference concluded with an inspirational address by speaker Robert Andelson, who spoke about the future of the Georgist movement. A musical extravaganza by Barbara Sobrielo and Josie Mernane, in which Georgist lyrics were inserted to a medley of Broadway tunes, closed the Cambridge conference on a high note.

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