



New Trustee — New Dimensions

THE Board of Trustees and New York staff of the Henry George School welcomes, as a new trustee, H. Jan Ritscher, vice president of Volkswagen of America, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. He comes from a banking background and is in charge of his company's financial, insurance, traffic and personnel operations. Of Austrian extraction, he was born in Alexandria, then British "protected" Egypt, where his father was in charge of a bank owned by German and Austrian interests.

Mr. Ritscher received his education chiefly in Germany, where he was graduated from the Commercial University of Berlin with a master's degree. He recalls that his main teacher in political economy explained carefully the problem posed by the steadily increasing share of ground rent in the total social product. This was to have special significance for him 25 years later.

In a lecture at the Henry George School in February, 1965,* Mr. Ritscher spoke of Henry George and Rudolf Steiner, and traced parallels in their thought. Henry George's philosophy had relevance for him because he had trained his thinking according to methods developed by Rudolf

Steiner for a deeper comprehension of human and cosmic activity. "This might seem pretentious," he said recently, "but was it not Henry George who pointed out that cosmic activity and cosmic laws are involved in political economy, and that this is the reason why it is a true science?"

"Conversely, if we do deal with cosmic activity in political economy, is it not logical that we search for and develop cosmic activity within us if we would comprehend our subject matter more deeply and seek true solutions of social problems?" What *is* cosmic activity, he asks, and how, if it exists, can it be trained and strengthened in individuals?

This is a theme dealt with in many of Rudolf Steiner's writings and lectures. Mr. Ritscher believes that if the two streams of students, those of Henry George and of Rudolf Steiner, were to combine their knowledge in mutual respect, they would immensely further the work begun by two outstanding teachers of humanity. He regards his recent election to the board as an honor, but also as "a great gift of destiny in return for many years of meditating on social problems."

*See HGN, April, 1965.