

ANNUAL GEORGIST CONFERENCE IS HELD IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

by Louise Pulini

The 1981 Joint Georgist Conference attracted over one hundred people from the United States and Canada during the three day meeting held at Franklin Pierce College, in New Hampshire, the first conference ever held in the state.

The tax problem in New Hampshire was spotlighted in the opening session, with legislators and the audience debating the merits of imposing a sales and/or income tax on the states's voters, to generate additional revenues. New Hampshire is the only state in the union without an income or sales tax, and is heavily dependent on its property tax. It is also the fastest growing state on the Eastern seaboard.

Professor Jack Schwartzman spoke of the similarities between Henry David Thoreau and Henry George in their passionate discourses against the railroad monopolies and land speculation. Thoreau lived not far from the conference site, and often climbed nearby Monadnock Mountain.

Ed Dodson of CGO, John Burger, a management consultant, and David Asman of the International Center for Economic Policy Studies (ICEPS), presented their individual interpretations of the validity of the Reagan administration's economic policies in a morning session on Reagonomics or supply-side economics. The Money Question, concerning money supply and regulation, was covered by Oscar Johannsen of the Schalkenbach Foundation, Robert Swann of the Schumacher Society, and George Machen of the American Institute for Economic Research. Innovative ways to circulate and store money and possible solutions to the chronic dollar shrinkage problems were explored and debated.

Alanna Hartzok of the San Francisco HGS explained the Sagebrush Rebellion to the audience with the use of charts and land-use maps of the Western United States. She also pointed out the significance of the Appalachian study in exposing the concentration of ownership of much of America's land. The afternoon's program concluded with a talk by Gerald Shaw of the School of Economic Science in Calgary on Alberta. This western Canadian province has no retail sales tax, no gasoline tax, subsidized heating costs, and only 4% unemployment, due in particular to the Alberta Land Trust, which gives the ownership of natural resources (such as petroleum, discovered in 1947) to the people.

continued on page 3

CGO OFFICERS ARE REELECTED

The officers of the Council of Georgist Organizations were reelected to serve for a second one- year term at the meeting held at the Annual Joint Georgist Conference. Bob Clancy of the Henry George Institute is Chairman, Ed Dodson, a banker from Philadelphia is Deputy Chairman, and Mark Sullivan, current Secretary of the Council, remains in his position.

The main function of the Council, by agreement of those who attended the meeting, is to have a continuous role in coordinating and disseminating information and to serve as a communications center for Georgist groups and individuals not otherwise affiliated. One future aim of the Council is to set up its own organization status as a corporation, and to plan a series of materials indicating scope of activities and bylaws, including membership dues.