

Save St. Louis With Site Tax, Prentice Urges

Perry Prentice, of Time, Inc. and president of Schalkenbach Foundation, told members of the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan St. Louis to let the profit motive help reverse the decline of their city. The following is excerpted from his July 22 Proposal to Get the City of St. Louis Going Again:

If St. Louis has everything going for it why is your central city in so much trouble? Why did your soaring sixties give St. Louis the unhappy distinction of losing population faster than any other central city in the United States? Why have taxpayers been moving out four times as fast as relief prospects are moving in? Why did the last census of manufacturers show a net loss of 260 industrial plants?

Why are you letting what the Center for Community Change calls an urban ghost town preempt the very heart of what must be one of the two or three most accessible and therefore most desirable and potentially most valuable urban locations between the Alleghenies and the Rockies—our country's second busiest freight and trucking center and the busiest river port of all?

I've been asking that question ever since I agreed to come here to talk to you about harnessing the profit motive to what you want your city to be, and I've been given two half-answers that nobody I've spoken to here seems to have put together to make a whole.

The first half-answer was spelled out 19 years ago in the Chamber of Commerce magazine by the then chairman of your Industrial-Commercial Redevelopment Committee: said he, "Industry and commerce find themselves land-locked in the city without the means of acquiring land at a reasonable cost to permit expansion. Such," said he, "is the crises

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NEW TRUSTEE

Lionel Gonzalez, a long-time teacher at the School and a staff member of the United Nations Secretariat, was appointed a member of the Board of Trustees of the School last month.

Mr. Gonzalez, who is 48, holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Farleigh Dickinson University. He plans to teach a class in Reform for Our Time this fall.

Hong Kong Area Suffers Urban Ills

As politicians, journalists, and ping-pong players scurry to gain entrance to the Peoples' Republic of China, there is a tendency to forget that the West has always had a foot in the door of the impenetrable mainland: Kowloon, the Chinese mainland area across from the British island of Hong Kong.

Kowloon, just a few hours from Canton by train, is a mainland area leased to Great Britain until 1997. It is a small foot in an admittedly big door, because its borders are carefully guarded on both sides by the British and Chinese.

Kowloon, or "The New Territories," is gripped with as many urban problems as is neighboring island Hong Kong or far-away Manhattan, according to Lancaster Greene. And therein lies the rub. While most Westerners have, until now, been fairly ignorant of activities inside China, the Chinese need only cast a glance toward Kowloon or Hong Kong to see adequate reflections of American urban crises. Granted, it is only the most influential and high-ranking Chinese who are able to approach Kowloon surreptitiously, but Greene says they have an insatiable thirst for the western newspapers available there. Their frequent and usually successful attempts to gain hold of these enable them to get the news first hand.

And what they see is not apt to inspire any great faith in the Western Way.

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'George in Our Time,' Focus of Fall Courses

Of what conceivable value are the espousals of a nineteenth century journalist and reformer, long-dead and often relegated to minor mention in current textbooks? Considerable, and demonstrably so, when his ideas are expressed in the context of other past and current philosophies, and exhibited in social, political, and economic activities of today.

This will be the basis of the fall semester at the Henry George School. Placing the task in the hands of some of the area's most talented educators enlivens the prospect of success.

The fall semester academic program (see calendar on back page) offers seven courses of scholarly lectures and intensive reading, running the educational gamut from **The Future of American Society to Multi-Media Workshop**, all especially designed for the school by faculty members of metropolitan-area colleges and universities. These multidisciplinary courses, utilizing concepts and traditions of thought from several scholarly disciplines, will focus on the most urgent philosophical, social, and economic questions of the era.

Economic Policies for America's Cities will be a lecture and seminar series under the direction of leading urbanologist Dick Netzer, Professor of Economics and Dean of New York University's Graduate School of Public Administration. The course will investigate the future of American cities in practical and concrete terms. Focus will be on the dynamics of urban economics, its structure, growth, and the special character of New York; public policies, housing, land-use, and environment; and city financing, available resources, and their proper distribution.

In addition to Dr. Netzer, lectures will be given by Ralph Kaminsky, Associate

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Fall Courses

Dean of Graduate School of Public Administration, N.Y.U., and Emanuel Tobier, Associate Professor of Economics, NYU. Elizabeth Durbin will conduct a series of seminars based on the lectures for students who wish to explore the subject further and those who seek college credit. She is an Assistant Professor of Economics at NYU.

Dr. Netzer, in his recent book *Economics and Urban Problems* (Basic Books, 1970) says this of Henry George and his idea: "The land value tax is the economists's ideal: it is equitable; it is neutral in its economic effects; and it is positively desirable as a replacement for the conventional property tax with its many bad economic effects . . .

"A switch to exclusive taxation of land (or to heavy taxes on land and light taxes on buildings) could have strong positive effects by removing the disincentive to invest in buildings. Owners would be encouraged to develop sites more intensively, thereby securing a flow of income from which to pay the land value tax . . .

"The very rapid rate of increase in land values in recent years makes this even more attractive, for it indicates that huge, 'unearned increments' have been accruing to landowners. Moreover, landowners tend to be relatively high-income people, a consequence of income tax, mortgage market, and other conditions. There is poetic justice in heavy land value taxation: at present, land is typically taxed at rates, relative to market value, that are less than half those applied to buildings. We now, perversely, favor the speculator who impedes development and discourage the investor in new and better buildings."

Prophets and Psychology

Also joining the School faculty this fall semester are:

- Dr. Lester V. Hoffman, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, C.W. Post College, who will teach **The Future of American Society** and **Man Versus Society**. The first will examine the work of optimists and pessimists, including Alvin Toffler, George Orwell, William

Reich, and Herman Kahk relating their recent prophecies to historical theories of society. The second will explore the implications of the work of psychoanalysts, philosophers, and social scientists, to determine why the individual and society so often seem at war.

Audio-Visual Lab

- Henry Epstein, Lecturer in Philosophy at Hunter College, who will teach **Reform, Revolution, Utopia**, exploring major traditions of political theory of societal change in hope of determining what constitutes a good society.

- Phyllis Tobey, a licensed broker who will teach **Real Estate**, examining the mysteries of homeownership and property investing.

- Oscar B. Johannsen, a Trustee of

CALENDAR Fall Term 1971-72

Wednesday, September 22
Economic Policies for America's Cities

Tuesday, September 28
The African Experience*

Thursday, September 30
The African Experience*

Monday, October 4
The Future of American Society
Reform for Our Time
Real Estate

Tuesday, October 5
Man vs. Society
Reform for Our Time
Money and Banking

Wednesday, October 6
Reform, Revolution, Utopia
Reform for Our Time
The Stock Market

Wednesday, October 13
History of Economic Thought

Thursday, October 7
Reform for Our Time
Multi-Media Workshop

N.B. Dates are when classes begin; all classes are 7 to 9 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

**Class is held 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.; for public school teachers only.*

Schalkenbach and the New Jersey School, who will offer a novel interpretation of **Money and Banking** from the viewpoint of control by private enterprise rather than by government.

- Multi-Media Workshop, taught by an experienced motion picture producer, will acquaint students with the use of motion picture, video, projected graphics, recorded sound, and print media. Students will work with equipment at the School and at professional centers to develop audio-visual presentations of socio-economic problems such as the land question.

New Look at Stocks

- **The Stock Market**, taught by three securities brokers with considerable Wall Street experience will be based on materials prepared by the information department of the New York Stock Exchange. The course will examine investment problems from the individual's point of view, techniques of buying and selling securities, and the influence of economic fundamentals on securities markets.

- Dr. Jacob Schwartzman will teach his popular course on the **History of Economic Thought**, which begins with Biblical times and traces the subject through to today.

Extra Activities Expand

These courses will be offered at nominal tuition. As usual, the School will continue to give its popular free courses, based on the works of Henry George, under the title, **Reform for Our Time**.

With the new courses, comes a series of innovations in extra-curricular activities.

Henry Epstein will direct the Henry George School Repertory Theater. Currently the company plans to produce an original play, based on the 1940's production of **One Third of the Nation**.

The School will introduce a Camera Club with darkroom facilities this semester. Any current student may join for a \$25 fee, covering use of the darkroom equipment.

As in the past, the lounge will be open and available for reading, discussion, and refreshment.

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