

HENRY GEORGE NEWSLETTER

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JERSEY ANTI-CASINO MOVEMENT OPENS DOOR FOR LVT

A move to punish casinos for speculating heavily in Atlantic City land has opened the door for legislative action on land value taxation, local Georgists say.

The Judiciary Committee of the New Jersey State Senate conducted hearings in Atlantic City last month to gauge the effects of land speculation and to explore various options to deal with the problem. Several Georgists participated.

The hearings coincided with the introduction of a bill sponsored by Senator Bill Gormley of Atlantic County which would empower the Casino Control Commission to require casinos to divest themselves of vacant land holdings if it is perceived that such holdings are thwarting development. Testimony was given by the Atlantic City Assessor, representatives of the Casino Control Commission and local citizen's committees.

William Ferry, the assessor, averred that land value taxation might be necessary to curb the phenomenon.

Georgists Jacob Himmelstein and Herman Lazaar echoed that suggestion. Himmelstein testified on behalf of LVT; Ed Dodson submitted written testimony in absentia.

Lazaar, a long-time New Jersey activist, spoke with Atlantic City Mayor James L. Usry about LVT. Usry expressed familiarity with the concept, but would not indicate direct support. (His familiarity was no surprise. The Atlantic City Press ran an editorial supporting LVT that very morning.) Lazaar spoke also with community activist Cora Boggs and found her "receptive" to the idea.

The Georgists stressed that Gormley's bill is not anti-speculation, but anti-casino. It is aimed especially at Resorts International, the largest owner of vacant land in the city. Resorts was the first casino to open in the city and purchased a great deal of land before other casinos were granted a license. The influx of lower- and middle-income housing and the rejuvenation of the city's public transportation system that was supposed to result from the first casino bill has not happened, Usry said, because of speculation.

Meg Worthington, another active Jersey Georgist, is currently setting up meetings with public officials to enlighten them on LVT while the focus remains on the evils of speculation.

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SCHOOL NOTES

NEW YORK

Classes begin Monday, September 9th.

Progress and Poverty will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 8 PM. This course will also be offered in Spanish on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:30 PM.

Basic requirements can also be fulfilled by taking Classical Analysis (Wednesdays at 5:30 PM) or the popular lunch-time offering of Understanding Economics (Mondays from 12 to 1 PM).

Advanced courses include Protection or Free Trade (Mondays at 5:30 PM) and the Foreign Policy Association's offering, Great Decisions (Tuesdays at 5:30 PM). This year's Great Decisions course focuses on new topics (revolutionary Cuba, Soviet leadership in transition, the Iran - Iraq war, economics of foreign policy, the Philippines, population growth, future of NATO, and U.S. intelligence operations).

A massive 6,000-piece mailing is going out to high school teachers throughout the east, introducing them to the "Land and Freedom" series of 20 study units on the importance of land in our nation's history. More than 600 instructors and departmental chairmen have already received complete sets. Follow-up is taking place under the auspices of various affiliate directors, state coordinators, and the New York School.

LONG ISLAND

Progress and Poverty classes will meet Tuesdays beginning October 1st at Lindenhurst Senior High School, Wednesdays beginning October 2nd at McArthur High School in Levittown, and Thursdays beginning October 3rd at Kennedy High School in Merrick.

In addition, the one-evening seminar, "You and the Property Tax", will be offered in five Long Island towns:

- Amityville (high school, Sept. 18)
- Syosset (high school, Sept. 30)
- Merrick (Brookside Jr. High, Sept. 30)
- Islip (high school, Oct. 8)
- Half Hollows (high school, Oct. 17)

For further information on the classes or seminars, contact Stan Rubenstein, 516 734-7543.

SCHOOL NOTES

CABLE TELEVISION

"Understanding Economics" will appear on U.A. Columbia Cablevision's large northern New Jersey outlet beginning on Friday, September 6th at 12:30 PM. Each program in the 12-part series will be repeated on the following Monday at 11:00 AM, beginning September 9th. It will appear on public access channel 24.

The system is one of the largest in the state, and emanates from Wayne. Such cities as Passaic, Hackensack, Paramus and Teaneck, as well as out-lying suburban areas, will carry the show. U.A. Columbia Cablevision serves 282,000 homes.

SAN FRANCISCO

"Hunger and Poverty in our World: Appalchia, a Case Study", the 16-page tabloid on progress and poverty in that depressed region of the country, recently completed a second printing.

The new version of the study unit, which asks, "Why is the land so rich and the people so poor?", incorporates a number of improvements. It is more concise in outlining the problem, more effective in explaining George's remedy, and visually more attractive.

Information can be had at 415 864-1014.

PHILADELPHIA

Classes begin Tuesday, September 17th.

The basic course, Fundamental Economics, will be offered on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the birthplace. A six-week video course, using "Understanding Economics", will be offered on Wednesday evenings beginning September 18th.

How Wall Street Works, a beginner's guide to the stock market, is being offered on Tuesday evenings, also starting September 17th. And Great Decisions will be given on Thursdays beginning September 19th.

Other classes will be held in Delaware and in suburban Philadelphia -- details in the next issue.

BUFFALO

Seymour Rauch, a New York Georgist of long standing, addressed the local chapter of MENSA on "Tax Reform: Illusion or Reality" at its July meeting. He took up such questions as the proper bases for taxation and tax equity.

SCHOOL NOTES

LOS ANGELES

An exciting cooperative project is underway with a local high school's television and social studies departments.

Using the 12-part cable series "Understanding Economics", a special one-hour television program will be produced. It will feature the 30-minute Georgist lesson followed by a live student panel and telephone call-in questions from viewers.

"HENRY GEORGE DAY" IN DELAWARE

Delaware Governor Michael N. Castle declared September 2nd, the 146th anniversary of George's birth, Henry George Day in the State of Delaware.

The official proclamation points out that "George's social ideals inspired the founding of Delaware's three colorful villages, Arden, Ardentown and Ardencroft..."

In addition, it recognizes that the anniversary coincides with Labor Day, "and George emphasized that all wealth is produced by labor applied to natural resources...it is fitting that Labor should join in honoring him..."

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