

Henry George

NEWSLETTER

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1984 GEORGIST CONFERENCE SET

The Council of Georgist Organizations has announced plans for the 1984 Annual Georgist Conference of North America. It will be the Council's fourth.

The conference will be held at the Holiday Hills Conference Center in Pawling, New York. The center is located on 550 acres in New York's Hudson Valley, and offers "complete facilities at reasonable rates," according to Council President Robert Clancy.

The conference will run from Thursday, July 26th, to Sunday, July 29th. There will also be a one-day session on Wednesday, July 25th, for special interest groups within the movement. These dates have been selected to accomodate those who also want to attend the International Conference in Cambridge, England beginning August 4th.

Programs during the conference will reflect progress made during the year as well as plans for the future. They will be assembled with "active participation" from Georgist groups in the U.S. and Canada, according to Clancy. Suggestions by interested persons are welcome.

Conference notices will be mailed in the Spring. For further information, write to the Council of Georgist Organizations, 5 East 44th Street, New York, NY 10017.

LVT HEARINGS IN ALLENTOWN

Philadelphia Director George Collins and other Pennsylvania Georgists lent their support to the reintroduction of Allentown's Land Value Taxation proposal last month.

City Council President Ben Howells announced the bill's ressurection at a December 5th press conference. This marks the fifth time the LVT concept has been introduced. Last session, Mr. Howells succeeded in getting the bill approved by the Council, only to have it vetoed by Mayor Joseph Daddona.

Mayor Daddona has vowed to veto the bill again. However, Councilman Howells is confident that he now has the five Council votes needed to override the veto.

In his statement on December 5th, George Collins urged Allentown to "sensibly use its own tax tools," by taxing land at a higher rate than improvements.

Citing follow-up studies conducted in Pittsburgh, Scranton and McKeesport, Collins called the concept "a solid foundation for continued economic strength that can be achieved in any city, even in bad economic times."

"The extent of the change currently proposed for Allentown is not terribly ambitious," Collins said. "It is ambitious as a first halting step toward progress and equity....The average homeowner would pay somewhat less, the underuser marginally more....It is a minimal change but a necessary start. Mild enough to alaiy any fears of economic dislocation, hopefully strong enough to have some measurable effects."

Joining Collins at the press conference were Georgists Jack Kelly and Ed Dodson. Coverage of the session appeared in the Morning Call and Globe Times newspapers and on radio station WSAN.

The Council began public hearings on the bill December 8th.