

Henry George Newsletter
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STRATEGIES & QUESTIONS (Cont.)

Jeff Smith (Basic Economic Education) discussed "Geo-ists and Other Earth Groups", advocating Georgist outreach to environmental organizations and the international Green Movement. He also related his recent experiences in Nicaragua and suggested the formation of a Georgist delegation to visit that nation.

Steve Cord (Center for the Study of Economics and most other Georgist organizations) delivered what was advertised as an economics quiz, but what was actually a demonstration of the various approaches Georgists can take to convince public officials to try LVT.

Bob Clancy (Council of Georgist Organizations) moderated a discussion on planning a response to President Reagan's tax reform proposal.

John Burger (state representative from Minnesota) offered a list of Do's and Don't's for Georgists in the public arena.

Stan Rubenstein (NY Henry George School) presented a TV program from the new series "Issues and Alternatives", produced by the Henry George School and based on George's books *Social Problems* and *Protection or Free Trade*.

Lancaster M. Greene (Schalkenbach Foundation) proposed that Georgists make use of Fred Harrison's book *The Power in the Land* in seeking to explain the business cycle to professionals.

Ed Dodson (NY and Philadelphia HGS) reported that Common Ground, the new activist membership organization, got off the ground during pre-conference meetings and urged Georgists to join.

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Thursday night was devoted to presentations marked by the depth of their analysis and insight -- they were intellectually challenging and forced conference participants to focus on basic questions of Georgist thought.

Clay Berling (Henry George School of Northern California) spoke on "Self-Interest as the Programmer". He argued that people always do what's best for themselves and their families, and that the challenge for Georgists is to convince people that a) the long-run is more important than short-term benefits, and b) Georgism is in their own best long-term interest.

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

(Cont.)

Oscar Johannsen (Schalkenbach Foundation) gave an "Update on Inflation and International Debt". He explored the roots of the current world-wide debt crisis and derided the cycle of loans to pay interest on larger loans with no end in sight. He also debunked the "collapse scenarios" which surrounded all discussions of debtor-nation defaults and drew a line between land monopoly and the continued poverty of borrower countries.

Michael Curtis (Arden Activities, HGS) took on a thorny problem when he tackled "The Origin and Law of Interest". He "translated" Henry George's work on interest (perhaps the most difficult to grasp of all the sections of Progress and Poverty) critiqued those theories, and wrapped up with visual aids.

HIGH-TECH HENRY GEORGE

Friday's workshops featured two programs which brought traditional Georgist instruction further into the age of computers and mass communications. Amir Pirouzan (BEE) demonstrated a Henry George computer tutorial which presents a basic Georgist course on home computer. A student who belongs to a computer bulletin board network would opt for the introductory class, receive 80 percent of the information in a question-and-answer format, and have the balance of his lessons tailor-made based upon his performance. Don Hurford (Philadelphia HGS) made a presentation on the "Use of Media in Education". He used overhead projectors and video cassette recorders and players to demonstrate how to more effectively communicate information to students.

BUS TOUR OF ST. LOUIS

Friday's bus tour, planned by Joe Casey, combined the sites a traditional St. Louis tourist would take in with insights only Georgists would appreciate. The majestic Gateway Arch and the sprawling Budweiser brewery were the main attractions, but the tour also showed the inevitable mix of wealthy neighborhoods alongside impoverished ones (the speculator's mark), open-air parking lots in the midst of a vigorous downtown hotel boom.

OF GEORGISTS, BISHOPS AND RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Friday night's panel discussion was marked by the appearance of Monsignor John Shocklee, head of the Social Justice Committee of the St. Louis Archdiocese. Msgr. Shocklee put the controversial Pastoral Letter in historical perspective and offered Georgists advice on how to bring their message to religious groups. Sharing the panel were Walt Rybeck (Center for Public Dialogue) and Fryda Ossias and Michael Gavaghen (NY Henry George School). Joe Casey and Don Killoren (Public Revenue Education Council) were the moderators.

Dave O'Brien (Los Angeles HGS) reported on a recent "Pilgrimage to Rome" -- the effort by several U.S. Georgists to bring our message to the Vatican. He explained the ins and outs of dealing with the religious hierarchy there and proposed a more ambitious presentation to be undertaken next year.