

The Henry George News

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1980 Conference Planned at New HQ

The 1980 Joint Georgist Conference will mark the opening of the new modern headquarters of the Henry George School in midtown Manhattan. The conference is planned for the Labor Day weekend, at which point the School will be in full operation.

A six-story brick structure, built at the turn of the century as one of New York's ornate casinos, the building had been used in recent years as the headquarters and offices of The Value Line, a national investment advisory organization.

Located at 5 E. 44th Street, between Fifth and Madison Avenues, the new headquarters is at the very center of the busiest section of the city, between Times Square and Grand Central Station, three subway lines, theatres, shopping, and major office buildings. Some of the leading men's fashion shops, including Brooks Brothers, are clustered on the same block as the school.

Thousand of daily passers-by will have an opportunity to see displays in the front window at street level, including books and periodicals of timely interest. The ground floor will also house an auditorium, which will be the setting for public events held at the school, including plenary sessions for the conference. A lounge and coffee shop for students and guests of the school will be accessible below the auditorium. Major classrooms will be one floor above, with the library and seminar rooms occupying the third floor. The upper floors will house the offices of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, the Center for Local Tax Research, the Trustees meeting room, and school offices.

Construction, now in full swing, is scheduled for completion in several months, when the school moves from its present location.

All Communications should be continued to be addressed to the Henry George School at its current address, until further notice.

With the new headquarters serving as the location for all conference events, guests will be free to choose from the broad range of hotel accommodations in the immediate vicinity. A list of hotels and their price ranges will be made available at the school to save conferees time and money.

Those planning to attend have been urged to

indicate their preferences in programs, special events, speakers, and outings. Responses may be addressed to the Conference Committee at the School in New York.

SF Director Blasts 'Muni' Tax Proposal

Bob Scrofani, Director of the School in San Francisco, recently sent a letter to the President of the Board of Supervisors in City Hall, to suggest a benefit assessment district for transit, in light of the projected Municipal Railway Fare Increase. Excerpts of the letter are printed here:

"The Muni Fare affair has turned into another attempt to impose a myriad of new taxes on the people of San Francisco. Not only does the Mayor and the Public Utilities Commission recommend doubling the fare during the commuting hours, when service is most needed by residents, but recommends doubling parking meter fees, parking tickets, and increasing a number of other business and nuisance taxes."

"The Board of Directors of the Henry George School of Social Science believes the P.U.C. is following a path that ignores sound tax policy and has counter-productive results. The P.U.C. plan would:

- 1) reduce patronage when the Board of Supervisors has consistently supported a transit first policy.
- 2) penalize San Francisco homeowners and renters for the use of a vital city service.
- 3) fall into the selective tax trap which calls for continuous subsidies which clouds attention to sounder solutions.
- 4) ignore the possibility of using a revitalized government planning and development tool—the benefit assessment district.

"The special assessment district was used by the builders of San Francisco, who completed the Twin Peaks Tunnel and the Stockton Street Tunnel. This