

Henry George Newsletter

VOLUME 51, Number 6

June 1987

SAN FRANCISCO

LAND REFORM IN THE PHILIPPINES

Ever since World War II, the Philippines have been waiting for land reform. In 1947 it obtained its independence from the United States, but its people have never been free from poverty. According to the United Nations, despite extensive natural resources, 75% of the Philippino population lives below the poverty line.

Ferdinand Marcos promised land reform in 1972 when he declared martial law. As we know, he never delivered on his pledge. Now Corazon Aquino tells American audiences that there is a need for non-violent solutions, and yet leans toward a military solution to the country's troubles. In fact, Aquino was recently quoted as saying to her military, "The answer to terrorism of the left and the right—is not social or economic reform but military and police action." Land reformers are now being challenged as communists.

Robert Scrofani, Director of the San Francisco School, in conjunction with Common Ground, has instituted a Philippines Project to address a just land reform for the Philippino people. Scrofani has written a letter calling on Georgists and other interested people to join in their effort by contacting Philippino-Americans about their concerns, writing letters to the editor, and sending letters to Congressmen and Ambassadors. Scrofani feels that, with a united front and an organized publicity campaign, the Project group can effect important changes. Common Ground will aid in an evaluation of the project by considering sponsoring conferences or sending resource personnel to the Philippines. The group plans to compile an update report in July which will be the basis for further strategy planning.

Those interested in joining in the effort to promote land reform in the Philippines can write to Robert Scrofani, Henry George School, 63 Chatanooga, San Francisco, CA 94110.

PHILADELPHIA

Classes at the Philadelphia School began for the Spring term the week of April 21. "Fundamental Economics" was offered Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The popular "How Wall Street Works" drew the largest audience. The Saturday seminar "The Mortgage Dilemma" was held on May 9th. A second seminar "Small Business Development" will be offered on June 6th, from 1-3 PM.