

Henry George Newsletter

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EDITOR'S NOTES

This issue concludes our 1991 observation of the centenary of Henry George's *The Condition of Labor*, his reply to Leo XIII's papal encyclical, *Rerum Novarum*. See the article on Jack Schwartzman's paper delivered this past summer on this topic. Among our other items is a new travel narrative by Director George Collins, this time on his trip to the Caribbean.

We continue to document the continuing efforts of Georgist economists and advocates in the Soviet Union. And a new writer makes his debut in these pages, David Domke, former Chicago journalist who works at the New York headquarters.

The recent Oakland fire, according to *Newsletter* reader Richard Pensack, started and burned in the area where Henry George had his flash of insight into the cause of poverty with progress, which was to lead to the writing of *Progress and Poverty*.

Professor Yuri Bocharov has been a regular presence at the New York school since early Spring 1991. In addition to using the School's research library, Dr. Bocharov gave a presentation on Soviet cities, rode up with George Collins, Bob Swann (E. F. Schumacher Society), Philip Wallace (former HGS extension director in Jamaica) and this writer to attend the 1991 Georgist conference at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania. (and he got a first-hand American experience of the old wisdom that "the map is not the territory.") Dr. Bocharov recently was a panelist at the Schumacher Society (in Great Barrington, Massachusetts). Most recently, he has visited the west coast where he was hosted by the Henry George Schools of Northern and Southern California.

A detailed itinerary was sent to us of activities planned for Dr. Bocharov in Los Angeles, including meeting Professor Samuel Aroni and others on the UCLA faculty. School associates, including real estate assessor Ted Gwartney, Marion Sapiro, David Byrnes, Margil Wadley, David O'Brien, and Charles Haughey took turns showing the visiting urban planner from Moscow the highlights of this major metropolitan area in the United States. Dr. Bocharov, who has also graced us with his own watercolor drawings, including ones of the New York and Philadelphia schools, will soon be returning to Russia, his home country. We will miss his presence at 121 East 30th Street - and, speaking personally, his weekly visits to read the latest issue of *The Economist*. Bon voyage, Yuri, and may we soon meet again!

Ronald Coase, 1991 Nobel Prize winner in economics, was the subject of media attention when the prize was announced in October. The *New York Times*, in its October 16th issue, wrote that Coase's "idea that access to the airwaves was a form of property was decades ahead of its time. Economists now believe that Washington's failure to treat the radio spectrum as a scarce resource, to be allocated via markets to those who value it most, is reducing national productivity by billions of dollars." Of course, it is unlikely that you'll read or hear any major media company suggest that the airwaves be rented to the highest bidders with the proceeds going to reduce the high taxes paid by the middle and lower classes in this country.

Coase first earned notice in 1937. His paper on "The Nature of the Firm" shows why, based on "transaction costs", individuals form firms, instead of contracting among each other, to provide services "in-house."

Other Coase contributions to economics include his idea that transferable property rights can be the key to solve problems, such as pollution, that other economists thought only government regulation could handle. As Henry George could argue, however, since transferable property titles are valuable, the social institutions that service (and even create) these titles with various legal protections, ought to be able to collect their share of the values they help to produce.



A BRACE OF VOLUNTEERS

For the second year in a row, the New York school had a pavilion at the Second Avenue Street Fair (on Sunday, October 20th). Using boxloads of materials gathered by the School staff, George Collins was assisted by a goodly number of student volunteers, helping him transport the materials and set up the booth. We'd like to take this opportunity to publicly thank those who helped out:

Vandana Chak	J. R. Mitchell
Jerry Corichi	Chris Netter
Raphael B. Diaz	Lauren Pipkorn
George Jackson	Roland Rakotonirainy
Tony Lee	Douglas Salter
Jorge Marrero	Leah Spiro
Kathleen McMahon	Phil Spiro

We'd also like to thank our stalwart weekly volunteer, *Morris Stoller*, whose work in the library and mail room has been invaluable. Morris is happy with the arrangement, he says, "as long as the pay stays the same."