

# World Land Review

**1966 INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON LAND TAXATION, LAND TENURE AND LAND REFORM IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. Presented by the University of Hartford. Sponsored by the Lincoln Foundation.**

In October 1966, an international panel of experts met at Hartford to discuss land reform, and particularly land taxation in various parts of the world. The proceedings have been published in this volume by the John C. Lincoln Institute, a research organization affiliated with the University of Hartford and sponsored by the Lincoln Foundation.

Among the participants were persons known to HGN readers, such as Viggo Starcke of Denmark, Monsignor L. G. Ligutti and Richard W. Lindholm (editor of the recent book, *Property Taxation, U.S.A.*); and among those in attendance were other familiar names, including Perry Prentice, Miss V. G. Peterson and Weld Carter (who is doing college work for the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation).

Much interesting and useful information emerged from this seminar. Detailed material on the application of land value taxation in Australia was provided by Kenneth Taeuber. Dr. Starcke offered a fascinating historical survey of the land tax in Denmark. The way land value taxation was established in Jamaica was explained by Wilfred Chang. Land reform proposals for Vietnam was Dr. Lindholm's subject, and the land reform program adopted in Taiwan was cited by Shihko Shen. Other parts of the world

were reviewed, including Latin America and Africa.

Most of the land taxation now in practice takes only a small percentage of the rent of land. Most of the participants accept some land value taxation as part of a land reform program, but do not see it as a "single tax," or as a thorough collection of the full economic rent. After going through the statistics of the rather diluted programs, one longs for a good solid case where the full single tax is in effect so we can say, "There, that's what we mean!"

Many land reformers also seem still intrigued by the possibility of breaking up large estates and redistributing the land to peasants. However, according to various reports, peasants are not so much concerned about owning a little plot of land as they are about being able to keep more of their product and not giving so much to the landowner in rent. The single tax may not be so wide of the mark on this point after all.

Still, it is encouraging to see an increasing amount of attention paid to the land question. In this volume we may see signs of this growing interest, including a review of the important World Conference on Land Reform held in Rome, June 1966. One interesting feature is a comparative review of Henry George and Karl Marx on land reform, by Professor A. M. Woodruff.

— R. C.

(Copies of the 1966 International Seminar may be obtained at \$4 a copy from the John C. Lincoln Institute, c/o University of Hartford, Hartford, Connecticut.)

A house organ published by the newly merged savings bank, Excelsior Empire, featured the Henry George School on page one of its January issue for the East 66th Street branch, a few blocks from HGS headquarters. This article mentions a number of prominent names, showing that a school is known by the company it keeps. The theories of Henry George are being re-examined after 70 years, it was noted, and his *Progress and Poverty* is an all time best seller.